

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 18–24, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## ‘Christmas is about coming together’ even in an ongoing pandemic

Following the recommendations of health officials of the State of Vermont and the lead of the governor, the Diocese of Burlington lifted all the Covid-19-related restrictions and mandates in June. However, due to town mask mandates being enacted, some pastors have implemented parish-wide protocols for their communities.

With the onset of the delta-variant surge, Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne told pastors and parishes to follow their local mask mandates and is encouraging parishioners in places that don’t have mandates, especially those who are not vaccinated, to wear masks and physically distance as they are able. He also encourages Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to wear masks while distributing communion.

Josh Perry, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington called wearing a mask at Christmas an act of charity. “As Christians, we should be helping each other on the path to holiness. And if someone is uncomfortable coming to Mass (for whatever reason), we should really consider how we can best help alleviate that issue,” he said. “Today, the issue of whether people are masked indoors is a real issue for some. ... You may disagree with those who wear masks or not wear masks. However, if it would make someone feel more comfortable attending Mass if they saw the majority of parishioners wearing masks when attending Mass at Christmas, then we should really consider the use of masks. That small gesture of charity and — yes — sacrifice — can go a long way in helping one another on the path of holiness.”

Hand sanitizer is also recommended, and most parishes have a supply of hand sanitizer available at the doors of the

church. “Sanitizing the worship space is not mandated, but it’s a good practice,” he said.

Last Christmas, some parishes required Christmas Mass-goers to sign up to ensure the church did not exceed its Covid-restricted capacity. But this year because there are no capacity restrictions in place, parishes are not required to have registration for Christmas Masses.

Christmas Mass gatherings are important, especially this year after the restrictions in place last year because of the pandemic. “At its core, Christmas is about coming together, because Christmas is about Emmanuel — ‘God with us,’” Perry said.

Christmas is always a Holy Day of Obligation. Because Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, Catholics must attend Mass twice over the course of the weekend.

Perry explained: “One can fulfill the Christmas obligation by attending Mass on Christmas Eve (4 p.m. or later on Dec. 24) or attending Mass anytime on Christmas Day (Saturday). Then the Sunday obligation is fulfilled by attending Mass on Saturday evening (if you’ve already gone to a Christmas Mass on Friday night or Saturday morning) or anytime on Sunday. And yes — you can go to Mass twice on Saturday — once in the morning (for the Christmas obligation) and once in the evening (for the

Sunday obligation); however, if the first Mass you attend is Saturday evening, it counts for your Christmas obligation, and you’ll have to attend again on Sunday to fulfill the Sunday obligation.”

Contact your pastor if you have questions.

**VTC • Cori Fugere Urban**



# Upcoming Events



12|21, 28, 01|04, 11, 18, 25 TUESDAYS  
**Courageous Women Bible Study**  
*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am or 6:30 pm*  
 For this study we will use, "Courageous

Women: A Study on the Heroines of Biblical History" by Stacy Mitch, written with a female audience in mind yet it is equally approachable for men. We will meet for 8 sessions; you can choose the time that fits your schedule best. Each session is mostly independent of the others, so participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. Look for the sign-up sheet at the top of our ramp entrance. Copies of the book are available through the parish for \$12 each. **FOR MORE INFO: Connie McDonald (802) 864-4166 x204 or SJVGoodNews@gmail.com**



12|30 THURSDAY  
**More than the Magi: Celebrating the Riches of Epiphany 2022**  
*Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7-8:30 pm*

A reflection on the history, liturgy, and spirituality of a feast of feasts, with Fr. Richard Berube, SSE.



01|05, 19, 02|02, 16, 03|02, & 16 WEDNESDAYS  
**Resisting Happiness Book Club**  
*Online • 7 pm*

Come explore with us Matthew Kelly's book *Resisting Happiness* at 7-8 pm every other Wednesday for six weeks. Free book and study guide, contact [pturnley@aol.com](mailto:pturnley@aol.com).



01|07, 21, 02|04, 18 FRIDAYS  
**The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls**  
*Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 8 pm*

Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. It's a place for girls to learn about themselves by doing apostolic projects and creating a positive impact on family, friends and the world. **FOR MORE INFO: contact Mary Niekrewicz, [mary.of.vt@gmail.com](mailto:mary.of.vt@gmail.com), (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, [audreycgsvt@gmail.com](mailto:audreycgsvt@gmail.com), (802) 373-9564.**



01|16 SUNDAY  
**DeGoesbriand Council 279 Burlington Pancake Breakfast**  
*Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 8:30 - 11:30 am*

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus DeGoesbriand Council 279. By donation, the suggested donation is \$8.



01|25 TUESDAY  
**Saints & Sinners**  
*Online • 7 pm*

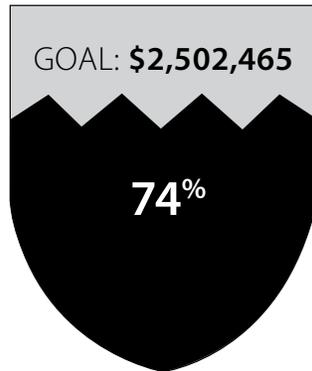
Join us in November when Deacon Phil Lawson presents on Saints Philip, Athanasius and Lawrence. **For more info: [vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners](http://vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners).**



02|05 SATURDAY  
**Our Lady of Fatima Devotions**  
*Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am*  
 Rosary, Confessions, and Mass at 8:30 am.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL  
**2021**  
 UPDATE



As of Dec. 6, 2021: **\$1,851,294**  
 To learn more or make a gift visit:  
[vermontcatholic.org/giveonline](http://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline)



02|5 SATURDAY  
**Adoration Mini-Mission with Holy Hour**  
*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington*  
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Not sure what adoration is all about? Or maybe you've not been to adoration for awhile and could use a refresher course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event coming this Lent, Josh Perry, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission with instruction about adoration, followed by a holy hour.



02|06 SUNDAY  
**Marriage Anniversary Mass**  
 Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am  
 Are you and your spouse celebrating a

milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2022? To register please contact Nicole Hamilton at [nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org) or (802)658-6110, ext. 1131.



02|12 SATURDAY  
**Padre Pio Devotions**  
*Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am*  
 Rosary, Mass and discussion about Padre Pio.



02|22 TUESDAY  
**Saints and Sinners**  
*Online • 7 pm*

Join us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. **For more info: [vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners](http://vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners).**

## DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

*Christ the King School, Burlington:*  
 Afterschool and Summer Camp Director

*Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:*

Human Resources Generalist

Diocesan Catechetical Leader

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington:*  
 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

*St. Mark Parish, Burlington:*  
 Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

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



DEC. 19 – 25, 2021

### CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

#### The Fourth Week of Advent

Who haven't you spoken to in a long time? Reach out to that person with a phone call, home visit, or a handwritten card to let them know you are thinking about them. Ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you share some positive news with him/her.

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