# Why Marriage Matters

30 Conclusions from the Social Sciences



# Family

- Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers and mothers have good relationships with their children.
- 2 Children are most likely to enjoy family stability when they are born into a married family.
- **3** Children are less likely to thrive in complex households.
- **4** Cohabitation is not the functional equivalent of marriage.
- 5 Growing up outside an intact marriage increases the likelihood that children will themselves divorce or become unwed parents.
- 6 Marriage is a virtually universal human institution.
- 7 Marriage, and a normative commitment to marriage, foster high-quality relationships between adults, as well as between parents and children.
- 8 Marriage has important biosocial consequences for adults and children.

# **Economy**

- Divorce and unmarried childbearing increase poverty for both children and mothers, and cohabitation is less likely to alleviate poverty than is marriage.
- 10 Married couples seem to build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples.
- Marriage reduces poverty and material hardship for disadvantaged women and their children.
- 12 Minorities benefit economically from marriage also.
- 13 Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories.
- 14 Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of school failure.
- 15 Parental divorce reduces the likelihood that children will graduate from college and achieve high-status jobs.

# Physical Health and Longevity

16 Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms.

- 17 Parental marriage is associated with a sharply lower risk of infant mortality.
- 18 Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol and substance abuse for both adults and teens.
- Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than do otherwise similar singles.
- **20** Marriage is associated with better health and lower rates of injury, illness, and disability for both men and women.
- 21 Marriage seems to be associated with better health among minorities and the poor.

# Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

- **22** Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress and mental illness.
- **23** Cohabitation is associated with higher levels of psychological problems among children.
- **24** Family breakdown appears to increase significantly the risk of suicide.
- **25** Married mothers have lower rates of depression than do single or cohabiting mothers.

# Crime and Domestic Violence

- **26** Boys raised in non-intact families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior.
- **27** Marriage appears to reduce the risk that adults will be either perpetrators or victims of crime.
- **28** Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing domestic violence than do cohabiting or dating women.
- **29** A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse.
- **30** There is a growing marriage gap between college-educated Americans and less-educated Americans.

This Summary is adapted from Why Marriage Matters: Thirty Conclusions from the Social Sciences, 3rd edition, a publication of the Center for Marriage and Families at the Institute for American Values, americanvalues.org.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



02|8, 15 THURSDAY

#### Study: Who Am I to Judge?

Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Jct. 7 - 8:45 pm

A 4-week study from FORMED.org. An in-depth look at the relativistic outlook that pervades our modern world and what we can do about it. This study ran on January 25 and February 1.

FOR MORE INFO: judy.dufresne@gmail.com



02|04 SUNDAY

## **World Marriage Day 2018**

St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington 10 am

Bishop Coyne will celebrate Mass and give recognition to those couples celebrating their Milestone Anniversaries in the year 2018 (5, 10, 15, etc...). Couples can also choose to celebrate in their parish (and still receive a certificate) on the following Sunday, Feb. 11. Please register through the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, Marriage and Family Life at Idaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.



02|10 SATURDAY

#### Padre Pio Prayer Group

Holy Family, Essex Junction 8 - 10 am

On the second Saturday of each month the Padre Pio Prayer Group meets starting at 8 am with Reconciliation and the Rosary. Mass at 8:30 am followed by prayers of intercession. Presentation and refreshments in the Hoehl Classroom of the Holy Family Parish Hall.

FOR MORE INFO: Holy Family Rectory (802) 878-5331



02|10 SATURDAY

# Marriage Encounter's Valentine Dinner Dance

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington 6 - 10 pm

FOR MORE INFO: Gary & Lynn Root, vtroot@together.net



02|10 SATURDAY

#### Mount St. Joseph Academy/ Christ the King School St. Valentine Soiree

Southside Steakhouse, Rutland 7 - 11 pm

This adult-only evening is a community event that raises money for Rutland County Catholic Schools. Tickets are \$100 (admits two) and may be purchased from: a CKS or MSJ student, either school office, or at the door.



02|11 SUNDAY

#### St. Johnsbury Winter Rally

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Open to 7-12 graders and parents. Separate sessions for parents. Featuring Bob Rice, renowned worship leader. \$10 per youth or \$20 per family.

FOR MORE INFO: kalderman@vermontcatholic.org, (802) 658-6110 x1130



02|11 SUNDAY

#### **Barre Winter Rally**

St. Monica, Barre

4 - 8 pm

Open to 7-12 graders and parents. Separate sessions for parents. Featuring Bob Rice, renowned worship leader. \$10 per youth or \$20 per family.

FOR MORE INFO: kalderman@vermontcatholic.org, (802) 658-6110 x1130



### 02|13 TUESDAY

# Mass of Thanksgiving

Church of the Annunciation, Ludlow 5:30 pm

Father Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



02|14 WEDNESDAY

## 40 Days of Lent for Families

Follow @DioBurlington on social media.



02|16 FRIDAY

### First Friday of Lent

Family-focused Stations of the Cross at parishes and the Cathedral



02|16 FRIDAY

## **Annual Lenten Fish Fry**

Bishop Marshall School, Morrisville 5 - 7 pm

Take out or sit down. Cost: \$10 per person or \$35 for a family of four.



02|17 SUNDAY

### Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Holy Family, Essex Jct. 9 am - 4 pm The Conference will include lunch and Mass with Bishop Coyne. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Ray Guarendi. Other speakers include Fr. Tim Naples and David Allbee. Cost: \$30.

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/men, (802) 658-6110.



02|19, 20, 21

# **Lenten Retreat**

Holy Family, Essex Jct., 8:30 am St. Pius X, Essex Center, 7 pm

Monsignor Richard Lavalley is offering this Lenten Retreat in two locations: Holy Family and St. Pius. Retreat will consist of Mass, a homily by Monsignor Lavalley and the opportunity for Reconciliation.



03|03 SATURDAY

# Array of Hope: Awakening Hearts Family Concert Event

St. Michael School, Brattleboro 1 - 7 pm

The Array of Hope concert is a wide-ranging live concert experience that features multiple musical acts, motivational speakers and thought-provoking films. The Diocese of Burlington invites the WHOLE FAMILY for this vocation night with Father Jon Schnobrich and Bishop Coyne. Focused on ages 7–12 grade.



03|10 SATURDAY

## Spaghetti Birthday Cake Dinner

St. Rose of Lima, South Hero 5 pm



03 | 16, 17, 18

#### The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte



03|14, 21 WEDNESDAY

### Laetare Living — Lenten Retreats

Annunciation of the BVM, Ludlow St. Jude, Hinesburg 9:30 am – 3 pm

Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff.
Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper,
maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry,
Music Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship,
and inspiration! The retreat is being offered in Ludlow on
March14 and in Hinesburg on March 21.

REGISTRATION: Idau delin @vermont catholic.org



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





instagram.com/dioburlington