

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

November 4–10, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## Abbatial blessing, elevation of monastery to abbey

**H**idden in the heart of rural Vermont, in the heart of the Church, the nuns of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey dedicate their lives to seeking God in His infinite beauty. Remaining close to His Word by a rich tradition of liturgical prayer and Gregorian chant, we contemplate, praise, and thank Him, giving voice to the needs of all humanity and creation. Our community life is lived in simplicity, obedience and joy under the Rule of St. Benedict.

On Nov. 11, the faithful of the Diocese of Burlington will join the Benedictine nuns of Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey in Westfield as they celebrate the elevation of their monastery to an abbey and the election and blessing of their first abbess, Sister Benedict McLaughlin, OSB.

This recognition makes this a momentous day for not only the Benedictine Community but for the entire Diocese of Burlington. The abbey is a part of the congregation of monks and nuns originally founded in Solesmes, France, and present in 11 countries of Europe, Africa, North American, and Central America. The abbey in Westfield was founded as a monastery in 1981, connected with the Abbaye Sainte-Marie de Deux-Montagnes, near Montreal. This year, due to the community's stability and growth, the monastery was elevated to the rank of an abbey. On Sept. 21, Sister Benedict was elected as the first abbess of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey.

There will be a special Mass that includes the Rite of Blessing of an Abbess on Nov. 11, presided over by the Abbot of Solesmes. Joining him will be the abbots and abbesses from the various Benedictine religious communities that make up the Congregation of Solesmes throughout the world, as well as other priests and members of consecrated life.

This is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime blessing for both the new abbey and Diocese of Burlington, and we are grateful to invite as many as possible to experience this event.

— *Vermont Catholic staff*

**Abbatial Blessing of Sister Benedict McLaughlin, OSB**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey in Westfield, Vermont

Holy Mass to be celebrated at Mater Dei Parish  
(191 Clermont Terrace, Newport)

10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11



Above: "Christ Giving the Host to a Holy Abbess" pen, ink and chalk on paper, by Giovanni Battista Gaulli, 1690. — Metropolitan Museum of Art image



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# Upcoming Events



## 11|06, 13, 20 MONDAYS Bible Study of the Gospel of Matthew

St. Pius X, Essex Jct. • 7:15 - 8:15 pm

John McMahon will host a one hour, in-person Bible study of the Gospel of Matthew. Our primary resource (other than the Bible itself) will be Dominican Fr. Wilfrid Harrington's book *Reading Matthew For The First Time*. There will be 9 sessions total, 4 leading up to Advent, and then another 5 afterwards. This series began on October 30.



## 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](mailto: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 SUNDAY Monthly Knights of Columbus Fund Raising Breakfast

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.



## 11|08, 15, 22, 29 WEDNESDAYS Apostolic letter on St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 9:15 - 10:15 am

You are invited to come and share your personal insights of the Apostolic letter with a member of Notre Dame de Vie. Copies are available at Holy Family and St Pius.



## 11|10 FRIDAY Essex Community Dinners

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

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.



## 11|10 FRIDAY Eucharistic Revival Writing and Visual Arts Contest

[vermontcatholic.org/contest](http://vermontcatholic.org/contest)

As we celebrate the Eucharistic Revival this year, we want to hear from youth in our Catholic schools and religious education programs about what the Eucharist means to you! Win a pizza party! Nov. 10 is the deadline to enter the contest.



## 11|11 SATURDAY St. Ambrose/St. Peter Youth Ministry Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 am - 5 pm

Please join us for Bingo at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple Street, Vergennes. Doors open at 5:00 PM, Bingo starts at 6:00 PM. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose & St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs.



## 11|11 SATURDAY Treasure in Heaven Art & Crafts Fair

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am - 3 pm

All the proceeds will be donated to the Josh Pallotta Fund and the Vermont Food Bank. We are asking vendors to donate 10% of their profits to a charity of their choice. Please join us!



## 11|11 SATURDAY Craft Fair & Vermont Products

St. John the Evangelist, Northfield • 9 am - 3 pm

Vermont Products, local crafts, a table of home-baked pies, an ornament tree — start your Christmas shopping early!



## 11|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 to be announced on our website. In the event of inclement weather, check our website for a cancellation notice; [stjohnvianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm](http://stjohnvianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm).



## 11|11 SATURDAY Veterans' Day Mass and history presentation

St. Pius X, Essex Jct. • 4:30 - 6 pm

Fr. Michael Carter, SSE will celebrate the Mass, and afterwards in the Fr. Murray Room will present on "the Sacrifice of Vermont Soldiers during World War I" the topic of a recent thesis which he wrote to fulfill the requirements for a M.A. in History from UVM. Refreshments will be served.



Join Father William Beaudin's 2023 Advent On-line Seminar:

## FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession

Wednesdays during Advent (Nov. 29 to Dec. 20) • 6:30-8 pm\*

For information and zoom link: [forgivencosp@gmail.com](mailto:forgivencosp@gmail.com)

\*updated time



BISHOP'S  
ANNUAL  
APPEAL

Progress: 81% to goal

