

NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 25 – March 3, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Knowing the gift of others this Lent

Recently, I visited the eighth-grade students at The School of Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales in Bennington and reflected with them on what it means to be created in the divine image and likeness of God. Thinking about that leads someone to ask a related question: What — or who — is God? It's a tough question with which the Church has spent millennia grappling, so I thought I would pose the questions to these bright students and see if they had any insights. Merciful, All-Loving, All-Knowing were some of the responses — all good ways to describe aspects of God. But who is God? "God the Father!" one student offered! "Yes! And..." I pressed them. "God, the Son — God, the Holy Spirit!" Trinity. They were on to something!

The Trinity is truly a divine mystery, but it helps us with the idea that God

is understood as a special relationship: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we are created in the divine image and likeness of God, then we too are made for relationships. Jesus, when questioned by the Pharisees about the greatest commandment, responds, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (cf. Mt 22:37-39). We are created to be in relationship: with God, with one another (and by extension — all of creation) and within ourselves. All of the Church's teachings guide us toward right relationships in all these aspects.

Earlier this month, the Vatican released Pope Francis' Lenten message which is a reflection on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). Through his reflection on the Gospel passage, the pope described people as gifts. As he stated, "Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance,

respect and love." The pope continued by reflecting on sin, saying that it "blinds us." In the parable, "the rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door." The pope concluded his message by reflecting on the Word of God: "When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our hearts to the gift of our brothers and sisters."

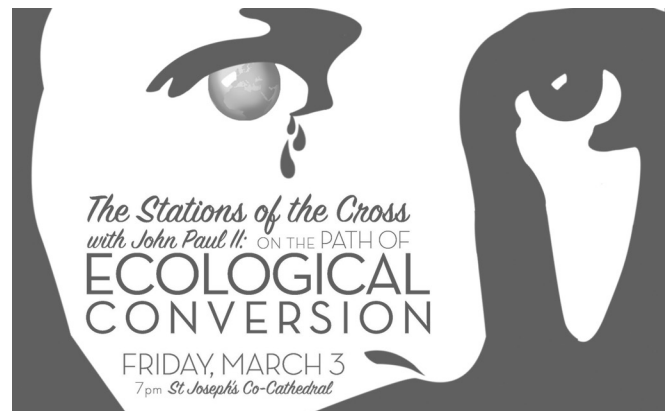
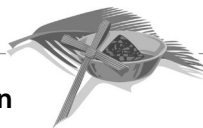
What a beautiful — and challenging — progression to consider this Lent. It is not enough that we are meant to be in relationship with one another, but we should work toward seeing the other as a gift. Let us use this Lenten season to move toward seeing our neighbors — the known and the unknown — as gifts. Through prayer, especially prayer grounded in our reflection on the Word of God, may we encounter Christ. Through fasting, may we open ourselves to the needs of the other. Through almsgiving, may we find, in our encounter with the other, the face of Christ present in our midst.

Read Pope Francis' 2017 Lenten Message: goo.gl/PgFwQC

— Josh Perry, Director of Worship

Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection

There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday, March 1, to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, Project Rachel, and Residential Care Homes. Envelopes will be available in the churches. Please know that every gift — whatever the size — makes a difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you for your generosity.



UPCOMING EVENTS



02|25
Pizza & Movie Night
St. Norbert, Hardwick • 5 pm

Join us for a pizza and movie night following the 4 pm Mass. There will be free pizza, salad and desserts followed by a movie. The event is co-sponsored by Mary Queen of All Saints Parish Faith Formation and Catholic Financial Life Chapter St. Jean N443.



02|26
Scout Mass
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
10 am

There will be a Scout Mass celebrated by Burlington Bishop Christopher J. Coyne at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral.
FOR MORE INFO: Marcia A. Ely (802) 318-7340 or marciaaely@gmail.com



02|26, 03|05, 16, 19, 26, 04|09
The Bible and the Virgin Mary
Saint Monica Parish, Barre • 6:30-8 pm

This twelve session series is based on Scott Hahn's book: **Hail Holy Queen**. Each session will start with a 25-30 minute DVD followed by group discussion. This series ran on Jan. 22, Feb 2, 9, 12, 16 and 19. The remaining dates are Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 16, 19, 26, and April 9. **FOR MORE INFO: (802) 476-7290 or stmonicalift@gmail.com**



02|27, 03|07, 13, 20, 27, 04|03, 10
A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY:
The Christian Mystical Tradition
Christ the King, Rutland • 6:30 pm

