

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 22–28, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

The Radiant Light of Christ

*“Your light will come, Jerusalem;
the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.
You will see his glory within you;
the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.”*

During this past season of Advent, those who pray morning prayer daily within the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours prayed this poetic antiphon as a response to a short reading. So many of the images of Advent and Christmas are connected to this idea of Christ’s light breaking into the world, especially in the songs we sing: “Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light ...” or “Son of God, love’s pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace” or “Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.” (Name those tunes). The antiphon cited above sees this light as not just a moment in time but as continuous: Christ’s glory will dwell within Jerusalem, will remain present now within this world.

The Church’s teaching takes this “indwelling” even further. On Wednesday of the first week in Advent, one of the readings for daily prayer is from a sermon by St. Bernard. He writes, “We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. ... In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming

he will be seen in glory and majesty.” Imagine! The spirit and power of Christ dwells within us already! It is not just out there somewhere. It is personal in every one of the baptized waiting to be awakened.

My prayer has been captured this season with pondering that wonderful truth that those who believe and have been baptized have this gift within us. I’ve asked myself how is the radiant light of Christ directing my life? An immediate

answer is for the light of Christ to confront the darkness of sin in my life. This requires the most immediate of all acknowledgements in faith: I need to be saved.

There is an incredible moment that occurs in our lives when we turn to that Light and say, “Be merciful to me Lord, a sinner.” It is a prayer of abandonment to Christ’s mercy but also to His embrace and loving guidance. In allowing His light to remove the darkness from my life and fill me with His

spirit and power, I become more of Him and less of myself, cooperating with that grace in living out a Christian life.

May our prayer this Christmas be that the light of Bethlehem be embraced by all believers so that we maybe bearers of that light to a world that continuously needs it.



Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

UPCOMING EVENTS



12|23 SUNDAY Community Sing-a-Long of Christmas and Seasonal Carols

St. Peter, Vergennes
3 pm

Dr. William Tortolano, professor emeritus of fine arts and music at St. Michael's College, is the organist and music director.



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|12 SATURDAY Padre Pio Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction
8 - 10 am

The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the second Saturday of each month. Rosary starts at 8 am followed by Mass, special intentions for the intercession of Saint Padre Pio. Learning about Padre Pio's life, ministry and spiritual gifts will follow in the Holy Family Parish Hall after Mass.



01|15 TUESDAY Youth Ministry Training — Contemporary Moral Issues

Christ the King, Rutland
6:30 - 8:30

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



01|17-20 THURSDAY – SUNDAY Life is Precious Trip

Washington, DC

Our second "Life is Precious Trip" is scheduled for Jan. 17-20, 2019. Bus departs from Burlington at roughly 7 pm. Arrive in Washington D.C. Jan. 18. Return to Vermont late afternoon of Jan. 20. Participate in the Annual March for Life, elderly outreach, visiting Shrines, monuments and museums, fellowship with other local youth and homeless outreach. Come live and experience why ALL human life is precious in God's eyes. This trip is greatly backed and supported by the Knights of Columbus and the Bishops Appeal.

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/life-is-precious-trip/



01|26 SATURDAY Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass

St. Augustine Parish-Montpelier
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Mass at 9:30 am with Bishop Coyne, followed by refreshments in the church hall. At 10:45 am attendees are invited prayerfully walk with Vermont Right to Life to the State House for a group photo on State House stairs. Vermont Right to Life will host a program inside the State House featuring prayer, announcements and guest speaker: Ann McElhinney. The event concludes with refreshments and ends by 2:30 pm.



02|01, 02, 03 FRIDAY - SUNDAY 3-day Retreat for Students, Young Adult Professionals

Saint Paul d'Abbotsford, Quebec
8 am - 5 pm

Teaching given by Father Arnaud, a priest of Our Lady of Life, as well as members of Our Lady of Life. (Passport or enhanced travel document needed.)

FOR MORE INFO: and to register, Teresa at email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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

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DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Facilities Manager

*Diocese: Office of Evangelization and
Catechesis Administrative Assistant*

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator

*Diocese: Youth and Young Adult
Ministry Administrative Assistant*

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers

VERMONT CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS



Networking Breakfast

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

8 – 9:30 am

Speaker

Mark Redmond

Executive Director of Spectrum
Youth & Family Services

Pomerleau Alumni Center
Saint Michael's College, Colchester