

NEWS FROM The Inland See

September 10–16, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Where does God show up on your calendar?

I pose this as a real question, not a rhetorical one. If someone found your planner on the bus or a stranger glanced at your calendar on the wall or a hacker gained access to your phone's events, would they see any sign you were a Catholic?

Lest you think I'm the judgment patrol, this question came from flipping through my own family's calendar.

Kids' activities — school, sports and music — all appear to be important to us, evidenced by how often they show up every week. Ditto for visits with friends and trips with family. Business travel for both parents is marked on our calendar; so are birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

But where does our faith show up? We'd tell you it's central to our lives and family, but I started to wonder how our calendar bears any testimony to that truth.

I went through and wrote "Mass" on every Sunday. Obvious (and overlooked), but it helped to remember how we start each week in worship. Then I added the dates whenever someone was serving as a lector or altar server. That helped too, to see our service show up.

But honestly? Standing in front of that jampacked calendar and realizing how little of our faith was revealed gave me a wake-up call.

Because the deeper concern, of course, is not what someone else would say or whether there would be enough evidence to convict me of being Christian in a theoretical court. What matters most is what place God has in my life.

Front and center or stuck on the sidelines?

I stood in front of our calendar for a long time, chewing on the end of my pencil, wondering about what changes we might be called to as a family.

Too often I've fallen into the trap of expecting a new school year to transform our lives into an idealized version of what our family should be. I don't want to make that same mistake again

this fall. But I do feel called (and convicted) to pray about what God might be revealing.

Like everyone else, our family has limits of time, money, energy, attention and abilities. Where are we investing our resources? How do our values show up on our calendar? When do we live out and learn about our faith in concrete ways each week?

The psalmist sings this longing to God: "Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart" (Ps 90:12). Could this become our prayer, too — as we soak up the last days of summer, as we look ahead to autumn activities starting soon, as we shop for school supplies and brand-new planners to fill?

Each time I pass our calendar on the wall now, I pause for a second. It's a work in progress, an ever-evolving reality, a snapshot of life right now. But I feel its tug asking me where God shows up among school, work and every good plan we've made.

Maybe we're called to more Sabbath together, to guard our Sundays for worship and rest. Maybe we're called to more service, to take time to offer ourselves to our community.

Could we celebrate an extra feast day each month at home, to enliven our faith as a family? Are we called to a retreat, a class or a group at our parish — something new to help us grow in faith?

Whatever changes the fall may bring, I know the prayer I need to carry with me now, a psalm in my pocket: Teach us to number our days with You in the center. Give us the wisdom to give our time to You.

— *Laura Kelly Fanucci*

Fanucci is a writer, speaker and author of several books, including "Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting." Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.

Upcoming Events



9|13, 27 TUESDAYS Grief & Loss Support Group for Widows/Widowers

St. Mark, Burlington • 9:45 – 11 am

The benefits of a support group with others who have experienced the loss of a spouse or partner helps universalize your experience. You are not alone, although it may feel that way sometimes. Listening to the experience of others who have traversed rough waters usually lends helpful insights into personal practices. Please join us every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the rectory parlor to explore supportive ways grief and loss can be the entry point for God's healing.



09|14 WEDNESDAY Constitutional Amendment Article 22/Prop 5 Information Session

St. Norbert, Hardwick • 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Informational meeting, light refreshments provided. Scheduled speakers: Rep. Anne Donahue, Spokesperson for Vermonters for Good Government, Mary Beerworth, Executive Director, Vermont Right to Life.



09|15 THURSDAY Our Lady's Kitchen & Catholic Movie Night

Our Lady of the Angels in Randolph • 6 – 8 pm

Come join us for a free meal, popcorn, and a great movie!



