

NEWS FROM The Inland See

May 10–16, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Walking with moms in need

“I greatly desire that ... our parishes ... may become islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.” —Pope Francis

This weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Burlington observe Mother’s Day, honoring the vocation of motherhood and celebrating the mothers in our lives. Some parishes offer mothers gestures of appreciation, such as a rose. Most priests offer a special blessing for mothers at the end of Mass.

Mother’s Day also offers us an opportunity to reflect on how well our parishes are being “islands of mercy” for struggling pregnant and parenting mothers. Can the parish do more to make choosing life an easier decision for pregnant mothers and to support mothers who have chosen life? If parishioners encounter a woman unexpectedly pregnant and fearful, would they know how they can help her?

A nationwide, parish-based initiative called Walking with Moms in Need, launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities in 2020, provides an excellent tool for helping parishes be more prepared for assisting pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

Walking with Moms in Need is essentially a simple process that leads a WWMIN parish leader and a small core team of parishioners in identifying resources in the area that serve pregnant and parenting moms. They then assess the compiled lists of resources, communicate those resources so that parishioners can be more informed, and prayerfully develop a plan for how the parish can better support moms in need.

Parish plans will differ based on the unique resources and makeup of each parish and how the Holy Spirit is calling them to respond. One parish might discern that they will commit to printing local pregnancy help resource information in the bulletin each weekend; while another parish might begin a new, dedicated outreach ministry for mothers in need.

Several parishes in the Diocese of Burlington have completed their WWMIN inventory and have implemented their parish plans. Their efforts are bearing fruit.

Under the auspices of one parish’s newly launched WWMIN ministry, parishioners responded generously to the call to provide new baby items and gift cards as a “baby shower” for a couple in difficult circumstances who were welcoming a newborn. Another parish felt called to provide gently used clothing for mothers and diapers for their babies. Parishes generally publish the list of resources on their website or in other ways, such as creating a brochure.

The possibilities are endless, and whether parishes plan something very basic or whether they “dream big,” all efforts contribute to building a culture of life in Vermont by serving mothers in need.

The USCCB provides a comprehensive, on-line WWMIN Parish Action Guide that includes everything you need to know to implement Walking with Mom in Need in the parish. Please see walkingwithmoms.com.

Additionally, the diocesan Respect Life Office can help parishes get started and offer encouragement and assistance. The Office also hosts a monthly online meeting for all Parish Pro-life leaders.

The Respect Life Office would love to see more parishes implement Walking with Moms in Need. If you are interested in serving as a WWMIN parish leader or a member of the WWMIN Core Team or simply have questions, contact the Respect Life Office at 802-658-6110, ext 1201, or email ehaupt@vermontcatholic.org.

*— Eileen Haupt is the respect life coordinator
for the Diocese of Burlington.*

Upcoming Events



05|14, 21, 28 WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study

Holy Cross, Colchester • 12 pm

Interested in joining an informal bible study group? Join us from noon to 1 pm to discuss and discern how to put God's Word into practice in our lives. If you have questions, please call the parish office at (802) 863-3002.



05|14 – 06|25 WEDNESDAYS

Series: What Would Jesus Do?

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond • 6:30 pm

Join Deacon Josh McDonald in exploring the

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching and how they can apply to the issues, challenges, and difficulties of our world today. Meets in the rectory of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.



05|14, 06|11 WEDNESDAYS

Grief Ministry and Support

All Saints, Richford • 6 pm

Coordinated by Deacon Armand Auclair.



05|16, 23, 30 FRIDAYS

Alpha Film Series

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:15 – 8:30 pm

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to

discuss life and faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment. Guests are encouraged to participate in a small group discussion and share their views on the topic.



05|17 SATURDAY

Light of Hope: Diocesan Youth Day Retreat

St. Charles, Bellows Falls • 10 am – 3:45 pm

Calling all 7-12 graders to come together with other local youth and enjoy a day of prayer, reflection, fun, and hope! We will be exploring the theme, "Light of Hope," in parallel with the Year of Jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope," celebration around the world. The retreat is free of charge. Please bring a bagged lunch and snacks. The retreat ends at 3:45 pm, then parents or guardians are welcome to attend the 4 pm Mass with the group. Register at: bit.ly/day-retreat-registration.



