

NEWS FROM The Inland See

October 21–27, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Eucharist as *Communion*

In this final part of our look at Catholic belief around the Eucharist, we take a look at the effects of the Eucharist, which can be summed up in one word: communion. When we talk about the Eucharist at Mass, we often use the word “communion” and phrases such as “going to communion.” This is for good reason. When we speak of communion, though, we aren’t necessarily referring to the object of the Eucharist (a better phrase to describe the object of the Eucharist is “Real Presence”) or the action of the Eucharist (a better phrase to describe the action of the Eucharist is “sacrifice”). Rather, when we speak of communion, we are best referring to the effects of the Eucharist, the effects of the Real Presence and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in our lives.

When I train extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, I like to remind them that at the heart of their ministry is the act of giving and a receiving of the Eucharist. That action lasts only a moment with each communicant, but in that action, there are three relationships that are nourished and strengthened.

The first relationship is the vertical relationship — the relationship between God and the communicant. The Eucharist strengthens our union with God. This is what we most often think about when we think about the effects of the Eucharist — that the Eucharist draws us closer to God. This is an invisible grace that remains with us even after Mass. And if we allow that grace to work within us, it very powerfully re-configures our entire life to be in union with Christ. This union is the most powerful gift God gives us to help us on our continual path of conversion. We move from being people who “receive communion at Mass” to people who live in communion with



God. We move from simply receiving the Eucharist at Mass to living a Eucharistic life — a life rooted in communion with God that allows us to always give thanks. When we share communion with God, we cannot but help share in God’s love.

The second relationship is the horizontal relationship — the relationship between the communicant and the Body of Christ, the Church. “The Eucharist makes the Church” as French theologian and priest

Henri de Lubac would say. The Eucharist strengthens our communion with the Church. We recognize our communion is strengthened with our brothers and sisters who are with us at Mass, but do we recognize that our union with Catholics throughout the world is also strengthened? The beauty of this communion is that it transcends place, culture, ethnicity, socio-economic status, citizenship status, and political belief. What would the world look like if we lived our daily life in that communion? “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). And this communion in the Church gives us hope, for not only is our union with those in the Church on Earth strengthened, but also our union with those who have gone before us in faith — the Church Triumphant. The Eucharist even transcends death.

Listen carefully to the latter half of the Eucharistic Prayer, and you will hear the Church praying for this unity established in the Eucharist, unity with God, with one another, with the saints in heaven. Listen carefully, and pray it well!

— *Josh Perry is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 • 3 PM

FreeWill and Estate Planning Hybrid Informational Meeting

via Zoom or in-person

The Vermont Catholic Community Foundation will be hosting a hybrid informational meeting about FreeWill and estate planning in person at the Chancery, 55 Joy Drive, S. Burlington and via Zoom. Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/freewill-and-estate-planning-hybrid-informational-meeting/

Upcoming Events



10|24 TUESDAY FreeWill and Estate Planning Hybrid Informational Meeting

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10|25 WEDNESDAY Mater Christi School Open House

Mater Christi School, Burlington

8:30 am - 11 am

We are excited to welcome you, and to show you how we work together to make Mater Christi School a special place for children to learn and grow. Register: mcschool.org/about/contact-us/



10|25 WEDNESDAY Miscarriage/Infant Loss Prayer & Grief Support

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6 pm

If you have ever suffered a miscarriage or infant loss, please join Deacon George and Karoline Flower in the parish hall to remember our children lost prematurely. There will be a short prayer service and special blessing from Deacon George followed by a group discussion.



10|26 THURSDAY St. Justin Martyr and the Eucharist

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 pm

Fr. Michael Carter, SSE will present on St.

Justin Martyr, who wrote about the Eucharistic celebration in his First Apology, written between 153 and 155 AD. Written for those outside the Church, St. Justin's writing is a simplified explanation of early Christian practices. Discover what ancient practices from the second century, continue down to this day.



