

NEWS FROM The Inland See

June 19–25, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

The Patience of a Father

One of my favorite parts of the baptismal rite, outside of the actual baptism, is the blessing of the parents. The blessing of the father includes, “...bless the father of this child, so that, together with his wife, they may, by word and example, prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their child. ...” Receiving that blessing, with my head bowed, is always very moving, very necessary, and quite frankly appreciated! I need all the prayers and graces I can get, especially so that my own example and words may give authentic witness to the faith.

As the father of seven children now ranging in age from three to 15 years, life is joyful, but challenging. And yet, these have been the most fulfilling and beautiful years of my life.

However, parenting doesn't come with a roadmap or instruction manual. That's why I ask the Lord for the grace to be as gentle and loving as St. Joseph was.

During this year, we have added another petition to our family prayers at dinnertime. After saying grace, I invoke one of the titles from the Litany to St. Joseph, asking that he “pray for us.” It has been a small and beautiful way for us as a family to mark the Year of St. Joseph. The title that I find myself most frequently invoking, as my children can attest, is “St. Joseph, mirror of patience, pray for us!”

Fatherhood has a way of making us face our weaknesses and failings. We are confronted with them daily, especially and too often in our interactions with those closest to us, our wife and children. I know I am.

And yet, as St. Paul reminds us, “My grace is sufficient for

you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). With our Lord's help, we can be like St. Joseph as loving, self-sacrificing, and yes, even as patient, as we are called to be.

One image of St. Joseph from the film, “Jesus of Nazareth” clearly shows his patience and kind disposition even in the face of adversity: A customer comes up to Joseph to pick up a wood tool that Joseph made. The man is clearly agitated and not satisfied, and yet St. Joseph remains calm, patient and never raises his voice or shows any agitation throughout the conversation.

While this may not be the usual reaction of a person to a difficult situation, it is for St. Joseph, as a fruit of his life rooted in grace and prayer.

And indeed, that's a model worth striving for.

In evangelization, patience is often the key to helping a person come to know our Lord. Consider how patient the Lord is with His disciples

and those who come to Him seeking truth. In the example our Lord gave of the Prodigal Son, the father exemplifies patience as he waits and watches for his lost son to return home (along, no doubt, with many prayers).

An old hymn, “O Blessed Saint Joseph” includes the prayerful verse, “The father of Jesus! I wish you would be ... a father to me” (Paderborn, 1765). I pray that we in turn may be so loving and patient with those to whom we are father and that our example and witness may draw many others to that same life of faith.

— *Deacon Phil Lawson is the executive director of pastoral ministries for the Diocese of Burlington. He can be reached at plawson@vermontcatholic.org.*



A statue of St. Joseph is seen as Pope Francis leads his general audience at the Vatican March 24, 2021. With the approval of the pope, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has published several additions to the Litany of St. Joseph. — CNS photo/Vatican Media

Upcoming Events



06|20 – 08|06

Totus Tuus

June 20 – 25 • Colchester and Rutland
June 27 – July 2 • St. Albans and Stowe
July 11 – 16 • Brattleboro and Georgia
July 18 – 23 • S. Burlington and Bristol
July 25 – 30 • Newport and Middlebury
August 1 – 6 • Bennington and Barre

The Totus Tuus Summer Catholic youth program will be hosted at twelve locations in Vermont this summer.



07|07 – 08|25 WEDNESDAYS

Summer Reflection Series

11:15 am • St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte
The Reflection Series returns! Beginning

July 7 and running through August 25, members of the Society of Saint Edmund and Diocesan Priests will present the Summer Reflection Series every Wednesday (except July 27). The programs begin with 11:15 a.m. Mass followed by a presentation. Lunch is available for purchase in the café, or you may bring your own picnic lunch to eat outside. All are welcome! Reservations are appreciated though not necessary and can be made by calling (802) 928-3362.



07|10 SATURDAY

Padre Pio Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am

Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass and an opportunity to learn more about Padre Pio.



07|11 SUNDAY

Family Mass with Bishop Coyne

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

Join us for the Mass for Families at 12:15pm.

Bishop Coyne will be there to celebrate. A BBQ will follow — donations are appreciated. Please RSVP for the BBQ with Nancy at (802) 928-3362 or by emailing sas@sse.org — by Friday, July 2, 2021



07|18 SUNDAY

Eileen George Prayer Group

Most Holy Name, Morrisville • 1 - 2 pm

Fr. Lance W. Harlow is offering a monthly lecture and video presentation on the teachings of Eileen George, founder of Meet-The-Father Ministry. Includes Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. Please join us for a very inspiring presentation. Reading materials will be provided each month.



08|15 SUNDAY

Prayer Day on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte

10:30 am - 2 pm

Inviting all family parishioners to join in prayers for the families, past, present and future. We will join the Shrine's Mass at 10:30 AM, followed by the Rosary. Then will process to the golden statue of Mary, to offer up personal intentions and the write in prayers collected from the pilgrim statue visitation to churches. Please bring your own lunch for picnic and enjoy the beach.



JUNE 20–26, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

FATHER'S DAY

In honor of Father's Day, pray the rosary together (or maybe a decade every night to start with). Include prayers for our communities to welcome new life, and to respect the dignity of each person. Honor your husband with a gift using her love language.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Offices: Manager of Religious Education and Catechesis

Diocesan Offices: Staff Accountant

Diocesan Offices: Youth & Young Adult Ministry Manager

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — \$500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

Michaud Manor Home, Derby Line: LNA or Nurse Aide P/T Day Shift

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — \$500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington: Cook F/T — \$1000 Sign-On Bonus

Vermont Catholic Charities, Inc. Offices: Accountant Internship

For More Info:
vermontcatholic.org/careers



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



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To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:
vermontcatholic.org/events

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