This traditional hymn was translated in 1941 by F. Bland Tucker and is taken from an early second-century Greek text called the “Didache” or “The Teaching.” Chapters 9 and 10 of this ancient document describe the liturgical practices of an early Syrian-Christian community, and the present text is a paraphrase translation of prayers that were used within the celebration of the Eucharist.

These ancient words have continued to resonate across the centuries within our own celebration of the Eucharist. If you recall, during the Preparation Rite of the Mass, the priest offers thanks for the gifts being offered:

“Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the Earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.”

A similar prayer is offered for the wine to be used as well. Just as in the words of the ancient hymn of the “Didache,” so in the words of the Mass a clear connection is made between the natural gifts of creation and the work of human hands and the greater supernatural gift to be realized in the Eucharist: the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation. We might consider then that the structure and words of the Eucharistic celebration are not just about how one is to celebrate Mass but how one is “to give thanks,” not just for the fruits of the Eucharist but for the fruits of all creation.

Many of you, like me, have planted your vegetable garden or strewn your deck and porch with a few pots filled with herbs and tomatoes. I have a small statue of St. Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners, on the inside window sill of my porch, looking down upon my vegetable beds. Each day I offer a little prayer to St. Fiacre to help my garden grow and protect it from predatory squirrels. As to the squirrels, my prayers often go unheeded. I find that live trapping tends to do better. In the meantime, my garden grows well and is filled with thanksgiving for the abundance of God’s love and a reminder of the gift of eternal life that was began in the garden of the empty tomb of Jesus. In the words of another beautiful hymn:

We thank you, then, Creator, for all things bright and good, the seed-time, and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. Accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts, and what you most would welcome: our humble, thankful hearts. All good gifts around us are sent from heav’n above. We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne
Upcoming Events

08/09 – 08/30 WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday Reflection Series
St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am
Join us for Mass at 11:15 am followed by the presentation. Lunch is available in the cafeteria after the presentation, or you can bring your own picnic lunch.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 928.3362 or sas@sse.org.
08/09: Msgr. Peter Routhier
Praying at Eucharistic Adoration
08/16: Fr. Michael Carter, SSE
St. Justin Martyr on the Eucharist
08/23: Fr. David Theroux, SSE
180 Years of Edmundite Ministry Since 1843
08/30: Fr. Richard Myhalyk, SSE
The Life of St. Edmund of Canterbury

08/09, 16 WEDNESDAYS
St. Michael Church Summer Lecture Series
St. Michael, Brattleboro • 5 - 7 pm
A program on the saints pictured in the stained glass windows will be presented in the church by a number of visiting priests, artisans and teachers starting on Wednesday, June 28. The program begins at 5PM with evening prayer followed by the presentation.
08/09: Father Kevin Chalifoux from Our Lady of Fatima, Wilmington on St. Catherine of Alexandria
08/16: Father Michael Pierz, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts will discuss St. John the Baptist

08/10 THURSDAY
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chicken Pie Supper
St. Michael, Greensboro • 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Seatings at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Pre-purchased take outs between 4-5 pm. Call (802) 793-4764. Menu: chicken pie, casseroles, goulash, cole slaw, veggies, rolls, homemade pie, coffee/tea. Catholic Financial Life will match a portion of the net proceeds to benefit Mary Queen of all Saints Parish.

08/13, 09/10, 11/08 SUNDAYS
Monthly COSP Knights of Columbus Fund Raising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.

08/17, 09/14, 10/19 THURSDAYS
Spanish Mass
St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm
Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P., Campus Minister at Dartmouth College, will be offering Spanish Mass at 7 pm.

08/19, 09/16, 10/21 SATURDAYS
The Chosen — Movie Night and Potluck
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 - 6:45 pm
Come join us for a movie night and potluck dinner every third Saturday of the month. We will watch an episode of The Chosen together and have food and fellowship!

08/20 SUNDAY
Burlington Concert Band at St. Mark Parish
St. Mark, Burlington • 5 pm
All are invited for an evening of music on our back lawn. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and picnic basket. Weather Permitting!

08/26 SATURDAY
Ascension Church Furnace FUNdraiser Live Auction & Raffle
Ascension, Georgia • 12:15 - 2:30 pm
Things are heating up with a live auction and raffle fundraiser to support Ascension Parish’s new furnace project! Light lunch items, raffle & silent auction will be available throughout the day. You may preview the live auction items from 11 am to 1 pm. The live auction will be held from 1–3 pm, by auctioneer Mike LaChance. FOR MORE INFO: Call Jean (802) 782-6491 or Alice (802) 524-3330.

08/27 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage Mass at St. Anne’s Shrine
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15-2:30 pm
Mass followed by the ceremony for the installation of State Officers for the 2023-2024 fraternal year and an end-of-summer cookout. Lunch will include burgers, dogs, homemade potato salad and coleslaw, chips, dessert, condiments, and water & cold drinks. There is a suggested Donation of $7 per person for the cookout (make your own family discount for multiple kids). Any net proceeds from donations will benefit the charitable work of K. of C. District 1 councils. The collection at Mass will benefit St. Anne’s Shrine. RSVP for the lunch by going to the K. of C. State Chaplain’s blog: ubipetrusvt.com/shrine2023.

09/02, 10/07 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Devotions
First Saturday Devotions
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 8 am
Mass at 8 am, Holy Rosary and Confessions at 8:30 am. The Blessed Virgin Mary asked the three children at Fatima in 1917 that these devotions be followed to bring peace to the world.

09/02, 10/07 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Confessions and Rosary at 8 am, Mass at 8:30.

09/03, 11/01 SUNDAYS
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Harlow.

09/09 - 10/27 FRIDAYS
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph
9:45 am - 11:15 am
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you get the “big picture” by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it. This eight-session study program includes video presentations that explore all twelve time periods of The Bible Timeline Chart.

09/29 – 10/02 FRI, SAT, SUN, MON
Light of the World Retreat
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
Parishioners from all parishes are welcome. Information and registration available at Essex Catholic Light of the World Retreat or email questions to ecc.engage@gmail.com. There is no registration fee.

For the full listing of events, please visit the diocesan Events Calendar at vermontcatholic.org/events.

Progress: 64% to goal

Raised: $1,593,327
Goal: $2,503,354
as of July 26