

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 23–29, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## Christmas 2023

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace  
to those on whom His favor rests. — Luke 2:14*



### My dear family in Christ:

The song of the angel choir announced to the shepherds and to the world the birth of the Prince of Peace; however, we all know that this promise of peace is still unrealized in our world. Daily we are reminded of the violence which shatters the lives of so many people throughout the world.

Whether it is the on-going wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Sudan or other war-torn lands; the violence resulting from the drug trade in many areas of the world; the gun violence which infects our cities and even our own local communities; the violence resulting from human trafficking; and the countless other ways peace is destroyed, we may wonder if God's favor rests on anyone. These harsh realities demand that this Christmas we ask ourselves what we may do to bring the peace of Christ into our world.

While some of us may feel called to go to violence-plagued areas to make a difference for others, many of us are more likely being asked to make Christ's peace present where we are. To quote a familiar and popular hymn, "Let peace begin with me." This Christmas, we must reject the hatred and anger that fills society, social media, and the airwaves. We must welcome the peace of Christ into our hearts and let go of any anger, hatred, or thoughts of violence we may harbor personally. If we don't have Christ at the center of our own lives and allow Him to inspire our thoughts, words, and actions, how can we hope to have peace in our hearts or be instruments of His peace in the lives of others? How can we have peace in our world if we don't have peace in our own hearts, homes, families, and communities? As Catholic Christians it comes down to this simple statement this Christmas, "No Christ. No Peace. Know Christ. Know Peace."

It is my prayer this Christmas that we all take the steps necessary to open our lives more and more to Christ so as to cast hate and anger from our own hearts so that the peace of God may rest upon us and we in turn can bring that gift of peace to others. Let's especially seek to be reconciled with family members, friends, and those closest to us.

Be assured of my prayers for the entire diocese, especially for those suffering most at this moment in time.

In Christ the Prince of Peace,



Msgr. John J. McDermott  
Diocesan Administrator

*P.S. Please pray for me and for the appointment of our new bishop. Wouldn't that be a blessed Christmas gift?*

# Upcoming Events



## 12|25 MONDAY 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. This meal is for anyone who wants a warm dinner and conversation this Christmas Day. Come and know the dignity you have in God.



## 12|27 WEDNESDAY Christmas Lessons and Carols

St. Peter, Vergennes • 6 pm

This is a combination of Christmas hymns/carols interspersed with scripture readings, followed by cookies and snacks in the hall. Come and enjoy the evening and sing along with Father Steven Marchand, organist.



## 12|28, 01|11, 02|15 THURSDAYS Spanish Mass

St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P., Campus Minister at Dartmouth will be offering the monthly Spanish Mass.



## 01|06, 02|03 SATURDAYS St. Ambrose/St. Peter Youth Ministry Bingo

St. Peter Parish Hall, Vergennes • 5 pm

Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose & St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs.



## 01|12, 02|09 FRIDAYS Essex Community Dinners

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm

Essex Community Dinners are provided in order to grow and promote our community! They are intended to feed the hungry, lonely and needy amongst us. These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. Take out dinners are also available.



## 01|13, 02|17 SATURDAYS St. Peter's Cemetery Committee – Bingo

St. Peter Parish Hall, Vergennes • 5 pm

Doors open at 5 PM, Bingo starts at 6 PM. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.



## 01|14, 02|11 SUNDAYS Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter Parish Hall, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$12 adults, \$7 children 8-12 yrs., \$38 immediate family max.



## 01|14, 02|11 SUNDAYS Monthly COSP KofC Fund Raising Breakfast

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Proceeds to support parish and community outreach programs.



## 01|17 WEDNESDAY Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast

Diocesan Offices, S. Burlington • 8:30 am

The speaker will be Mary Hahn Beerworth, Executive Director of the Vermont Right to Life. When interviewed for *Vermont Catholic*, Mary Beerworth said of her upcoming talk, "I hope to inspire Vermont Catholic Professionals to employ 'holy boldness' when it comes to issues of life — the truth and science are on our side." Breakfast foods and beverages will be provided. Register at: [vermontcatholic.org/vcp](http://vermontcatholic.org/vcp)



## 01|18, 02|15 THURSDAYS Knights of Columbus BINGO

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Held on the third Thursday of each month. The jackpot is \$1,000. Doors open at 4:30 and the first game begins at 6:30. Come join the fun with friends and family. Bring a non-perishable food item(s) and receive two free game sheets for the "winner take all" game.



## 01|20, 02|17 SATURDAYS Men's "Cor" Formation

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 10 - 11:30 am

Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a deeper faith! You are invited to participate in COR Formation. "Cor" is Latin for Heart. Through fraternity, prayer, and the study of God's word in Scripture and holy examples, we intend to grow closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Coffee and refreshments provided by the K of C. All men from all parishes are welcome.



## 01|21 SUNDAY K of C St. Stephen's Council #2284 Pancake Breakfast

St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski • 8 - 11 am

Serving in the school gym. Cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family of 4 (each additional family member \$5).



## 02|04 SUNDAY Diocesan Marriage Day Mass

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

Married Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2024, who wish to be recognized at the Diocesan Anniversary Mass, can register by contacting Nicole Hamilton at [nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org) or 802-658-6110 ext. 1131. Recognition is given to couples celebrating marriages of 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, 51, or more years. The deadline to register is Friday, January 26, 2024. Parishes who wish to recognize significant anniversaries locally can request certificates signed by Monsignor John McDermott and mailed to the parish.



## 02|18 SUNDAY Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 pm

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Monsignor McDermott on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. During the Rite of Election, the Church "elects" those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. The Church also recognizes those already-baptized Christians seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church and pledges the support of prayer as they journey toward Full Communion in the Catholic Church. Friends and family of those participating in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited to celebrate with us.



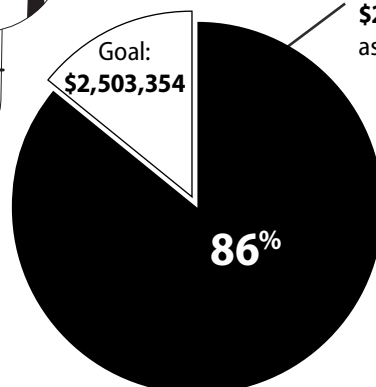
## 02|24 SATURDAY Theology of Bread Retreat

All Saints, Richford • 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE will be offering a day long retreat, moving us to a deeper and greater understanding of the Eucharist. Opportunity for hands-on bread baking. The retreat will conclude with Adoration and Mass. Learn more at: [vermontcatholic.org/event/theology-of-bread-retreat/](http://vermontcatholic.org/event/theology-of-bread-retreat/)



BISHOP'S  
ANNUAL  
APPEAL



Progress: 86% to goal

Raised:  
**\$2,026,925**  
as of Dec. 13

### Give Online

[vermontcatholic.org/giveonline](http://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline)  
or scan the QR code to the left.

### Donate By Mail

Bishop's Annual Appeal  
Diocese of Burlington  
55 Joy Drive  
South Burlington, VT 05403

### Stock Gifts/Planned Gifts

802-658-6110 ext. 1226  
[ekane@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:ekane@vermontcatholic.org)

