Pope Francis said, “Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.”

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior into our world, we ask you to join Vermont Catholic Charities in answering the call to show our love and compassion to fellow Vermonters in need of assistance by making a gift to the Advent Appeal.

The “Season of Giving” has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, there are basic needs to be met: food, shelter and heat, to name but a few. With your help, Vermont Catholic Charities can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Many Vermonters are struggling to put daily bread on the table or to keep the lights and heat on in their homes. An unexpected car repair or medical bill is a crisis. Last year, Vermont Catholic Charities provided assistance to over 1529 individuals, including 591 children under the age of 16.

During the Christmas season, support was given to 233 family households with 445 children under the age of 16. One of the recipients was a family with a four month old and a two year old. The parents were grateful for the support they received. “This has been a very happy Christmas for us. Our hearts open just thinking about your gift. It gives our family hope and faith in our community. Thank you!”

We ask for your prayerful consideration to donate to this year’s Advent Appeal. Please know that every gift — whatever the size — makes a difference. Please support this worthy effort by sending a check or giving online vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.

On behalf of Vermont Catholic Charities and for all the Vermonters you will help this year, thank you.

Mary Beth Pinard, Executive Director of Vermont Catholic Charities

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**BISHOP’S FUND 2016 REPORT**

**WE’RE ALMOST THERE**

If we receive 1,000 gifts of $100 by the end of the year, we’ll reach our Bishop’s Fund goal.

We have a matching gift of $20,000 that will apply to any new gifts received during the month of December. Supporters who give $24 or more will automatically receive the new Vermont Catholic quarterly magazine. Please consider helping us to reach the finish line.

The Bishop’s Fund supports many vital programs and services including Vermont Catholic magazine, Vermont Catholic Charities’ Emergency Aid Fund, youth ministry, catechesis, Catholic schools and Catholic cemeteries.

To make a gift, visit: BISHOPSFUND.ORG

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Submit your event to the diocesan calendar! vermontcatholic.org/calendar

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The new Vermont Catholic online news: VERTONMCATHOLIC.ORG/VCM
12|03  Marriage Enrichment Retreat
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Junction
7 pm to 8:30 pm
Six sessions for couples of all ages. There is a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage. Explore the mystery, wonder, joy, and the meaning of this beautiful sacrament with your spouse. This retreat is based on the video series BELOVED from the Augustine Institute.
FOR MORE INFO: Judy Kanya, (802) 878-6152, kanyak@comcast.net

12|06  Catholicism Series - 10 DVD Series
St. Jude, Hinesburg
7 pm
St. Jude the Apostle Church is hosting a movie series about Catholicism. The series began Nov. 15 and ran the 22, 29, the remaining dates are Dec. 6, 13, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and concludes on Feb. 3. All are welcome.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 482-2290

12|09  St. Michael’s College Chorale
Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel, Colchester
7:30 pm
A holiday tradition! This year, the St. Michael’s College Chorale, accompanied by a professional string ensemble, rings in the Christmas season with a suite of traditional carols arranged by the great English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and members of the College Community read traditional lessons foreshadowing and recounting the Birth of Christ. Come join in the cheer and sing along to “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” “The First Nowell” and other favorites. Free admission.

12|10  Parish Mass
Rutland and Pittsford
8:30 am
The parishes of St. Peter in Rutland and St. Alphonsus in Pittsford are hosting a parish mission that will include Masses, prayer time and discussion. The presenter will be Capuchin Father Jack Rachim. He has a master’s degree in theology with a major in spiritual direction from Fordham University. The parish mission begins at the 4:15 pm Mass Dec. 10 at St. Peter Church. It continues at the Dec. 11 Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. Alphonsus and the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Peter’s.
FOR MORE INFO: Call (802) 775-1994

12|11  Advent Lessons and Carols
St. Bridget Church, West Rutland
1 pm
Presented by the parishes of St. Bridget, St. Stanislaus Kostka 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|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 potluck; please bring a dish to share.
FOR MORE INFO: Bonnie Day (802) 556-2803

12|13  Rice Memorial High School 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 also be offered after lunch for anyone with time to stay.
FOR MORE INFO: Christy Bahrenburg (802) 865-6521 or rmhsvt.org

12|14  Advent Rosary with the WAF-Our Lady’s Blue Army
Saint John Vianney, So. Burlington
5 pm
Pray the Rosary for Peace, Faith and Hope during the Advent Season. Starting with Mass, then Rosary and Meditation of the Glorious Mysteries, followed by a gathering at Saint John Vianney’s Parish Center with a talk “Saint Padre Pio, his Rosary Devotion, and the love to Our Lady of Fatima.” Light refreshments will be served.
FOR MORE INFO: Yonini, yoandmic@yahoo.com or (802) 864-0561

12|21  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

UPCOMING EVENTS