10|28 SATURDAY Annual Fall Vermont Catholic Women's Retreat 2023

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker is Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE. The Theme of the Retreat is: *The Eucharistic Life: Bread of Life & Bread for Others*. Registration Fee: \$30, lunch included. Register at: vermontcatholic.org/womens-retreat.



10|28, 11|04, 11, 18 SATURDAYS Women's Walking Group

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am

SJV Women's Ministry welcomes interested

women to meet and walk together for roughly 45 minutes, usually leaving from the SJV parking lot. It's a great, community-building way to get some steps in and meet some of your neighbors in a slightly social setting. On second and fourth Saturdays we will meet at alternate walking locations which will be announced ahead of time, usually on our website. In the event of inclement weather, check our website for a cancellation notice; stjohnvianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm.



10|28 SATURDAY Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 7 pm

This event is a candlelit guided evangelization drama through Resurrection Park Cemetery with actors playing the roles of various saints and martyrs who come alive to tell their stories. This is a very peaceful walk with reflective stops along the way. Walk begins from the Parish Hall.



10|29, 30, 31 SUN, MON, TUES 'Finding God as Companion in Navigating Life's Final Journey'

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte

The retreat will be led by Pat O'Connor, author of "Navigating Life's Final Journey: Conversations, Choices, Resources." This three-day retreat is designed to create a safe space to learn about, think about and pray about life's final chapter. The intended audience is people who are ready to begin to think about how they might want their end-of-life to go or how to help support and advocate for their loved ones as they approach end-of-life. Participants will discuss ways in which the presence of God might be found along the journey.



11|02 THURSDAY Spanish Mass, Day of the Dead

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

Middlebury • 7 - 9 pm

There will be a Day of the Dead celebration, including Mass. Dominican Father Tim Danaher and Father Luke Austin, pastor, will be the celebrants of the 7 pm Mass in Spanish, followed by a procession around the Middlebury College campus to see the ofrendas and include music and dancing. All are welcome.



11|05 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 - 4 pm

Benediction and Exposition of the Most

Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Lance W. Harlow.



11|06 MONDAY Spanish Mass at St. Michael's College Chapel

St. Michael's College, Colchester

7:30 pm

Join our mailing list at: mrainville@smcvt.edu.



11|07 TUESDAY Our Lady's Kitchen

St. Anthony, Bethel • 11 am - 1 pm

Free meal! Come one, come all!



11|08 SUNDAYS Monthly Knights of Columbus Fund Raising Breakfast

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.



11|10 FRIDAY Essex Community Dinners

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

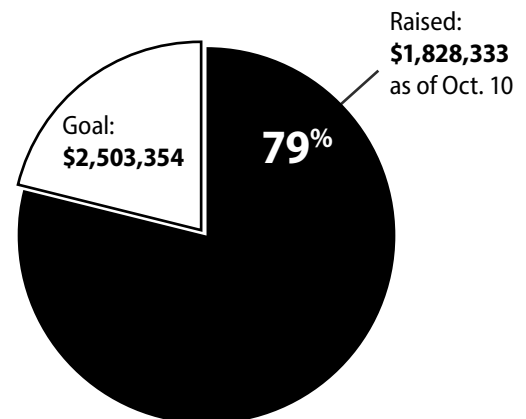
Essex Community Dinners are provided

in order to grow and promote our community! They are intended to feed the hungry, lonely and needy amongst us. These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. In person dining starts at 5:30 pm at Holy Family Parish Hall on the second Friday of each month. Take out dinners are also available for those who still need to avoid crowds.



BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL

Progress: 79% to goal



A MESSAGE FROM THE



**U.S. Catholic Sisters
Against Human Trafficking**
Ending Slavery Is Everyone's Work

October — The sale in the trafficking business today dwarfs the numbers involved in the slave trade of the past. Billions of dollars are generated today using people as products to be bought and sold in a global market.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization,
7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI
48114 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org)