

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 10–16, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

‘All the leaves are brown’



“All the leaves are brown. And the sky is gray.”

As we lean into another Advent, that opening line of “California Dreamin’” plays in my head.

In the part of the country where I live, a warm, magnificent autumn has suddenly turned into a cold, gray winter.

The abrupt coming of winter sparks a little sadness. It’s a reminder of the swift passage of time, the brief moments of the cycles of our lives. And so, we go into a season of waiting. In our Christian tradition, we wait for the Savior’s birth, the reception of the Savior into our hearts and the second coming of this Savior, promised to us in Scripture.

In the busyness of a culture that often prioritizes spending and consumption, it’s hard to focus on the bare bones of our

faith. But the cold, gray winter invites us to be more reflective.

But how? Again, the traditions of our faith inspire.

Do you have a creche for your home? This simple portrayal of Luke’s Gospel story was supposedly St. Francis of Assisi’s idea, and what a great idea it was. A soft candle burning by the creche on a dark, wintry Advent morning beckons us to prayer.

Do you have an Advent wreath? Catholics light the candles, adding one each Advent Sunday, at Mass. But your own set makes a beautiful dinner table centerpiece, and every evening as you light the appropriate candles, you might offer personal prayers. Let your prayers be reflected in the light of

the Advent wreath.

Giving is a huge Christmas tradition, but it sometimes becomes “getting” for many kids. Introduce your children or grandchildren to the wish lists of your favorite charity or to the giving tree at church. Help them select the gifts and explain what the charity does and how it reflects our faith.

When we lived in Alaska, we had friends who hosted a caroling party every year. What a great way to dispel the darkness and celebrate the community aspect of Jesus’ birth by singing through the neighborhood. With lots of hot cocoa and cookies to follow.

Like life itself, Advent passes swiftly. Let each day find its moment of reflection.

— *Effie Caldarola, Catholic News Service*



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Upcoming Events



12|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. For more info or to register: sjvgoodnews@gmail.com.



12|12 MONDAY
From the Gospel of St. Matthew — Advent to Christmas
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 7 – 8 pm

Join us for this two part series with Rev. Richard Berube SSE PhD. All are welcome. The first part took place on Dec. 5.



12|13 TUESDAY
In the Bleak Midwinter: The Polyphony Choir of Magdalen College
St. Peter, Rutland • 7 pm

Join us for a festive concert of sacred music for Advent and Christmastide. The acclaimed 20-voice ensemble will take you on a musical journey from the season of hushed waiting to the joyful radiance of Our Lord's Nativity. This concert is part of the choir's In the Bleak Midwinter tour that is taking place at major churches across New England this December. It is free and open to the public.



12|15 THURSDAY
Advent Retreat
Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5 - 8 pm
 Prepare to receive the Messiah on Christmas

Day — Part 2. Go deeper into your faith with Liturgy of the Hours, multiple presentations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, and good food! Retreat led by Fr. Scott Gratton.



12|15 THURSDAY
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! Weekly schedule continues in January.



12|15, 22 THURSDAYS
Advent Study for Women
via Zoom • 7:30 - 9 pm

The Vermont Catholic Women's Group is watching "Behold" an Advent series by Sr. Miriam Hiland. You can find the companion book on the AveMaria Press website. **FOR MORE INFO: contact Carolina, caro3600@gmail.com.**



12|15 THURSDAY
Married Life — The First 10 Years
Online • 7 – 8:15 pm
 Navigating the first ten years of marriage can be a challenge — no matter how long you've known

each other. 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. Please pre-register for any one or all: vermontcatholic.org/event/married-life-the-first-5-years/



12|16 FRIDAY
SoulCore
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 9 – 10:30 am
 Integrating the prayers of the rosary with

core strengthening, stretching and functional movements to nourish body & soul and encourage deeper reflection on the virtues. What to bring: Mat, water, weights optional (1-3lbs.) Who should come? Everyone! SoulCore is self-paced and can be modified for any ability.



12|17 SATURDAY
Tourtiere Pie Sale
Nativity of the BVM, Swanton • 10 am - 12 pm

Taking orders for 9-inch Tourtiere Pies, order deadline is Dec. 11, call (802) 868-3037. Available to pick-up on Saturday, Dec 17, 10am to noon or after the weekend Masses. Proceeds will go to a Pregnancy Resource Center/ Maternity Home.



12|18 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus St. Stephen's Council #2284 Pancake Breakfast
St. Francis Xavier, Winooski • 8 am - 12 pm

Held in the St. Francis School Gym, cost is \$10, includes pancakes — plain & blueberry, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, coffee & juice.



12|18 SUNDAY
Organ Concert: 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. Jerry Proulx, a St. Michael's graduate, with extensive theater credentials, will sing the famous Italian carol, *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*, in Italian. A free-will offering gratefully.



12|18 SUNDAY
Lessons and Carols
Our Lady of the Snows, Waitsfield • 2 pm

This year features singers from Thomas Aquinas College in Northfield MA, Ruth Tintle and her husband Leigh, and Ann Harvey. An outdoor reception with fire pits, warm drinks and dessert will follow. This is a family friendly event.



12|18 SUNDAY
Advent mini-retreat
All Saints, Richford • 3 pm
 This Advent mini-retreat includes a self-directed reflection on the meaning of Advent, adoration, a

scriptural rosary and The Sacrament of Reconciliation. **FOR MORE INFO: allsaintsrichford.org.**



12|18 SUNDAY
3 Part Series on The Christian Crisis of Teen Doubt
St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne • 5:30 pm

Parts 1 and 2 were held on Oct. 9 and Nov. 20. 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|21 WEDNESDAY
Franklin Deaney Holy Hour
Nativity of the BVM, Swanton • 6 pm

The Franklin Deaney will host a Holy Hour, priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



12|25 SUNDAY
Free Christmas Dinner!
St. Anthony, Bethel
 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Come enjoy a free, incredible, and scrumptious dinner.

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