

NEWS FROM The Inland See

March 13–19, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



St. Joseph the Provider Feed the Hungry Initiative

Food insecurity in Vermont has reached record levels during the Covid-19 pandemic with nearly 30 percent of Vermonters experiencing food insecurity since March, new University of Vermont research has found.

In this Year of St. Joseph, Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne has announced a new coordinated effort to increase the Catholic Church's capacity to feed the hungry in Vermont in response to the increasing need. This initiative launches on St. Joseph's Feast Day on March 19.

In the Diocese of Burlington, there are 68 parishes, most of which have formed a partnership with their local food shelf or operate their own pantry. "From operating their own food shelf, to partnering with local food shelves to hosting regular food drives, our Catholic community is already actively engaged in feeding the hungry," he said. "I began this initiative to increase our efforts across our Diocese to meet the growing need for food in the community."

Eileen O'Rourke, former executive director of human resources for the Diocese, volunteered to help launch this effort in collaboration with diocesan staff and the Vermont Foodbank to increase the Church's capacity to feed the hungry by increasing volunteerism and food donations through local parish partnerships and foodbank initiatives throughout the state.

"The Vermont Foodbank is experiencing an unprecedented demand for food due to the pandemic," she said. "They expressed a dire need for volunteers for several food distribution events that they host monthly and seasonally as well as in the local food shelves."

The Vermont Foodbank is the state's largest hunger-relief

organization, providing nutritious food through a network of more than 300 community partners — food shelves, meal sites, senior centers, after-school programs, schools and hospitals. The Vermont Foodbank, a member of Feeding America, provides about 12 million pounds of food annually to people throughout Vermont.

"Throughout the year, the Foodbank hosts VeggieVanGo, gleaning and other food distribution events that are supported by our amazing network of volunteers," said Kate Steward, volunteer manager for the Vermont Foodbank. "The Covid-19 pandemic has made it harder for many of our community members to access the food they need to thrive. In fact, Foodbank volunteers helped to distribute over 19 million pounds of food last year to Vermonters facing hunger — a dramatic rise from 2019. We're grateful that members of the Diocese are willing to step forward and fight hunger by volunteering with the foodbank; it truly makes a difference in the lives of our neighbors."

The St. Joseph the Provider Feed the Hungry Initiative is largely a communication effort to connect the Catholic community with organizations that feed the hungry and increase capacity.

"All our parishes are involved in multiple social ministries to help the most vulnerable among us. This initiative will harness the goodwill of the Catholic community to increase our capacity to ensure no one goes hungry by partnering with existing organizations and meeting the need," Bishop Coyne said.

To learn more visit: vermontcatholic.org/feedthehungry.

VTC • Ellen Kane



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Upcoming Events



03|15, 22, 29 MONDAYS

Lent with St. Joseph

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 7 - 8 pm

Holy Hour with the Litany of St. Joseph and spiritual reflections on St. Joseph by Brandon Schneider, seminarian. Confessions will be available during Adoration.



03|16, 23 TUESDAYS

Encounter Jesus Bible Study

via Zoom • 7 - 8 pm

Each week will focus on a different encounter with Jesus as described in the Gospels which in the words of Pope Francis, "changes our lives... and fills us with joy." Hosted by Deacon Phil Lawson. www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesus-bible-study/all/



03|16 - 04|20 TUESDAYS

The Sacraments

via Zoom • 7:45 - 8:45 pm

Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell to think about and reflect upon the Seven Sacraments. For Zoom information email Greg Caldwell at gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu.



03|18 THURSDAY

Dispel the Darkness — An Evening of Light and Hope

All events are 6:30 - 8 pm

03|18 • *Saint Mary Star of the Sea, Newport*

Come rest in the light and the hope of Christ. Whatever the darkness you may find yourself in, come discover the hope of God. Evening will include reflections and prayers led by Deacon Phil Lawson, with music by Bill Gavin. There will be adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary and an opportunity for confession. These events will be live streamed.



03|19, 26, 04|02 FRIDAYS

Live Stations of the Cross

via Zoom • 11:30 am

Join Josh Perry and Valerie Parzyck as they pray Stations of the Cross online. This event will be streamed live at 11:30 am every Friday during Lent and at 7 pm on Good Friday. Register at: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/live-stations-of-the-cross



03|20 SATURDAY

Chicken and Biscuit Take Out

St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5 - 7 pm

The menu includes chicken and biscuits, coleslaw, carrots and Dessert. Adults: \$12, children under 12 \$6. To reserve your meal call or email Val Hunter at (802) 372-7500 or mvhunter88@msn.com



03|24, 04|07 WEDNESDAYS

Saints and Sinners

via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Sinners as saints? Join us as we look at the lives of four saints and how his or her life can inspire us to live the plan God has for each one of us. There will be time for prayer and discussion with your hosts Michael Hagan and Terri McCormack. All are welcome! Register at: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/saints-and-sinners



03|25 THURSDAY

Lenten Reflection with Bishop Christopher Coyne

via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Join Bishop Coyne as he shares his Lenten reflection. All are welcome! Register at: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/lenen-reflection-with-bishop-christopher-coyne/

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2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$2,651,157

86%

As of
March 2, 2021:
\$2,276,396

CHRIST OUR

Hope



BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH

A bus ride from hell to heaven... *intrigued?*

Join us on this adventure as we read C.S. Lewis' classic novel "The Great Divorce." As we approach and celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday, we can hardly help but reflect on the "Four Last Things": death, judgement, heaven, and hell.

Online, Tuesday evenings
from 7:30-8:30 pm.

- March 30, 2021
- April 6, 2021
- April 13, 2021

Register at:
[www.vermontcatholic.org/event/
book-study-great-divorce](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-great-divorce)

Live captioning available.

VERMONT CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

To learn more or
make a gift visit:
christourhopevt.org.

Goal: \$9,582,456

46%

As of
March 2, 2021:
\$4,375,099