One of the most ancient texts regarding the early celebration of the Eucharist is found in a document entitled “The Didache,” in translation, “The Teaching.” It is basically an early Church manual describing the life of the Christian as the “way of life.”

Among the many descriptions of the life of the early Christians is the first non-biblical description of a celebration of the memorial — anamnesis — of what Christ at the Last Supper commanded His disciples to do: “Do this in memory of me.”

While the description of what and how this was done is incomplete, the initial Greek text describing the Church’s gathering is of interest to us for the primacy of place it gives to the “giving thanks.” It reads in translation, “Now concerning the ‘Giving of Thanks’ (tes eucharitias), give thanks this way,” and then moves forward into a description of the initial prayers of what is clearly a Eucharistic celebration. But notice the Greek meaning of the word “eucharistias” — “the giving of thanks.” As the text moves forward, words of thanksgiving and the reasons for thanksgiving pour forth:

“We give thanks to you, O Holy Father, for your Holy Name which you made as a tabernacle in our hearts and for the knowledge and faith and immortality which you made known to us through Jesus thy Child. ... You, Lord Almighty, created all things for your Name’s sake, and give food and drink to men for their enjoyment, that they might give thanks to you, but you have blessed [us as well] with spiritual food and drink and eternal light through your Child. Above all we give thanks to you for you are mighty. To you be glory for ever.”

And so it follows through the ages down to today. The primary element of thanksgiving not only gives us the name for what we do — The Eucharist — but also describes what we do: We give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do, most especially for the gift of salvation offered us through the sacrifice of the cross and the real communion in the Body and Blood of Christ. Our acknowledgement of what God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit has done leads to thanksgiving, which then brings forth the Eucharistic reality. As one author puts it, “Eucharisteo — thanksgiving — always precedes the miracle.”

This week, as you gather for Thanksgiving, the holiday, perhaps you might consider attending a local Mass so as to begin the day with the greatest and most primary of offering thanks — the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
**Upcoming Events**

**11|22 TUESDAY**

**Stunt Nite 2022**
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
4 pm and 8 pm
Celebrating 104 years of excellence, Rice Memorial High School presents: Stunt Nite 2022! Four unique musical comedies featuring the incredible talents of Rice Memorial High School students; A Rice tradition celebrating 92 Years! There are two shows: 4 pm Matinee — $25; 8 pm Evening Performance — $30. Tickets are now on sale! www.flynnvt.org or 86-FLYNN.

**12|02, 03, 04 FRI, SAT, SUN**

**The Best Christmas Bazaar Ever**
St. Raphael Parish Hall, Poultney
Joint bazaar of the 7 Catholic Churches in western region of central Vermont. Basket Raffle, traditional raffle, quilt raffle, food tables, crafts, “Treasures” Religious items, vendors and stay for lunch or supper from our kitchen! Friday 3 – 7pm, Saturday 10 am – 4 pm. Raffle drawings at 4 pm Saturday.
For MORE INFO: camshaw22@gmail.com or call (518) 636-9012.

**11|24, 12|01, 08, 15 THURSDAYS**

**Weekly Bible Study**
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 7 pm
Every Thursday at 7 pm we will gather in the parish hall library to read and discuss the Gospel for the coming Sunday. All are welcome!

**11|25, 12|02, 09, 16 FRIDAYS**

**SoulCore**
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe 9 – 10:30 am
SoulCore is an apostolate that intentionally engages the whole person in the sacred experience of the rosary. Integrating the prayers of the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and functional movements to nourish body & soul and encourage deeper reflection on the virtues. A gentle path to grow in virtue and cultivate interior peace. What to bring: Mat, water, weights optional (1-3lbs.) Who should come? Everyone! SoulCore is self-paced and can be modified for any ability.

**11|28, 12|05, 12, 19 MONDAYS**

**Old Testament Scripture Study**
St. John Vianney Parish Hall, S. Burlington
9:15 – 10:30 am
Brush up on your Bible Basics with an Old Testament Scripture Study. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, we will look into all that led up to that glorious event, from the beginning of creation. This series is meant for us to practice our story line, and learn a little bit more about what we hear in the first reading every Sunday. For more info or to register: sjvgoodnews@gmail.com

**11|29, 12|01 TUES & THURS**

**Walking With Families: Tackling the Tough Topics Around Human Sexuality**
Online • 7 – 8 pm
Please join us from 7 to 8 pm, for a presentation and time for questions. Presenters include: Father Jon Schnobrich, Jessica Whelan, ND, FCP, MACI, Sharon Tran, MSN, MAFT, APRN/Nurse Practitioner, Marriage and Family Therapist, Daniel Lacourrege, Diocesan Catechetical Leader, Sister Paul Mary Dreger, FSE, Campus Ministry, Marie Antunes, Administrative Secretary Waterbury, Moretown, Waitsfield. You can choose to attend any and all presentations. Learn more and register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/walking-with-families/

**12|18 SUNDAY**

**Sing We Now Noel**
St. Michael’s College chapel, Colchester • 2 pm
Dr. William Tortolano, emeritus professor and college organist, will present the 62nd annual festive concert with the classic two-manual, 14-stop Casavant pipe organ. The program is designed to cover a variety of musical compositions to encourage the audience to participate. Among the compositions are carols from several countries, including Austria, England, France, Portugal and American traditions. Jerry Proulx, a St. Michael’s graduate, with extensive theater credentials, will sing the famous Italian carol, Tu Scendi Dalle Stele, in Italian. A free-will offering gratefully.

**12|15 THURSDAY**

**Married Life — The First 5 Years**
Online • 7 – 8:15 pm
Navigating the first five years of marriage can be a challenge — no matter how long you’ve known each other. The sacrifices shared between a husband and wife can lead to a greater love, or moments of contempt. Join with other couples to build healthy relationships that foster the plan God has for your marriage. Enhance your relationship, meet other couples, and grow your marital relationship. You only need to register once to join. We meet virtually, once a month, 7 – 8:15pm:
• Thursday, December 15
• Thursday, January 19
• Thursday, February 16
Future dates to be decided by attendees. Please pre-register for any one or all: vermontcatholic.org/event/married-life-the-first-5-years/

**12|18 SUNDAY**

**3 Part Series on The Christian Crisis of Teen Doubt**
St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, Shelburne 5:30 pm
Join us for a 3-part series presented by Joe Blanchette on insights into this problem and how we can help our youth (and perhaps you) be better prepared to explain “why we believe what we believe” about our Catholic Faith. Parts 1 and 2 were held on Oct. 9 and Nov. 20.
Dec. 18, Part 3: Doubt: A Threat or Opportunity?

**12|19 MONDAY**

**The History of the Christmas Tree — from Luther to the present age**
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. 7 – 8 pm
Join us for this presentation by Dr. Damian Costello, Ph. D, All are welcome.

**12|25 SUNDAY**

**Free Christmas Dinner!**
St. Anthony, Bethel 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Come enjoy a free, incredible, and scrumptious dinner cooked by Cathy Day and her crew.

**BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**

**2022 UNITY IN FAITH**

To learn more or make a gift online visit: bishopsappealvt.org

**Goal: 2,502,465**

**Actual: $1,889,554**

**76%**