

NEWS FROM The Inland See

January 15–21, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



‘Look me in the eye’

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light.” — Mt 6:22

My mother was a great observer when it came to solving which child was naughty. She would say, “Look me in the eye and tell me what happened.” I could never get away with anything, even as an adult. I also learned that it was easier to tell the truth than to attempt to perpetuate a lie.

I find looking into the eyes of children easier than looking into the eyes of strangers; perhaps because there is a fear of what the other person might discover about me as they look back.

In the eyes of children, there is an innocence and trust, until it is broken or taken. Our faith teaches us to have a moral compass, a moral conscience, where we do good and avoid evil: “The education of the conscience is a lifelong task,” notes the Catechism of the Catholic Church. “From the earliest years, it awakens the child to the knowledge and practice of the interior law.”

As parents — and a faith community invested in teaching our children — we

might try to rely on our own experiences to guide us when fostering both justice and mercy in our children. We might attempt to share stories of our youth, when we were hurt by friends, picked on for what we wore or could not afford. We might have been the ones to do the hurting, choosing to fit in with the popular or cool kids, as the temptation to do evil was wrapped up in a well disguised package. We may continue to find these same temptations, disguised differently to lure us into keeping up with our neighbors or trying to help

our children by being their “friends” and not following up on the ground rules we set to guide them. Our children witness our actions and model what they see. What exactly are we doing to set the example?

Our children experience far greater temptations and dangers than ever before that can prey upon them at school,

at home, at soccer or dance. The battle is real. It began with Adam and Eve and continues today. Our faith, the truth of God’s love, is our saving grace.

“Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a

child will not enter it.” — Mk 10:15

Take the time to look into the eyes of your children every day. Talk about the day and listen. What is God trying to tell you at this moment in this conversation?

Choose a time to sit together and look at each other, maybe over a meal. Our children deserve our time, love and closeness. Turn off all distracting media. We all deserve this focused attention, this relationship with one another as God is present during these times too.

Practice forgiveness and how to reconcile with one another. Model the behavior you hope to instill in your children. It is not always easy, and you can always turn to God for guidance to help you find the words to say, “Please forgive me for _____. I was wrong. Will you forgive me?” This carries more weight than just saying, “I’m sorry.”

We are called to be in communion that begins at home. Parents are the first teachers of their children. God, our Father, desires this for us, His children. We can support one another, beginning at home, and bring this into the larger community. Together we can make a difference for both our children and one another as we grow in our faith.

“Act justly, love kindness, walk humbly with God.” — Mi 6:6-8

— **Terri McCormack is coordinator of marriage and family life for the Diocese of Burlington.**

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Upcoming Events



01|18, 25 TUESDAYS
Courageous Women Bible Study
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
 9 am or 6:30 pm

For this study we will use, "Courageous Women: A Study on the Heroines of Biblical History" by Stacy Mitch, written with a female audience in mind yet it is equally approachable for men. There are 8 sessions; participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. **FOR MORE INFO:** Connie McDonald (802) 864-4166 x204 or SJVGoodNews@gmail.com



01|19, 02|02, 16, 03|02, & 16
 WEDNESDAYS
Resisting Happiness Book Club
 Online • 7 pm

Come explore with us Matthew Kelly's book *Resisting Happiness* at 7-8 pm every other Wednesday for six weeks. Free book and study guide. **FOR MORE INFO:** pturnley@aol.com.



01|21, 02|04, 18 FRIDAYS
The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 8 pm

Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. **FOR MORE INFO:** contact Mary Niekrewicz, mary.of.vt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.



01|25 TUESDAY
Saints & Sinners
 Online • 7 pm

Join us in November when Deacon Phil Lawson presents on Saints Philip, Athanasius and Lawrence. **For more info:** vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.



02|05 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Beginning with Rosary at 8 am, Confessions, and followed by Mass at 8:30 am.



02|5 SATURDAY
Adoration Mini-Mission with Holy Hour
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Not sure what adoration is all about? Or maybe you've not been to adoration for awhile and could use a refresher course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event coming this Lent, Josh Perry, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission with instruction about adoration, followed by a holy hour.



02|05 SATURDAY
A Puzzle to Common Sense: The Conversion of Fanny Allen
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 12:30 - 3 pm

The Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph lay associates are hosting a presentation by Fr. Michael Carter, SSE on Fanny Allen. Come learn insight into some local history. A light lunch will be served.



02|06 SUNDAY
Marriage Anniversary Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
 Are you and your spouse celebrating a

milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2022? To register please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or (802)658-6110, ext. 1131.



02|12 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.



02|22 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
 Online • 7 pm

Join us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. **For more info:** vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.



CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

JANUARY 16-22, 2022

HOLY MATRIMONY

Being married in the Catholic Church makes us Holy in our sacramental bond as we give ourselves freely, fully, faithfully, or fruitfully. How do you inspire your spouse to honor you in your marital relationship? Share this with each other and pray together every day using a prayer of your choice.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge



JANUARY 16-22, 2022

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER...

Last week each of you were asked to go to Mass, and choose a parishioner to pray for. Look for this person in Mass this week, and when you are at home share with each other why you chose him or her. Pray for these people everyday together, and encourage your family to talk to God throughout the day to be there for this person.

vermontcatholic.org/familychampions

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:

- Accountant
- Diocesan Catechetical Leader
- Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Randolph, Bethel: Accompanist

Rice Memorial High School, South Burlington: Principal

St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

vermontcatholic.org/careers

