

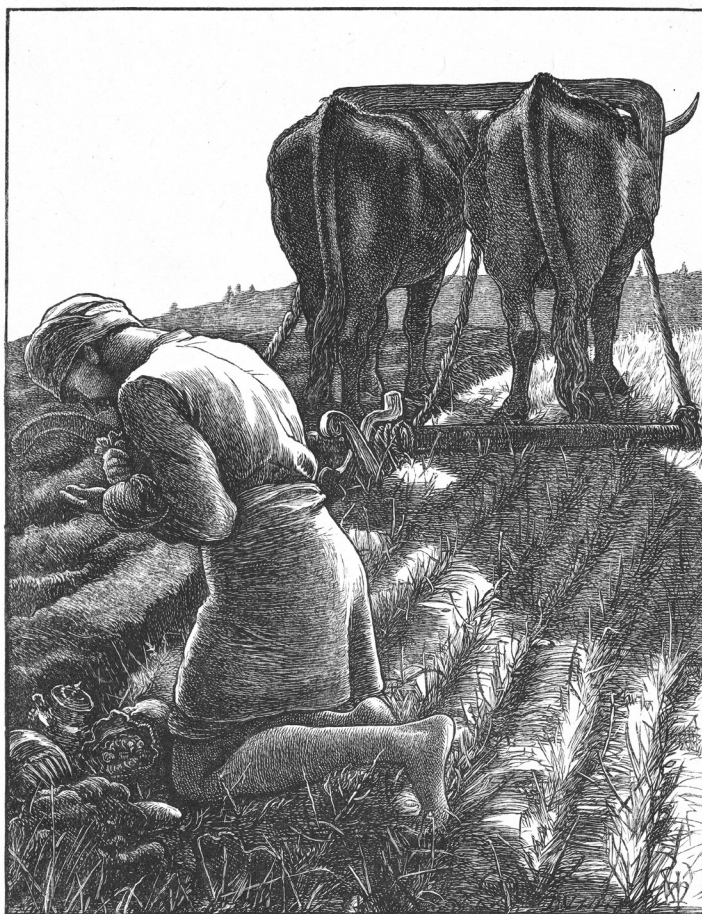
The Inland See

News from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington



July 18-24, 2026

The treasure is worth the sacrifice



This wood engraving "The Hidden Treasure (The Parables of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ)" is after a painting by the same name by Sir John Everett Millais. It was engraved and printed by Dalziel Brothers in England in 1864, and is now in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. — Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York image

I have written several notes to parishioners about our bishop's pastoral letters this past year. Among the challenges of being faithful to Christ, I am so glad our bishop has called us to plan ahead for the Church in the future. I shall not fear being redundant here, but rather reiterate how we have been called to be extremely thankful for the gift of the Eucharist, and so dedicated to loving God that we happily pitch in and see how much we can strengthen and grow our Catholic life in the years to come. Keeping in mind this call from our bishop, which echoes the Church's Universal Call to Holiness, that imbues our well-known diocesan Prayer for Vocations, let me share a parable.

Say I had some estranged uncle, who surprisingly left me an unbelievable bequest. More than 10 million dollars was to come to me, in the eccentric manner of being picked up at a certain financial institution, in person, in increments of \$10,000 a week, for the next 20 years. And so (in this wild situation) I begin to schedule a weekly visit to the institution's branch to collect my weekly installment. And things go along happily, until one day I learn that the branch I am frequenting will be closing down. Therefore, to collect my weekly \$10,000 I will have to drive 90 minutes to the next available one, instead of the mere 25 minutes to the one I had frequented. And, as a result of this I just decide I will throw away the rest of the inheritance. I figure, "after all, I got some money out of it, but I'm too busy to make the longer trip each week." And certainly, I would acknowledge my uncle was a fine fellow, but really, he should have been "more reasonable" in the way he decided to leave me the 10 million dollars.

I am sure everyone here has caught on to my allegory. Catholics can be guilty of dealing with the sacraments like this: "it's all well and good for God to offer us eternal life, but it can't be so good as to demand much sacrifice on our part here and now. He is certainly a fine fellow, Jesus is, but he should have been more reasonable about what it would cost to follow him!"

Yes, we must "count the cost" (Lk 14:18) to follow Jesus' call. But we get eternal life! So, I add this thought about Jesus' "treasure hidden in a field" (Mt 13:44). I have often thought that the reason the man in that parable bought the field, rather than just quickly "run away with the treasure," was because the treasure was in fact so enormously large that it was going to take him months to unearth it. He had found that its breadth extended to the four corners of the field, in every place he turned over the earth. Let's get to work.

