



**Mass Intentions
Seventeenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
July 25th ~ 31st, 2020**

7/25 SATURDAY VIGIL:

*17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30pm Margaret Jorgensen*

7/26 SUNDAY

*17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am The People of the Parish
10:30am O'Donnell & Anderson Families*

7/27 MONDAY

*7:30am Adoration
8:30am Intentions of Grayson Stemps*

7/28 TUESDAY

*11:00am Adoration
12noon Michael Chedister*

7/29 WEDNESDAY

*7:30am Adoration
8:30am Matteo Cannizzaro*

7/30 THURSDAY

*4:30pm Adoration
5:30pm Karen Bishop Balog*

7/31 FRIDAY

*7:30am Adoration
8:30am Frances Routhier*

MOST HOLY NAME PARISH

MORRISVILLE

MASS SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
9:00AM**

Dear *Parishioners*,

Last weekend was a special celebration as we welcomed 4 new members into the Catholic Church, who after preparing all year through RCIA, received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion.

As a priest, I always find it so moving to celebrate any of the Sacraments, but there is something very powerful when an adult, after taking instruction and asking questions, makes the free decision to become fully initiated in the Catholic Church. The Sacraments are such an incredible gift because they give us supernatural grace that we need to be holy and share more fully in the divine life of the Holy Trinity. So why do some people make that heroic decision?

In my 13 years of priesthood there have not been two identical stories, as every person's journey is unique. Some return to the Church after going through struggles in life, and after searching the world for help, come back to the loving arms of the Father who first loved them into being. Some have received some poor Catechesis or wrong information about the Church and what she *actually* teaches (as compared to what the media and culture claim she teaches), and upon discovering the beauty of the truth, they become hungry for more. Some have personally had bad experiences with Church members, whether clergy or laity, and turned away for some time. Some have been in irregular marriage situations or married outside the Catholic faith and thus have been excluded from the reception of the Sacraments, only to talk with a priest to work through their situation to find that they could return to receiving the Sacraments once their marriage was convalidated (blessed) in the Church. Sometimes, a person just wasn't ready to make that step when they were younger, but now are at a point where they are willing to move forward in their relationship with God and the practice of their faith.

There are so many other reasons and stories, all unique, beautiful, and grace-filled. As you read this, if you or anyone you know who would like to learn more about Catholicism, or hasn't had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation or maybe has never been baptized or had their children baptized, perhaps a gentle invitation from you might help them take the next step. One important factor for anyone making a step on their journey of faith is that we don't let them do it alone. Having a friend or a mentor to walk with them eliminates so much fear and gives the simple encouragement that only one's presence can bring. Please pray about it and be courageous! Fr. Joseph and I are always happy to sit down with someone to chat, and we look forward to forming this year's RCIA class (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). God bless you, stay well, and may you have a grace-filled week.

*With Mary,
In Christ,
Fr. Jon*

Founder's Day of Giving July 29th Matching Gift

On July 29, 1853, the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, was formally created by papal brief under the leadership of the first bishop, Louis de Goësbriand. At this time there were 10 churches and approximately 20,000 Catholics being served by five priests.

The Diocese was very much a missionary Diocese with limited resources and a small congregation of Catholics sprinkled throughout the vast state. The terrain was challenging, and the mostly Protestant state did not welcome Catholicism.

Bishop de Goësbriand spent most of his quarter-of-a million-dollar inheritance to travel throughout the state to spread the Good News and build churches, schools and homes for the most vulnerable. The fruits of his labor paid off. By 1891, the number of Catholics more than doubled to 48,000 with 78 churches. In addition, he helped found eight academies and 16 parochial schools in the Diocese with seven congregations of women religious to staff them.

By the time he died in 1899, he had spent his entire fortune; he had only \$2.12 to his name and a few old suits, noted Father Lance Harlow, rector of St. Joseph Cathedral who wrote a biography of the bishop in 2001.

“Bishop de Goësbriand, even though he was raised in a well-respected and well-to-do household, lived in austere simplicity,” said Kathleen Messier, assistant diocesan archivist. “In several biographical accounts of Burlington’s founding bishop, his Christ-like love of the poor has often been noted.”

Today we find the Diocese of Burlington is again missionary territory, similar to what Bishop de Goësbriand faced but with new challenges: Covid-19, declining population and a generation of young people disinterested in joining any type of formal religion.

We must face these challenges with the same fortitude and faith as our first leader, Bishop de Goësbriand, and create new ways to engage young people and lay leaders, while keeping our faith community connected during the pandemic and continuing to support the most vulnerable among us.

When the pandemic closed our churches, we increased our communication by live-streaming almost 200 faith engagement activities including weekly and Sunday Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, daily

rosary, daily scripture reflections and many other faith engagement opportunities. We continued to provide emergency aid to families — many impacted by Covid-19 — moved our Catholic education online and guided our parishes to safely open for the public celebration of the Mass when the stay-home-order was lifted.

All of these ministries are supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

On July 29, we will celebrate our first Founder’s Day of Giving to encourage gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and support the mission of our Diocese. We have received an anonymous matching grant that will match any gift made up to \$18,000. If you have not yet made a gift to the appeal or would like to make an additional gift online, visit vermontcatholic.org/giveonline.

— *Ellen Kane, Executive Director of Development & Communication, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington*

**The Sanctuary Lamp at
Blessed Sacrament Church will
burn this week
In Loving Memory of
Michael George Mahan**

**We have many available dates throughout
2020 for the Sanctuary Lamp for one week at
Blessed Sacrament Church to pray for
someone, living or deceased is \$20. Please
contact Phyllis at
blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org.**

**If you wish to continue to keep up with your
weekly offertory, you can mail it to Blessed
Sacrament Church, P.O. Box 27, Stowe, VT
05672 .**

**Also, you can make a one time donation or
monthly offertory on E-Giving, just contact
Phyllis via email
(blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org) to
sign up or call the parish office (messages are
checked frequently). On our website bscv.com
you can also donate through paypal. Thank you
so much for your generosity!**