05|17, 06|21 SATURDAYS

Cor Formation

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 10 – 11 am

Cor Formation for men is held on every third

Saturday in the church basement. This is an opportunity for men to grow closer to Jesus' through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Coffee and donuts are provided.



05|17 SATURDAY

STP Historic Preservation Committee BINGO

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 – 8 pm

Doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee.



05|18, 06|15 SUNDAYS

Bereavement Ministry

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 pm

Meets on the third Sunday of every month.



05|31 SATURDAY

Ordination to the Priesthood

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

Deacon Luan Tran will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John J. McDermott. The Mass will take place at 10 am. All are invited to attend. A light reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Priests wishing to concelebrate are asked to bring their alb; stoles and chasubles will be provided. Priests will vest in the lower level chapel, and line-up for the procession which begins at 9:45 am.

The Mass will be live-streamed at: vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass.



05|31 SATURDAY

Walk to Mary

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 9 am – 2 pm

Join us for the 2.3 mile walk from St. Joseph,

Isle La Motte, to St. Anne's Shrine (the walk takes a little more than an hour). We will start walking at 9 am and we will pray the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet while we walk, for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. For those who cannot walk with us and would still like to participate, there will also be a Holy Hour of Adoration at St. Anne's Shrine starting at 10 am, followed by Mass at 11 am.

After Mass, we will transport people back to cars parked at St. Joseph, then have lunch at the Shrine. Please bring a light lunch of your own as the dining hall will not be open yet. At 1 pm we will be walking/praying the Stations of the Cross for Life with time after that to walk the grounds. Bathrooms will be open at the Shrine at 8:30 am. There will be no facilities available at St. Joseph at the beginning of the walk.



06|01 SUNDAY

Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 – 4:30 pm

Includes Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and with praying over by Fr. Lance Harlow.



06|05, 07, 13, 14

Bishop Listening Sessions

Bishop McDermott will be holding 4 listening sessions around the Diocese this June:

- 06|05 St. John Vianney, S. Burlington, 6:30 pm
- 06|07 Most Holy Name of Jesus, Morrisville, 10:30 am
- 06|13 Christ the King, Rutland, 6:30 pm
- 06|14 St. Anthony, White River Junction, 10:30 am

This will be an opportunity, in a Synodal spirit, to engage with the Bishop, offer constructive suggestions, and together prayerfully look to the future.



06|13, 07|11 FRIDAYS

Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 – 7 pm

Intended to feed the lonely and needy among us, these meals are free to all but donations are appreciated to cover parish expenses. Take-out dinners available at 6 pm.



06|13, 07|11 FRIDAYS

Joy of Marriage Date Night

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6 – 8 pm

These events are for married and engaged

couples, featuring fellowship and presentations. Register by emailing: aaucclair@vermontcatholic.org.



06|14, 07|12 SATURDAYS

St. Padre Pio Prayer Group

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am

The Padre Pio group meets the second

Saturday of each month. We begin with the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.



06|14 SATURDAY

Knights of Columbus Bingo

All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am – 3 pm

Doors will open at 11:30 am and the games

will begin at 1 pm. Homemade lunch, desserts & beverages will be offered. Pull tickets will be available! The next monthly Bingo will be on September 6.



06|21 SATURDAY

Respect Life Mass

St. Augustine, Montpelier • 10:30 am

Join us for the Respect Life Mass, celebrated

by Bishop McDermott. Immediately afterward, Mass attendees are encouraged to attend Vermont Right to Life's BIRTHday Picnic, which is being held at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the State House grounds.



06|21 SATURDAY

3rd Annual BIRTHday Picnic

Vermont State House, Montpelier • 11:30 am

Vermont Right to Life is holding its 3rd Annual

BIRTHday on the State House grounds. This event is in celebration of the 3rd anniversary of the Dobbs decision, which overturned Roe v. Wade. The event will feature speakers, music, hotdogs, BIRTHday cake for all, and ice cream. This is a family friendly event so do plan to bring your children, students, and friends. All are welcome!



06|27 FRIDAY

WorldPriest Rosary Relay

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 11:30 am

The Diocese of Burlington is participating

in the annual WorldPriest Rosary Relay for the 5th year.

Bishop McDermott will lead the Sorrowful Mysteries for the sanctification of priests. We are just one of many locations from around the world who are participating in this event!

Open to all to attend in person at the Cathedral, or watch on EWTN or the diocesan livestream: vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON