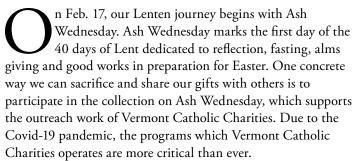
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Vermont Catholic Charities

Ash Wednesday Appeal

"Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."

— Pope Francis



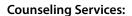
Since 1929, Vermont Catholic Charities has helped neighbors in need. We have no geographical limitations — we help individuals from all 14 counties. Guided by our faith, we do what we do because we are Catholic, not because those we serve are Catholic.

Emergency Aid

Katie has two daughters and recently had a baby boy who had some health issues at birth. Due to unanticipated medical expenses, Katie found herself with an electric disconnect notice. VCC assisted with the utility bill to ensure the family avoided a disconnect. We also advised Katie of other available resources. Katie said, "Thank you for your help. Your kindness has renewed my faith in the goodness of people."

Prison Ministry Transition Assistance:

"Thank you for your support. I have now found a full-time job and have enrolled in Community College of Vermont. My recovery is going on seven months of complete absence from drugs and alcohol. Without your support these dreams may not be coming true. Thank you for believing in a complete stranger."



"Counseling has been life-changing for me. I regret that it took me so long to seek help. I believe God brought me here to Vermont, to this Diocese, to Catholic Charities, and to [my counselor]. I do not feel like I am alone anymore. It is okay to get help and ask for help. It has made my life better. It saved my marriage. It saved my family."

Denture Program:

Sandy is a mother of three school-age children and works at a gas station at night. She came to Vermont Catholic Charities after hearing from a friend about our Denture Program. Sandy had her teeth extracted years ago but has been unable to afford dentures. Sandy was overwhelmed when we helped her get dentures. She said, "Dentures have changed my life. I am now comfortable attending my kids' events. I am confident at my job. My health is better as I can eat a broader range of nutritional foods. I am smiling at everyone all the time! I have never been happier."

As we begin this Lenten journey together, we ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the Ash Wednesday collection; any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. As a Catholic community, let us continue to do Christ's work here in Vermont and show Christ's love to our neighbors in their times of need. By sharing our gifts with others, we are sharing the Good News that Jesus Christ has risen.

— Mary Beth Pinard, Executive Director, Vermont Catholic Charities Inc.



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Upcoming Events



02|15 MONDAY

Lent: The Work of **Renewing Our Baptism**

via Zoom • 7 - 8 pm

Join Josh Perry, Director of the Office of Worship, as he unpacks the season of Lent with his virtual presentation Lent: The Work of Renewing Our Baptism. Learn how Lent came to be a time of intense preparation for those being initiated into the church as well as a time of spiritual renewal for the faithful. We'll look at Lent as a way of reconnecting to our baptism and consider the relationship between Lent and Easter. We'll conclude by exploring how some of the familiar sights, smells, and sounds of Lent help us do the hard work of baptismal renewal. Register at: www.vermontcatholic. org/event/lent-the-work-of-renewing-our-baptism/



02|16 WEDNESDAY & TUESDAY

Diocesan Formation Opportunities Info Sessions

via Zoom • 7 - 8 pm

As the Diocesan Synod called for, the Diocese of Burlington is seeking to continue inspiring and equipping lay men and women for leadership positions in their parishes. Under the umbrella of the Diocesan Institute for Missionary Discipleship. four formation programs are being offered this year. Learn more and register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/ diocesan-formation-opportunities-information-sessions/



02|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 informa-

tion email Greg Caldwell at gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu.



02|17, 18, 19 WED, THURS, FRI

Embracing Lent during a Pandemic

Essex Catholic Community

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, offered at St.

Lawrence Church, Essex Jct. at 8:30 am Mass and at St. Pius X Church, Essex Center at 7 pm Mass. Hosted by Fr. Michael Carter, S.S.E.



02|22, 03|01, 08, 15, 22, 29 MONDAYS

Living in the Father's Love Women's Bible Study

via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm

Each session will focus on how to improve

our relationship with God and those He places on our journey. Discover how God really loves you. Hosted by Terri McCormack and Mary Alice Walker. Register here: www. vermontcatholic.org/event/living-in-the-fathers-lovewomens-bible-study/2021-02-22/



02l22 MONDAY

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.



02|23, 03|02, 9, 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. Learn more and register at: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesusbible-study/all/



02|24 - 05|12 WEDNESDAYS

Awaken / Light of the World

It's Time to AWAKEN! Awaken is an innovative

via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm

new program developed by Light of the World Evangelization Ministries (the same people that sponsor the Light of the World retreats) designed to help people grow in their

relationship with Jesus and His Church. The program is a completely on-line series of 12 sessions using Zoom and prepared videos followed by small group discussions building on the video themes. Essex Catholic Community is planning to begin Awaken during Lent on Wednesday nights. There is no cost to participate. If you think you might be interested in participating or have questions, e-mail or phone Deacon Gerry Scilla at vtscilla@comcast.net, 878-0639.



02|24 WEDNESDAY

Emotional Virtue for a Drama Free Life with Sarah Swafford

Zoom • 7:30 pm

The Catholic Center at UVM is hosting well-known speaker and author, Sarah Swafford. To register for this online event visit: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b-4dabab2aa6f49-evening



02l25 THURSDAY

Dispel the Darkness — An Evening of Light and Hope

St. Monica, Barre • *6:30* − *8 pm*

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. This event will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.



03l03 WEDNESDAY

Building a Culture of Encounter Through Fasting, **Prayer, Almsgiving**

via Zoom • 6:30 – 8 pm

All are welcome to attend this virtual evening of reflection and conversation, offered by Josh Perry, Director of the Office of Worship, that will help us consider anew the traditional Lenten disciplines: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Between each reflection, there will be time for conversation and questions, silent prayer and guided meditation, and music. Register at: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/an-evening-ofreflection-building-a-culture-of-encounter-through-fastingprayer-almsgiving/



Goal: \$2,651,157

85%

As of

Feb. 2, 2021:

\$2.651.157



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

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\$4,289,269