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

The “Season of Giving” has no bounds for people in need. At Christmastime and throughout the year, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. This Advent Season, please help people in crisis, especially the most vulnerable among us — children, struggling parents, the elderly and the sick.

Scott and Rachel avoided homelessness. Scott and Rachel and their three school aged children were struggling to make ends meet because Scott’s hours were reduced. Vermont Catholic Charities provided them with back rent assistance so they could remain in their home and the kids could stay in their school district.

Stacey kept heat and electricity on in her house. Stacey is a mom of two children and recently left an abusive relationship. Her eight-year-old daughter has a medical condition where uninterrupted electricity is vital. We helped Stacey avoid a disconnect and made sure that the utility company was aware of the medical situation with Stacey’s daughter.

These are real people, and with your support we can assist people just like them, our neighbors in need. Your gift helps us to continue to show God’s love in concrete ways like this.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we provided assistance to over 1,400 adults and 1,000 children through the Advent Appeal and Emergency Aid Program.

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

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

May you have blessed Advent and Christmas seasons.

— Mary Beth Pinard, Executive Director of Vermont Catholic Charities

December 12 — Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

Because Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant in the image she left on Juan Diego’s cloak, she has become known as the Patroness of the Unborn. On her Feast Day, it is customary to pray for an end to abortion.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, standing against the horror of abortion, we place the unborn among us underneath your mantle of protection. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

12\|10  
**Christmas Party for People with Developmental Disabilities**  
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington  
1 - 3 pm

This Christmas party is designed for people with intellectual challenges or developmental disabilities. All ages are encouraged to attend. The party will consist of a Holiday Safe Foods Buffet, live music by the Gravelin Brothers Band and even a visit from Santa! Each partygoer will receive, while supplies last, a gift to take home. This event is free and open to all area special needs people. Reservations are a must!  
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 777-8181, sbknights7525@gmail.com

12\|11  
**St. Paul School Christmas Concert**  
St. Paul, Barton • 6 pm

12\|12  
**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn**  
Catholics throughout the world pray for intercession on behalf of the unborn to Our Lady of Guadalupe.  
FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org

12\|13  
**'Fill the Jeep'**  
St. Michael School, Brattleboro  
St. Michael School is partnering with Summit Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations in support of the food insecure in the community. Each class is collecting food items to “Fill the Jeep.” Food donations (by weight) and monetary donations (by amount) will be tracked for each homeroom, to win an ice cream party.

12\|14  
**Christ the King School Vendor Show**  
Christ the King School, Rutland  
3 - 8 pm  
Table rental is $25. If you would like to be included in the show, call 802-773-0500 or email cks@cksrutland.org.

12\|15  
**Advent Penance Service**  
Sacred Heart, Troy  
6 pm

12\|15  
**Advent Penance Service**  
Sacred Heart, St. Francis de Sales, Bennington  
5 pm

12\|16  
**Tourtiere Pie Sale**  
Nativity of the BVM, Swanton  
10 am

A “9” inch pie for $10.00 with net proceeds to benefit 16-year-old “Ryan Noel” from Enosburg, who is in a coma from a car accident on Aug. 13 and has been transferred to a rehab facility in Schenectady, NY. Proceeds will assist the family with the added expenses of travel, lodging and co-pays. Order deadline is Dec. 10. Call (802) 868-3037

12\|17  
**Advent Penance Service**  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Middlebury  
3 pm

12\|17  
**Service of Lessons and Carols**  
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington  
5 pm

The parish choir will present an annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Gaudete Sunday. The service will include Old Testament Scripture, sacred choral masterpieces of the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and the music of the church’s magnificent pipe organ.  
FOR MORE INFO: call the parish organist at 802-442-3141 ext. 5.

12\|17  
**Advent Penance Service**  
Our Lady of Good Help, Brandon  
7 pm

12\|17  
**Advent Penance Service**  
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Newport  
6 pm

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