As we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior into our world, we ask you to join Vermont Catholic Charities Inc. in answering the call to show our 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.

Help people like Grace and John keep the electricity and heat on. Grace, John and their three children were struggling to keep the utilities on as John’s hours at work had been reduced and they faced unexpected medical bills. We helped them avoid the disconnection of their utilities and provided food cards for the family.

Help people like Sharon avoid homelessness. Sharon is a mom of a 4-year-old girl and recently left an abusive relationship. Due to this turmoil, she had fallen behind on rent and faced an eviction notice. We assisted her with her rent so she and daughter could remain in their home.

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 more than 1,600 adults and 1,400 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 to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 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
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**12/09 SUNDAY**

**Festival of Lessons & Carols**
All Saints, Richmond
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.

**12/09, 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. Sing-a-longs will be held at:
- 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

**12/10 MONDAY**

**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

**12/10, 11, 12 MON, TUE, WED**

**St. Luke Parish Mission**
St. Luke, Fairfax
7-9 pm

“Why Stay Catholic?” Come and be renewed in your devotion to our Holy Church. Saint Luke Parish is hosting a 3 day mission with adoration, confession Monday and Tuesday, and Holy Mass on Wednesday. Learn about St. Padre Pio, Blessed Solanus Casey and others. Receive a plenary indulgence for attending all three days. Come and prepare your hearts for this Christmas season.

**12/13 THURSDAY**

**Advent Retreat**
St. Anthony, Bethel
5:30 - 8 pm

Retreat begins with Mass at 5:30, followed by community pot luck supper at 6. Deacon Phil Lawson will give a talk on evangelization from 7 to 8pm.

**12/13 THURSDAY**

**Theology on Tap**
Church Street Tavern, Burlington
6:30 - 8 pm

Theology on Tap is a program of the Burlington Catholic Young Adults that reaches out to young adults who want to explore the role of faith in their daily lives. Theology on Tap is open to all young adults, ages 18 to 35, singles and couples, regardless of religious affiliation.

FOR MORE INFO: burlingtonareayoungadults@gmail.com or Burlington Catholic Young Adult on Facebook.

**12/14 FRIDAY**

**Saint Albans Youth Night**
St. Mary Parish Center, St. Albans
7:30 - 9:30 pm

All teens in 7th – 12th grade are welcome to join us! A night of fun, fellowship and faith. Most nights begin with a good amount of fun, large group games/activities, reflection/talk, small group discussion and prayer. Join a great group of teens from the Franklin County area! All are welcome!

**12/15 SATURDAY**

**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! This is the last of 4 sessions.

**12/15 SATURDAY**

**Aim4Haiti Nonprofit Fair Trade Basket and Coffee sales**
Holy Family, Essex Junction
5:30 - 6 pm

Holy Family parishioner, Gillian Compo will be selling beautiful handmade Haitian fair trade Sweetgrass baskets and coffee after Masses during Advent. All proceeds go directly to help support Haitian micro-enterprises and help feed families in need. If you are not celebrating a Mass where the baskets are for sale, please contact Gillian directly via email at: aim4haiti@gmail.com or call her at: 802 857 8120.

**12/16 SUNDAY**

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

The parish choir will offer a Service of Lessons and Carols for Gaudete Sunday. Everyone is warmly invited to join the choir in anticipation of the Savior’s birth with song and scripture.

**12/16 SUNDAY**

**Messe en Français**
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 6 - 7 pm
Mass and homily in French. Perfect extra-curricular or extra credit activity for French students to develop their understanding skills and attend a Sunday evening Mass at the same time.

**12/21 FRIDAY**

**Advent Retreat**
Our Lady of the Valley, Bethel
7 - 8:30 pm

An evening of singing Advent songs and praying the Joyful Mysteries together, ending with fellowship.

**01/08 TUESDAY**

**Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching**
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 7 - 8 pm

Often called “the Church’s Best Kept Secret,” Catholic social teaching is a good and useful guide in living the Christian life and truly being a Light to the World. Join our discussions on how these ideals can help bring us more into a Christ-centered life. Theme #3 is “The Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: St. Teresa of Calcutta and Serving the Suffering Christ.” Throughout her life and ministry, St. Teresa of Calcutta never lost sight of the fact that, in serving the poorest of the poor she was actually serving Christ Himself. In this light we look at the Church’s Preferential Option for the Poor.

**01/11 FRIDAY**

**Saint Albans Youth Night**
St. Mary Parish Center, St. Albans
7:30 - 9:30 pm

All teens in 7th – 12th grade are welcome to join us! A night of fun, fellowship and faith. Most nights begin with a good amount of fun, large group games/activities, reflection/talk, small group discussion and prayer. Join a great group of teens from the Franklin County area! All are welcome!

**01/15 TUESDAY**

**Youth Ministry Training — Contemporary Moral Issues**
Christ the King, Rutland
6:30 - 8:30 pm

This Youth Ministry training workshop will include ‘hot topic’ issues in the world today, including abortion, euthanasia and same sex marriage and how to effectively transmit the Church’s teachings on these subjects. Presented by Father Matthew Rensch, parochial vicar at Christ the King in Rutland. This presentation is part of ongoing Youth Ministry training happening throughout Vermont this year — part of the Deeper Waters program.

FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

---

**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)