Father Jim Lawrence will facilitate this 10-part video series, presented by Boston College professor Father Harvey Egan, S.J. Fr. Egan, S.J., is a highly respected teacher and expert on Mysticism. This is a great opportunity for Catholics to learn about insights and riches of which they may not be aware. Note, all sessions are at 6:30 except for the March 7 event which is at 7 pm. Free will offering.
FOR MORE INFO: Fr. Jim Lawrence (802) 282-7277



02|28
"Why Lent" by Josh Perry
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Jct.
11 am and 7:30 pm

Join Josh Perry, director of the Office of Worship, as he continues to unpack the liturgical year with his presentation "Why Lent." This one hour presentation will be offered at 11 am and again at 7:30 pm. Hospitality provided.
FOR MORE INFO: and to RSVP (802) 878-5331



03|01
Ash Wednesday Collection
Diocese of Burlington

Special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. VCC provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered, including counseling, emergency aid, prison ministry, Project Rachel, and residential care homes. Envelopes will be available in the churches.



03|02, 09, 16, 23, 30
Scripture Study on the Eucharist
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
7-8:30 pm

Why does the Church call the Eucharist the "source and summit" of the Christian life? Deepen your understanding of the mystery and wonder that is the Eucharist — and how it will transform our lives! This series ran on Jan. 26, Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23. The remaining dates are Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.
FOR MORE INFO: Judy (802) 825-8035



03|03
Stations of the Cross, Confessions
St. Monica, Barre • 5:30 pm

St. Monica's will be holding Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm, followed by confessions at 6.



03|03
On the Path of Ecological Conversion
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Burlington • 7 pm

Join Bishop Coyne for "The Stations of the Cross with John Paul II: On the path of ecological conversion," followed by a sustainable soup supper and discussion of the Lenten practice of fasting. Learn about the Global Catholic Climate Movement's Lenten Fast for Climate Justice and how fasting from certain foods, especially meat, positively effects the planet and the poor. **FOR MORE INFO: Stephanie Clary (802) 846-5822 or sclary@vermontcatholic.org**



03|04
"Fatima A Message of Hope"
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
8-10:30 am

Come and join the WAF — Our Lady's Blue Army for a 52 minutes of DVD presentation to celebrate Fatima Centennial 100th Anniversary. Breakfast refreshments will be served. All are welcome for the 1st Saturday Devotion prior to the movie, beginning with Rosary and Confession 8 am, Mass 8:30 am.



03|04
Retreat for Family Healing
St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
10:30 am - 5 pm

Holy Cross Father Pinto will guide participants through a one-day parish mission that will look at the interactions of family life. He currently works as the special assistant to the president of Holy Cross Family Ministries while pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from Lesley University.



03|04
Bishop's Visit
St. Stanislaus Kostka, West Rutland
5 pm

Burlington Bishop Christopher J. Coyne will be present to bless the Catholic communities of St. Bridget, St. Dominic, and St. Stanislaus Kostka in a Eucharistic celebration., to be held at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in West Rutland. All parishioners, families and friends are invited.



03|04, 11, 18, 25, 04|1, 08
Community Pot-Luck Suppers
St. Isidore, Montgomery Center • 6:30 pm

The Knights of Columbus is hosting this series of Community Pot-Luck Suppers during the season of Lent, open to everyone. Please bring a food dish to share. Beverages will be supplied. If you cannot bring a food dish, come anyway. **FOR MORE INFO: Armand Auclair armandauclair@gmail.com.**



03|06, 07, 08
Missionary Discipleship Today
— A Joyful Witness
Holy Family, Essex Jct.
8:30 am and 7:00 pm

Join us for Mass each day, which will include extended homilies focused on what Pope Francis has called us to be as "missionary disciples" in today's world. Confessions will be available before and after Mass each day. Speaker: Deacon Phil Lawson, MTS. Deacon Phil is the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Burlington. He has a Master of Theological Studies from Ave Maria University.



03|10, 24, 04|07
St. Ambrose 18th Annual Lenten Fish Fry
St. Ambrose, Bristol • 5-7 pm

Meal includes fried or baked haddock, french fries, cole slaw, beverage & dessert. Adults \$12.50, children 9 & under \$6, immediate family of 5 \$37.
FOR MORE INFO: St. Ambrose (802) 453-2488



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vermontcatholic.org/calendar

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