

NEWS FROM The Inland See

November 30 – December 6, 2024

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Blessed Advent

My dear family in Christ,

I have a number of wonderful family memories of the Advent season, including looking for the Advent wreath among the clutter of a hallway closet, setting the candles in place, arranging some evergreen branches among the candles, and taking turns reading the daily Advent prayers before eating supper. All of these echoes of the past return to my heart and mind each year as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent.

We were not a family that put up a Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving, it took up too much space in an already crowded house, so we did have the opportunity to consider the Advent season as a time of preparation. Now, to be honest, as a young boy Advent seemed to be unnecessarily long when anticipating the excitement of Christmas Day, but as I matured, I began to realize the beauty of the Season of Advent and wisdom of the Church in providing us time to get ready for our celebration of Christ's birth and His return in glory.

Far too often we rush from one holiday to another, secular and religious, with little time to really consider what it is we are celebrating. Advent provides us with the time to slow down just a bit to remember that not only are we preparing to celebrate the Lord's birth, but we are preparing ourselves to stand before Him at the end of our earthly lives and getting ready for His glorious return at the end of time.

Keeping this in mind, I invite all of us to use this Advent season well. Read the beautiful readings provided for daily and Sunday Masses. Reflect upon the promise that God gave to His people to send them a Savior. Ponder the challenges given to us to "prepare the way of the Lord" in our own lives. Celebrate the Lord's forgiveness in Reconciliation so that we might offer



Him a heart purified and ready for Him to reside in our hearts. Meditate upon the growing darkness around us in the world, but more importantly, the growing light of the wreath which reminds us that the Light of Christ cannot be extinguished by any earthly power.

So, while we may find ourselves a bit overwhelmed with preparing for Christmas, let's embrace fully the remedy to this "busy-ness" provided by our Church, the four weeks of the Advent season. "O Come, Divine Messiah!"

God alone suffices!



+John J. McDermott
Bishop of Burlington

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 3



On Dec. 3, Giving Tuesday, we ask you to prayerfully consider a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal in support of our Catholic schools, faith formation programs, emergency aid, and so much more which allows the diocese to keep sharing and living the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Vermont. Give online at vermontcatholic.org/giveonline, scan the QR code to the left, call 802-658-6110 x 1102, or mail a check payable to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403.

Upcoming Events



12|05, 12, 19 THURSDAYS
Advent with the Catholic Women's Group
via Zoom • 7:30 - 9 pm

The Vermont Catholic Women's group will dig deeper into Advent. Zoom: www.us06web.zoom.us/j/5815141097



12|03, 10, 17 TUESDAYS
Encountering Emmanuel
*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
 Offered at 9 am AND 6:30 pm*

Join SJV Women's Ministry for prayer and reflection this Advent. Together we will spend some time with the book *Encountering Emmanuel: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation* by Heather Khym. Journals are \$8/each. Register at: stjohnvianneyvt.org/encountering-emmanuel



12|06, 07 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar (Our Lady of Seven Dolores Parish)
*St. Raphael, Poultney • Friday, 12 - 6 pm
 and Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm*



12|06, 13 FRIDAYS
Alpha Film Series
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9:00 pm
 Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to

discuss life and faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment. All are invited, no matter their background or beliefs. This series runs November 8 through February 7.



12|07 SATURDAY
Annual Christmas Bazaar
St. Patrick, Wallingford • 9 am - 2 pm
 Crafts, baked goods, take-out soups, mac & cheese, chili. Silent auction. "Once loved" room. Raffles.



12|07 SATURDAY
St. Paul Church Christmas Bazaar
Town Hall, Orwell • 9 am - 2 pm
 Handmade gifts, crafts, ornaments,

decorations, wreaths, quilt raffle, basket raffle, silent auction and baked goods.



12|07 SATURDAY
St. Patrick's Annual Christmas Bazaar
St. Patrick, Fairfield • 9 am - 3 pm

All handmade crafts, Christmas tree full of handmade ornaments for sale. Freshly decorated Christmas wreaths. Baked goods sale, Santa will be here around 11:30 am. Fish pond for children. Luncheon at noon. Coffee, cold drinks, and treats all day for sale. A giant raffle with 60+ prizes. All are welcome!



12|08 SUNDAY
Vergennes Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet
St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 am
 \$12 adults, \$7 children 8 to 12 years old.



12|09 MONDAY
Bereavement Support Group
Nativity of the BVM, Swanton • 6 - 8 pm
 An opportunity to pray and share with others who have lost a loved one. Open to anyone who is grieving.



12|11 WEDNESDAY
Grief Ministry and Support
All Saints, Richford • 6 - 7 pm
 With Deacon Armand Auclair.



12|14 SATURDAY
St. John Henry Newman Series of Sermon Seminars
via Zoom • 10 am

The sermon will be read at the meeting; no need to prepare beforehand. Additional sessions scheduled for February, May and August. The sessions will be between an hour and a half to two hours. Hope to see you there!

For the December session, Dr. Mark Clark will present on Parochial and Plain Sermons, Volume IV, Sermon 15, "Moral Effects of Communion with God." Zoom: us06web.zoom.us/j/94528155091 <https://tinyurl.com/NewmanSermonSeries>



12|14 SATURDAY
Presence, An Advent Retreat
*Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston
 12 - 5 pm*

Join us as we journey through the Augustine Institute's Series Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist and explore this topic that is central to our faith. Refreshments will be available. Please register at <https://bit.ly/IHMAAdvent2024>.



12|15 SUNDAY
Bereavement Ministry
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 pm

An opportunity to pray and share with others who have lost a loved one, in comfortable setting. We meet on the third Sunday of every month for about an hour.



12|21 SATURDAY
Men's "Cor" Formation
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 10 am
 Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a deeper faith! Coffee and donuts.



12|21 SATURDAY
STP Historic Preservation Committee BINGO
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Doors open at 5pm and games start at 6pm. Family friendly.

Masses with Bishop McDermott

Saturday, November 30

St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 4 pm

Sunday, December 1

Ascension, Georgia • 8:30 am

St. Luke, Fairfax • 10:30 am

Saturday, December 7

Most Holy Name of Jesus, Morrisville • 4 pm

Sunday, December 8

Our Lady of Seven Dolores, Fair Haven • 11 am

Sunday, December 15

St. Augustine, Montpelier • 9:15 am

St. Monica, Barre • 10:45 am

Sunday, December 22

St. Francis Xavier, Winooski • 7:30 am

St. Anthony, Burlington • 9:30 am
(Latin Mass)



Progress

GOAL: \$2,503,354

86%

2,163,422

as of November 20



Website:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:
 802.658.6110 x 1102

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