09|21 – 10|28 WEDNESDAYS "The Search" Video Series

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 – 8:30 pm
Why are we here? What's life all about? What

happens when we die? Have you ever pondered the answers to these questions, or others like them? Do you wonder what kinds of answers the Catholic faith has given throughout the centuries? To get to the crux of the matter, please consider joining us "The Search" video series: viewing, brief discussion, and some light refreshments. **FOR MORE INFO: Connie, sjvgoodnews@gmail.com.**



09|21, 10|05, 19, 11|02, 16 WED Book Study: The Art of Loving God

via Zoom • 7 – 8 pm

Join us for a 6 week Diocesan wide book study on Zoom to explore how we "can all do little things each day with fidelity and love." Meetings are on alternate Wednesdays evenings starting on September 7. For more information, contact Laura at thistledewfarmvt@gmail.com. Be sure to include "Book Study" in the subject heading. *The Art of Loving God* by St. Francis de Sales, Sophia Institute Press; ISBN: 9780918477439



09|27 – 11|08 TUESDAYS The Creed Professed: a seminar on Part I of the U. S. Catholic Catechism for Adults

via Zoom • 7 – 8 pm

This bi-weekly Zoom seminar is being offered as part of the Diocesan "Year of Communion: Unity in Creed, Worship and

Life." The first session was held on May 10. For information and to register: studythecreed@gmail.com
Sep 13, Session 9: *Receive the Holy Spirit (In 20:22)*
Sep 27, Session 10: *The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ*
Oct 11, Session 11: *The Four Marks of the Church*
Oct 25, Session 12: *Mary: Church's First and Most Perfect Member*
Nov 8, Session 13: *Our Eternal Destiny*



09|24, 25 SATURDAY & SUNDAY Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II Course for Adults

Saint Andrew, Waterbury

This Level II course builds upon the foundation of the Level I course and prepares catechists to work with 6-9 year old children. Complete dates: Sept 24-25, Nov 5-6, 2022, Jan 7-8, Mar 18-19 (tentative) 2023; May 13-14 (snow make-up date), June 19-25, 2023. **MORE INFO: Kathleen Cosentino, kcosenino@madriver.com or (802) 233-3009.**



09|25 SUNDAY Our Adoption Journey

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne
11:30 am – 1 pm

We invite you to join us as we share our incredible blessing of adoption! Travel with us from the day God placed adoption in our hearts — to the day we held our child for the first time! A light lunch will follow the presentation. Masks are required. Hosted by the Parish Respect Life Committee.



10|1 SATURDAY 2022 Fall Women's Retreat

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne • 8:30 am
Please join us on Saturday, October 1st,

from 8:30A M to 3 PM at St. Catherine of Siena in Shelburne, VT. This year's theme is inspired by St. Therese of Lisieux – Power of Little: How to show great love in the little things. Monsignor Richard Lavalley will be the keynote speaker. Registration fee is \$30 per person and includes lunch. There are only a limited number of spots available, but there will be a waitlist in the event of any cancellations prior to the retreat. The registration deadline is September 16th.



10|8 SUNDAY Ordination Mass

St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 10:00 am
– 12:00 pm

The Diocese of Burlington joyfully celebrates the ordination of seven men to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Christopher Coyne. All are invited to join us in the Cathedral for this solemn liturgy of Ordination. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Parish Hall.



10|16 SUNDAY Third Annual Celebration in Honor of St. John Henry Newman

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 4 – 8 pm

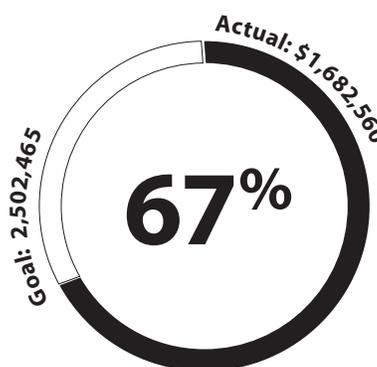
Chanted Solemn Vespers followed by dinner and two presentations. Please RSVP by October 10: vermontnewman@gmail.com. \$15 per guest/ \$25 for two / \$10 for every additional guest

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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