

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 21–27, 2024

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## Merry Christmas

*“Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all.”*

— St. Leo the Great



My dear family in Christ:

Amid all of the secular hoopla surrounding Christmas, not limited to sales, decorations, parties, and presents, as people of faith we must remember what it is we are truly celebrating on December 25, the birth of the Savior of the world. I know that the majority of people reading this statement in their church bulletin or online say to themselves, “obviously.” But it bears repeating time and time again that Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, as it seems as though much of our society has forgotten this message which brings with it the promise of salvation.

We have been hearing Christmas songs since Halloween, we have experienced Black Friday sales before Black Friday, we have had countless Christmas gatherings at schools and work before Christmas, and so we risk losing the opportunity to consider carefully the “reason for the season.” We can so easily fall prey to the trap that wants us to believe that the day after Christmas means we move on to the next holiday or event, leaving the celebration of the Christmas season abandoned

like so many Christmas trees tossed aside on the roadside on December 26.

The Church invites us to resist this rush to the next thing and take the time to enjoy all that the Christmas season has to offer. Considering prayerfully the manger, the shepherds, the angels, the magi and all the other events that surrounded the birth of the Word made Flesh. So, I encourage all of us to set aside the temptation to move on from Christmas on December 26. As Pope St. Leo the Great reminds us, Christmas is the “birthday of life,” the life of Christ, and we ought to give it the respect and time it is due.



Blessed Christmas season, Happy New Year  
and let us pray for one another always!

God alone suffices,

+John J. McDermott



## Opening of Jubilee Year 2025

Sunday, December 29 • 10 am • Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington

All are invited to the 10 am Mass on Sunday, December 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph as Bishop McDermott formally opens the Jubilee Year of 2025 in the Diocese of Burlington. Expressing the theme of the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, the Mass begins with a festive procession around the perimeter of the Cathedral Church. More information on the Jubilee Year, which is celebrated by the Catholic Church around the world, can be found at [www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025](http://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025).

# Upcoming Events



## 12|29 SUNDAY Opening of Jubilee Year 2025

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10

All are invited to the 10 am Mass as Bishop McDermott formally opens the Jubilee Year of 2025 in the Diocese of Burlington. Expressing the theme of the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, the Mass begins with a festive procession around the perimeter of the Cathedral Church. More information on the Jubilee Year, which is celebrated by the Catholic Church around the world, can be found at [uscbb.org/committees/jubilee-2025](http://uscbb.org/committees/jubilee-2025).



## 01|04 SATURDAY First Saturday Mass

Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven • 7:30 am  
Rosary at 7:30 am followed by Mass at 8 am.



## 01|04 SATURDAY First Saturday Mass

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am

Every first Saturday starting with Confessions and the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.



## 01|04 SATURDAY Cemetery Committee Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 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.



## 01|05 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm

Join us for a Eucharistic Healing Service, with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and praying over by Father Lance Harlow.



## 01|08 WEDNESDAY Grief Ministry and Support

All Saints, Richford • 6 pm

A time of openness regarding the loss of a loved one. As a Deacon of the Catholic Church, I am willing to accompany you during your times of trial.



## 01|09, 16, 23, 30 THURSDAYS Jubilee Year Book Study

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

We are hosting a book study on *The Way of Beatitude: Living Radical Hope In A World of Division and Despair*, by Fr. Casey Cole, OFM. FOR MORE INFO: [stjohnvianneyvt.org/beatitude-book](mailto:stjohnvianneyvt.org/beatitude-book).



## 01|12 SUNDAY Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$12 adults, \$7 children 8 to 12 yrs. Sponsor: Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus.



## 01|19 SUNDAY Bereavement Ministry

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 - 2 pm

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



## 02|02 SUNDAY World Marriage Day Mass

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

A special Mass for those celebrating

milestone anniversaries. A reception follows in the parish hall. To register for the World Marriage Day Mass, please contact Nicole Hamilton at 802-658-6110, ext. 1131 or [nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org).



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## Quebec Pilgrimage June 16-18, 2025

Fr. Schneider will be leading a three-day pilgrimage to St. Anne-de-Beaupré and other shrines around Quebec City.

Contact Fr. Schneider for more info:  
(802) 388-2943 or [bschneider@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:bschneider@vermontcatholic.org).

Deposit due in March.

## Masses with Bishop McDermott

### Tuesday, December 24

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 4 PM & 9 PM

### Wednesday, December 25

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 9 AM

### Saturday, January 11

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 4 PM

### Sunday, January 12

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Danville • 8 AM

St. Elizabeth, Lyndonville • 9:30 AM

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 11:30 AM



BISHOP'S  
ANNUAL APPEAL

## Progress

GOAL: \$2,190,390

88% as of Dec. 11  
\$2,198,614

### Website:

[vermontcatholic.org/giveonline](http://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline)

### Call:

802.658.6110 x 1102

### Mail:

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

