

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 1-7, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Quite naturally, when we think of Advent, Christmas isn't far behind in our minds. Somehow though, with Christmas on our minds, the time of Advent becomes obscured. Instead of a "period of devout and expectant delight" as one Church document describes Advent, we find the endless to-do lists: Christmas shopping, Christmas card writing, prepping for meals, Christmas decorating. Advent is indeed a time of preparation for Christmas, but I'd like to propose another way of thinking about Advent, and it is simply this: At the center of Advent is the theme of time.

As a season of preparation for Christmas, Advent gives us an opportunity to look back in time — at the coming of God in the flesh into the world. Observing the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas is an ancient custom in the Church, and the Nativity forms one of the two hinges of the liturgical year (Easter being the other one). Just as we need to prepare for our own celebration of Christmas (see the above list), we also need to spend time spiritually preparing to celebrate and remember the birth of Our Lord. Advent gives us that time. The latter part of Advent, especially, focuses on this theme of looking back in time in preparation to celebrate the first coming of Jesus.

Much of Advent, however, gives us the opportunity to look forward in time — to the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. Thinking about the end times can be a frightening idea, and Advent Scripture even alludes to

this fear: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world ..." (Lk 21:26). But this doesn't have to be a fearful time. In fact, Advent calls us to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ and to wait for the Second Coming with joyful anticipation! Why is this? Because of what ultimately is promised in the Second Coming: "When

these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads, because your redemption is at hand!" (Lk 21:28). In the midst of the calamity that is foretold, there is a message of hope and redemption.

Finally, Advent calls us to take the time to look at the present and seek Christ in our lives today. Advent offers us a time to renew our relationship with Christ today, especially through the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Do we see Christ in those in need? Sometimes, we don't even need to look further than our own families.

So, let us take the time for Advent. Let us take the time to thank God for the gift of Himself in the child Jesus. Let us take the time to acknowledge continually the presence of God in our lives today. Let us take the time to prepare ourselves for the second coming or, more personally, take the time to prepare to meet

Christ at the end of our own earthly existence. If we take the time to enter into the opportunity Advent gives us to look at time past, present and future, then we will be ready to receive Christ into our lives, not only at Christmastime, but all the time.

— *Josh Perry, Director of the Office of Worship*

## Taking the Time



## for Advent



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: [vermontcatholic.org/events](http://vermontcatholic.org/events)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



12|02, 09, 16, 23 SUNDAYS

## Community Sing-a-Long of Christmas and Seasonal Carols

Dr. William Tortolano, professor emeritus of

fine arts and music at St. Michael's College, is the organist and music director. Concerts will be held at:

**St. Michael's College**, Colchester, Dec. 2, at 3 pm

**Blessed Sacrament**, Stowe, Dec. 9 at 4:30 pm

**St. Luke**, Fairfax, Dec. 16 at 4 pm

**St. Peter**, Vergennes, Dec. 23 at 3 pm



12|03 MONDAY

## Our Lady of the Lake Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony

St. Amadeus, Alburgh • 6:30 pm

Outdoor tree lighting and caroling at 6:30 pm, followed by a candlelight ceremony in the church and refreshments at the rectory. Help us light up the nights of Advent by honoring your loved ones living and deceased. Free and open to persons of all faiths. Lights are \$5/person or family commemorated.

FOR MORE INFO: (802) 796-3481 or [stamadeus@fairpoint.net](mailto:stamadeus@fairpoint.net)



12|04 TUESDAY

## Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 7 - 8 pm

Theme # 2 is "Life, and Dignity of the Human Person: Pope Francis, the Death Penalty, and the Seamless Garment." The Pope's recent declaration on the death penalty gives us the opportunity to look at the Church's teachings on respect for all life, from conception to natural death.



12|08 SATURDAY

## Silent Day-retreat

Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center,  
Saint Paul d'Abbotsford, QC

Teaching (in French with simultaneous translation into English) given by a Carmelite Friar on the universal call to holiness and the Carmelite saints. Time for prayer, reading,

walking and resting in the Lord, with Mass and Reconciliation. Lunch is in silence; dinner is joyful fellowship. (Passport or enhanced travel document needed.)

FOR MORE INFO: [email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org](mailto:email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org).



12|08 SATURDAY

## Padre Pio Devotions

St. Lawrence, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am

Rosary, reconciliation, and Mass, followed by

learning about the life, ministry and spiritual gifts of Saint Padre Pio. For Dec. 8 only this will take place at St. Lawrence Church followed by presentation in the Fr. Maloney Room.



12|08 SATURDAY

## Blood Drive

St. Isidore, Montgomery

9 am - 2 pm

Hosted by St. Isidore Parish and sponsored by Montgomery Emergency Services. Local raffles with prizes. New donors are needed. Please consider giving the gift of life. Walk-ins are welcome!

FOR MORE INFO: or to schedule an appointment, [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or 1-800-RED CROSS.



12|08 & 15 SATURDAYS

## CYO Basketball Clinics

Rice Memorial High School, S. Burlington

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Attention all 5 - 8 graders! Come on out to Rice Memorial High School for these basketball clinics. Learn skills, play and have fun with other youth from around Burlington! Open to both boys and girls! Clinics also ran on Nov. 3 & 10.



12|08 SATURDAY

## K of C Bingo

All Saints Dorion Hall, Richford

1 - 4:30 pm

Doors open at 11:30am and the games begin at 1pm. Homemade lunch, desserts & beverages are offered. Pull

tickets will also be available. Proudly sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #2610.



12|08 SATURDAY

## WAFUSA Our Lady's Blue Army - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. John Vianney, South Burlington

5 - 7:30 pm

Please join us for the celebration of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the rosary starting at 5:15, followed by the Mass at 6 and concluding with our meeting and pot luck supper in church basement. Please plan to bring a dish for our meeting.

FOR MORE INFO: Rick Gravelin (802) 862-2240



12|09 SUNDAY

## Festival of Lessons & Carols

All Saints, Richford

3 - 4 pm

Join us as we get into the Christmas Spirit with an Advent celebration of Lessons and Carols. Hear the whole blessed story of Christmas proclaimed in the word and song. Leaders from area congregations will participate in this presentation. The festival dates back to the late 19th century. Following the celebration in the church, there will be a reception in the Dorion Hall. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. Refreshments will be provided.



12|10 MONDAY

## Seminar: Evangelization: A Mission to Share the Good News

St. Jude, Hinesburg

6:30 - 8:45 pm

All are invited to a special Advent seminar which will explore contemporary challenges in parish life and strategies to re-energize faith and fellowship within our community. Light refreshments provided.

FOR MORE INFO: Chris Poirier, (802) 734-8887

## DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

*Diocese: Marriage & Family Life Coordinator*

*Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator*

*Diocese: Youth and Young Adult Ministry Administrative Assistant*

*Vermont Catholic Charities: Accountant*

*Vermont Catholic Charities: Residential Care Home Administrator, Burlington*

*Vermont Catholic Charities: Residential Care Home Administrator, Rutland*

For More Info:

[vermontcatholic.org/careers](http://vermontcatholic.org/careers)

# 2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

An anonymous donor has blessed the Vermont Catholic Church with a \$17,000 challenge grant to match dollar for dollar any gifts that are received by the end of December to help us reach our Bishop's Annual Appeal goal at [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org)

