The Jesse Tree is a wonderfully simple way for individuals or families to take a few minutes each day to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

The Jesse tree, named after the father of King David, is an Advent tradition dating back to the 11th century that depicted the family tree of Jesus. It served as a way for people to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth by remembering those who came before him. Today, the Jesse Tree allows the faithful to put the story of Jesus' birth in the larger context of the Christian story — starting with Creation and moving through the major biblical events leading up to the Nativity. It is, ultimately, a story of God’s love.

Follow #JesseTreeVT on the Diocese of Burlington Instagram account (@DioBurlington) for daily readings, reflections, and ornaments. On each day of Advent, read the scripture passage and ponder the short reflection assigned to that day. Cut out the matching ornament and hang it on your Jesse Tree or paste it on a Jesse Tree image posted somewhere in your home.

For the complete list of readings and reflections: goo.gl/rx5O1j

Reading, Reflection, Ornament for Sunday, Dec. 11: Stone Altar; Elijah

READ: 1 Kings 18:36-39

REFLECT: The prophet Elijah calls the people to turn away from false worship. He builds a stone altar to the Lord and calls down on God to accept the offering on it, which God accepts by setting the offering on fire. Again, God’s power is demonstrated. As we move closer to Christmas, let us recognize and be grateful of God’s very power in Jesus — the power to conquer death and give life.
UPCOMING EVENTS

12/11
Parish Mission
Rutland/Pittsford
8:30 am
The parish choir of Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales Church invites all to a Service of Lessons and Carols for Gaudete Sunday. The service will include Old Testament Scripture, choral masterpieces of the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and music of the church’s pipe organ.
FOR MORE INFO: Call (802) 442-3141 x5

12/11
Advent Lessons and Carols
St. Bridget Church, West Rutland
1 pm
Presented by the parish of St. Bridget, St. Stanislaus Kosta and St. Dominic this program of readings and hymns recalls the birth of Jesus. The presentation will include the singing of well known Christmas carols. Admission is free.
FOR MORE INFO: Christy Bahrenburg (802) 438-2490

12/11
Messiah Sing
Our Lady of the Snows, Woodstock
4 to 6 pm
THE ANNUAL “MESSIAH SING” On Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4pm, Our Lady of the Snows in Woodstock will host the annual “Messiah Sing,” our parish’s contribution to Wassail Weekend. There will be a professional orchestra and soloists; but anyone who wishes to sing may join the Chorus. Just bring a libretto. The event is open to the public, a truly enjoyable Advent tradition.
FOR MORE INFO: Call (802) 457-2322

12/11
Service of Lessons and Carols
Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales, Bennington - 5 pm
The parish choir of Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales Church invites all to a Service of Lessons and Carols for Gaudete Sunday. The service will include Old Testament Scripture, choral masterpieces of the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and music of the church’s pipe organ.
FOR MORE INFO: Call (802) 442-3141 x5

12/12
VT Cursillo Day of Reflection
UVM Catholic Center, Burlington
10 am - 2 pm
Calling all Cursillistas & guests to a day of reflection. Fr. Dwight Baker will give 2 reflections. There will be time for sharing. Lunch will be pot luck, please bring a dish to share.
FOR MORE INFO: Bonnie Day (802) 556-2803

12/13
Rice Memorial High School Prospective Parent Luncheon
South Burlington - 12 to 1 pm
Parents with students of all ages are invited to learn more about Rice by attending one of our Prospective Parent Luncheons. Gain a unique perspective by dining with a Rice student while hearing from a Rice parent and various administrators. A tour will be also be offered after lunch for anyone with time to stay.
FOR MORE INFO: Christy Bahrenburg (802) 862-6521 or rmhsvt.org

12/19
Dr Tortolano’s Schola Christmas Performance
St Louis Parish, Swanton - 7:30 pm
Dr. William Tortolano, Saint Michael’s College organist emeritus and fine arts/music professor emeritus will conduct the VT Gregorian Chant Schola (a men’s vocal group). Founded 15 years ago by Tortolano, the Schola has given more than 100 concerts and sacred services in New England, Quebec and on public television. A free will offering will be taken up at the performance.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 868-4262

12/25
Christmas Day!
The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, this year, on Jan. 10. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him.
FOR MORE ON THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS: goo.gl/vQCeks

01/09/2017
Stubenville East Sign-Up Deadline
Join YOUTH from the Diocese of Burlington as they travel to the 2017 ELEVATE Stubenville East Conference. Sign-up for this weekend filled with great presentations, music and spiritual enrichment with teens from around the NorthEast. Over 3,000 were in attendance during last year’s conference, 130 from our diocese! FOR MORE INFO: goo.gl/81mQ4V or (802) 658-6110 x1130

MARCH FOR LIFE 2017
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON BUS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
6:45 PM DEPART FROM SOUTH BURLINGTON
SOUTH BURLINGTON ADDITIONAL PICKUPS: WOODSTOCK AND ALBANY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
MORNING RALLY FOR LIFE
10 AM MARCH FOR LIFE
SOUTH BURLINGTON ADDITIONAL PICKUPS AT APPONEQUOD, WOODSTOCK AND SOUTH BURLINGTON
COST: $75 PER PERSON, DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS
REGISTER ONLINE: goo.gl/1dDBoo (AFTER NOVEMBER 1)
A YOUTH PELGRIMAGE WILL BE OFFERED SEPARATELY. VISITING 3 NATIONAL SHRINES IN THE AREA. FOR MORE INFORMATION: goo.gl/OK5310

CHURCH LIFE

YOUTH DRUMMING WORKSHOP
John Vianney’s Parish Center, with a talk “Saint Padre Pio, of the Glorious Mystery, followed by a gathering at Saint Fatima. Starting with Mass, then Rosary and Meditation of the birth of Jesus. The presentation will include the singing of well known Christmas carols. Admission is free.
FOR MORE INFO: Call (802) 862-6521 or rmhsvt.org

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