— *Father Timothy Naples is the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in South Burlington. More of his personal reflections can be found on his personal blog, ubipetrusvt.com.*



07|19 SUNDAY Annual Diocesan Family Day Mass & BBQ

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15 pm

Join us for this annual Mass at 12:15 p.m. with Bishop McDermott, followed by free-will donation BBQ. The shrine also has guest accommodations available, on a first come, first serve basis. Forms for reservations can be found at <https://www.saintanneshrine.org/upcoming-retreats>.



07|21 TUESDAY Newman Series on the Parochial and Plain Sermons

via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm

Fr. Henry Furman will read and discuss the sermon, "Waiting for Christ." The text of the sermon can be found here: www.newmanreader.org/works/parochial/volume6/sermon17.html. Zoom link can be found on this page: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/newman-series-on-the-parochial-and-plain-sermons/2026-07-21/. Hope to see you there!



07|22 - 09|02 WEDNESDAYS Society of Saint Edmund Summer Reflection Series 2026

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am

Each program begins with Mass at 11:15 am, followed by the presentation. Lunch will be available for purchase in the café, or feel free to bring your own picnic to enjoy outdoors.

07|22 Fr. Brian Cummings, SSE
Ignatian Contemplation of Scripture

07|29 Fr. David Theroux, SSE
Connecting with Jesus in All the Dimensions of Life

08|05 Fr. Michael Carter, SSE
The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome: Tomb of Pope Francis

08|12 Fr. Lance Harlow
The Assumption of Mary and Our Pilgrimage to Heaven

08|19 Msgr. Peter Routhier
The Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi

08|26 John Kenney
Pope Leo the Augustinian

09|02 Fr. Brian Cummings, SSE
Praying with the Post Resurrection Appearances



07|22, 29 WEDNESDAYS Rosary for Peace with Bishop McDermott

via Zoom • 8 pm

Join Bishop McDermott in praying a Rosary for Peace. No registration is required. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82653567464>



07|28, 08|25 TUESDAYS Catholic Worker

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 pm

A Catholic Worker House of Hospitality is an intentional community built upon the principles of Micah 6:8. "You have been told what is good, and what the LORD requires

of you: Only to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

We're working to bring the Catholic Worker to Vermont. Come join one of our meetings to learn more and see if it's something you'd want to be involved in! We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the parish hall downstairs at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Williston.



07|30 THURSDAY Healing Prayer Service

Christ the King, Burlington • 5 - 8 pm

You are invited to a healing prayer service with St. Raphael Oil. Confessions at 5 pm, Mass with Fr. Laurence Brault, celebrant at 5:30 pm, healing prayer (Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet) from 6 to 8 pm.



08|04, 11, 18, 25 TUESDAYS

Life Shared: A small group series

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 5:45 pm

Four small group sessions to encourage and equip us to share our Catholic faith. Each session explores what it means to live out God's call to share our lives and our Christ-centered faith with friends, colleagues and neighbors. We'll begin with dinner at 5:45 pm; then view a short video on trusting God, living faith with intentionality, and positive steps to take towards invitation; followed by discussion.

If you feel overwhelmed at the thought of evangelization, or have considered to yourself, "where would I even begin if I wanted to invite someone to an event at our church?" this series is exactly the tool you've been waiting for!

Registrations help our team with planning, so filling out a registration form ahead of time can insure we have enough food and meet people's dietary restrictions. If you have a friend or family member you'd like to bring with you, please do. You're more than welcome to invite people to join you along the way!

For more information or to register for this program, please see our website at stjohnvianneyvt.org/life-shared.



08|14, 09|11 FRIDAYS Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 pm

Essex Community Dinners are provided in order to grow and promote our community! They are also 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 are also available, starting at 6 pm.



09|13 SUNDAY Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 9 - 11:30 am

Join us for a hearty breakfast and heartfelt fellowship! The Knights of Columbus invite parishioners, families, and neighbors to gather for a delicious morning of pancakes, community spirit, and outreach. Adults \$10, children (6-12) \$6, family of four \$25. Take-out containers available. All proceeds support charitable causes in our parish and local community, reflecting the Knights' core principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Come hungry. Leave inspired.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

GIVE ONLINE

Go to: vermontcatholic.org/giveonline
or use the QR code below.



DONATE BY MAIL

Bishop's Annual Appeal
Diocese of Burlington
P.O. Box 2367
South Burlington, VT 05407

STOCK GIFTS AND QUESTIONS

802-658-6110

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