

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

March 4–10, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## Lent as a pilgrimage

When the comedian Stephen Colbert appeared, one Ash Wednesday, on his late-night television show with ashes marking his forehead, I felt a sense of communion.

He's one of my tribe, I thought. Colbert is a well-known Catholic. He even invited Jesuit Father James Martin to serve as the unofficial "chaplain" to his Comedy Central program.

But you don't have to be a celebrity to evince solidarity on Ash Wednesday. Someone at the desk next to yours, perhaps, or the clerk in the supermarket line, each bearing the telltale sign of camaraderie that announces each as a fellow pilgrim taking those first tentative steps on a journey we share.

Maybe that's why I love Ash Wednesday, and I'm not alone. Churches are absolutely packed on Ash Wednesday. It's always been a deep puzzlement to me that churches are actually more crowded on Ash Wednesday than they are for the services of the Easter triduum.

To me, there are no more stirring liturgies than these three, which celebrate the central mystery of our salvation. And yet, for sheer devotion, nothing draws people in like Ash Wednesday.

Someone suggested once that Catholics like Ash Wednesday because they "get" something at Mass — a telltale smudge that proclaims their faith.

But every Mass offers us the ultimate "get" — the Eucharist. Although it's not something we tangibly show the world, its abundant grace should triumph over a mere splotch that someone — not one of your tribe — will inevitably point to during the day and say helpfully, "You have some dirt on your forehead."

Here's my theory on Ash Wednesday, and here's why I value the day.

I see Ash Wednesday as the beginning of a pilgrimage, my personal journey, but one I share liturgically and spiritually with more than a billion worldwide pilgrims. I've laced up my hiking boots, I've made my resolutions, I have my hope of making it to the finish line. And there is a finish line, folks. Hey, this is a mere 40 days, doable and measurable.

That smudge on my forehead is like that first bit of dust and mud on my hiking boots. I'm on the way.

When I was a child, the words I heard were bleak — "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Perhaps thinking we need a little more encouragement than that, the church now offers an alternative, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Either way, those words ignite us like the opening gun at a race. We're off. A pilgrimage has begun.

And we all begin it with conviction. But pilgrimages are tough. Ask those who have walked the Camino de Santiago, that famous Christian trek made famous in the movie "The Way." It's a journey full of blisters, fatigue, setbacks and sometimes failure. Sometimes people drop out along the way, and those that make it to the end may look back ruefully on a difficult journey.

So it is, often, with Lent. The good intentions and firm resolutions of Ash Wednesday clash with our busy lives and our imperfections. No one makes a perfect Lent, whatever that means. No one reaches some kind of spiritual peak every step of this journey.

Maybe that's why some drop out along the path. We set our goals very high, forgetting that Jesus is interested in our weakness and our need, not just our supposed strengths and victories.

So on Ash Wednesday, I'll have a plan. How will I grow closer to Jesus during Lent? That's the only question. I will try to have a modest, doable goal for each of the three pillars of Lent — prayer, penance, almsgiving. Perhaps I'll keep a little journal to reflect my progress. If I slip up — and we all will — I'll begin again.

I will prepare to have my heart cracked open — and prepare for a blister or two along the way.

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— Effie Caldarola, freelance writer and columnist  
for Catholic News Service

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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|04

## Wintertastic Celebration and Live Auction

*Mt. Anthony CC, Bennington • 6:00 pm*

This is the seventh annual Wintertastic Celebration and live auction, an event that raises money for the School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. The event begins at 6 pm with a preview, and the auction at 7 pm.



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, 19 and 26. The remaining dates are Mar. 5, 16, 19, 26, and April 9. **FOR MORE INFO: (802) 476-7290 or stmonicalift@gmail.com**



03|06, 07, 08

## Missionary Discipleship Today — A Joyful Witness

*Holy Family, Essex Jct.*

*8:30 am / 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|07, 08, 14, 15, 21, 22

## Forgiven: The Transformative Power of Confession

*Holy Cross, Colchester*

*10 am / 6:30 pm*

This three session series provides you with the ability to easily understand the sacrament of Confession. 30 minute DVD followed by group discussion. Daytime sessions on Tuesdays, evening sessions on Wednesday.

**FOR MORE INFO: Monica Cayia (802) 863-3002; holycrosscvt@myfairpoint.net.**



03|07, 13, 20, 27, 04|03, 10

## 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**



03|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 your life! This series ran on Jan. 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 and Mar. 2. The remaining dates are Mar. 9, 16, 23, and 30.

**FOR MORE INFO: Judy (802) 825-8035**



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**



03|10

## Stations of the Cross, Confessions

*St. Augustine, Montpelier • 5:30 pm*

Join us for Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm

followed by confessions at 6.



03|12

## Spanish Mass

*La Salette Shrine, Enfield, NH*

*2:30 pm - 4:00 pm*

Father John Patrick Sullivan, M.S., will celebrate Mass, confessions in Spanish before and after the Mass. Refreshments after Mass.

**FOR MORE INFO: (603) 632-7087**



03|18

## Take Time for God

*Saint Paul d'Abbotsford, Quebec*

*9:45 am - 7 pm*

This is a silent day-retreat focused on contemplative prayer in the Carmelite tradition. Teaching will be given by Msgr. Richard Lavalley and Teresa Hawes. The day includes Mass, Reconciliation, Evening Prayer, buffet lunch in silence and fellowship during supper.

**FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org**



03|18

## Spaghetti & Meatball with Birthday Cake Supper

*St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5:00 pm*

**FOR MORE INFO: Bette Grenon (802) 372-4092**



## Lenten Reflection Resources

Catholic Relief Services offers CRS Rice Bowl reflections weekly during Lent: [crsricebowl.org/email-sign-up](http://crsricebowl.org/email-sign-up)

"Living Lent Daily" sends a daily email based on the day's scriptural readings: [loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily](http://loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily)

"Praying Lent" is an online ministry of Creighton University featuring audio conversations and daily prayers for Lent: [onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent)

Bishop Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" ministry sends daily Lenten reflections in English or Spanish: [lentreflections.com](http://lentreflections.com)

"Best Lent Ever" is a program offering a daily video message featuring Matthew Kelly of Dynamic Catholic: [dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever](http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever)

The Word Among Us website has a daily meditation based on one reading from the daily readings at Mass: [wau.org/meditations](http://wau.org/meditations)



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Submit your event to the diocesan calendar!  
[vermontcatholic.org/calendar](http://vermontcatholic.org/calendar)

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