A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

I thank you, Lord God, for the gift of creation, “for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,” for the abundance that we have which over and around us lies.

I thank you, Lord God, for the gift of life — my life, the lives of all whom I treasure as family and friends, and the lives of all humanity who I know as my brothers and sisters.

I thank you, Lord God, for the salvation you offer me and all my brothers and sisters through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the glorious communion of our Church.

I thank you, Lord God, for the talents and the strength to serve you as a bishop in your Church, I thank you for all of our clergy — priests and deacons — for our seminarians, for the dedicated lay men and women who serve the Church as ministers and employees, and for all of the dedicated volunteers in our Diocese and parishes who do so much to your praise and glory.

I thank you for the presence and support of all the Catholics in this Diocese who gather every week in our parishes, who give so generously of their time, treasure, and talents, and who serve as faithful witnesses to others as disciples of Christ.

I thank you for the gift of your Holy Word and for the Sacraments I and my brothers and sisters are so privileged to celebrate and receive, especially in the Holy Mass.

I thank you, Lord God, for this great country in which we live, for the freedoms we know, especially the freedom of religion, for the safety we know, for the rights we exercise, for the government “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

And as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day I thank you for the food, the fellowship, and fun that I will share around this table today with my family and friends. May I always remember that every day is day of thanksgiving for those who believe in you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may I move from that thankfulness into the mission “to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, or ransom the captive, and to bury the dead.” [The Corporal Works of Mercy]

Amen.
Upcoming Events

11/21 SUNDAY
Organ Recital in Bennington
Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
3 pm
In celebration of the Feast of Christ the King and in thanksgiving for the many blessings bestowed upon the parish families of Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales and St. John the Baptist parishes, in Bennington and North Bennington, respectively, Donald McMahon will perform a recital at the magnificent organ of Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales. A musical feast for the soul is promised, including music of Johann Sebastian Bach and other great composers. The program will include a heartfelt rendition of the beautiful American hymn, “There is a Happy Land, Far, Far Away!” and conclude with an intense and fiery performance of French composer Jean Langalais’ “Christ Vindictor.” Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

11/23 TUESDAY
Rice Memorial High School Stunt Nite
Flynn Center, Burlington • 3 pm & 8 pm
Four unique musical comedies featuring the incredible talents of Rice Memorial High School students. Tickets are on sale at the Flynn box office.

11/30 TUESDAY
Saints & Sinners
Online • 7 pm
Join us online in November when Bishop Christopher Coyne presents on St. Peter. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

12/01 WEDNESDAY
Living Joy Discussion Group: Jesus Is the Journey
Online • 7 – 8 pm
Join Chris Stefanik’s Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Life Joy Every Day. This is the last of eleven sessions that began in July. Offered by members of the Diocesan Evangelization Committee. Contact ptumley@aol.com for more information.

12/03, 04 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
St Mary’s Christmas Bazaar
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven • Join us for our annual Christmas Bazaar.
There will be a basket raffle (do not need to be present to win), 50/50 raffle, our huge white elephant sale, food table, vendors and stay for supper/ lunch from our kitchen. Hours are 2 to 6 on Friday and 10 to 2 on Saturday.
FOR MORE INFO: Claudia (802) 265-8049.

12/04, 04, 04 FRI, SAT, SUN
Christmas Bazaar
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph
More than 20 vendors will offer a wonderful variety of merchandise: jewelry, cosmetics, toys, wreaths and centerpieces, candy, candles, needlework, quilts, arts & crafts, knitted items, collectable & vintage treasures, antiques — many terrific Christmas presents.

12/05, 12, 19 SUNDAYS
Sing We Now Noel
St. Albans, Colchester & Stowe • 2 pm
A celebration of Christmas and seasonal music will be presented at three different locations with Dr. William Tortolano as organist. The 92-year-old St. Michael’s College Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts and Music continues to avoid retirement. The acoustic and tonal resources of the different Vermont spaces will bring a wide variety of organ music and vocal soloists. The audience will have an opportunity to sing favorite carols from many countries. Organ solos are by J.S. Bach, Pachelbel, Brahms, Yon and Rowley.
Dec. 5, St. Mary’s Church in St. Albans: soloists Jake Barickman and John Schreindorfer
Dec. 12, St. Michael’s College chapel in Colchester: soloist Jerry Proulx
Dec. 19, Blessed Sacrament Church in Stowe: soloist Elisabeth Ortiz.
The concerts are free and open to the public. An optional free offering will be available.

12/13 MONDAY
A Charlie Brown Christmas, America’s Passion Play
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Jct. • 7 pm
Come learn the inside story and multi-faith origins — Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant — of America’s most spiritual piece of pop culture. Presented by Dr. Damian Costello, Director of Postgraduate Studies at NAITTS: An Indigenous Learning Community and author of “How A Charlie Brown Christmas became America’s passion play.”

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CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

The Advent season begins as we wait for the birth of our Savior. One way you can prepare and show your gratitude to God is to spend time this week making a list of how you could help others. Choose to set a budget on the gifts given this year, where half of what you gave last year can be donated to others.
vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge