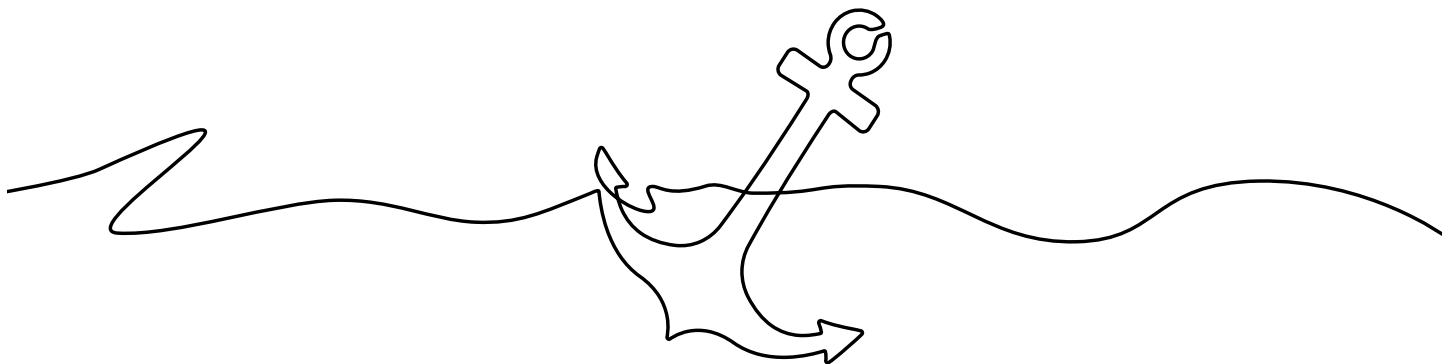


NEWS FROM The Inland See

January 4–10, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



We are called to be tangible signs of hope

“During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.” — Pope Francis, “Spes non confundit” (Hope does not disappoint)

In “Spes non confundit,” introducing the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis expresses his desire that it be for us, “A moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus.” He also calls us, “To be tangible signs of hope” for those experiencing hardships of any kind, among whom are those living with illness or disabilities. He beautifully calls the care given to them, “a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.”

We do not have to look far to find the need for hope in our families, parishes, and communities. Saint Teresa of Calcutta used to say that “love begins at home” and encouraged serving those closest to us. For some, time is fully spent caring for family, while others may have more time for serving in the community.

Diane Marcoux-Leclair of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Morrisville has a heart for the elderly and saw a need in her community to minister to them. She feels called by God to spend time visiting with residents of a nursing home,

which gives her great joy. “The Right to Life,” she asserts, “also includes the end of life.” Recently, a resident whom she visited on a regular basis and who had become dear to her, passed away. Diane was blessed to spend time with her elderly friend the day she died, holding her hand and bringing her hope in the last hours of her life.

Diane also spends time with her own elderly mother and others, saying, “God always sends me someone else.” She encourages others to bring hope to the elderly by spending time visiting with them.

We can also bring hope to others through paid work. There are many professions that provide invaluable service to those who need support. In “Spes non confundit,” the Holy Father specifically mentions healthcare workers who deserve our gratitude.

In a recent conversation with an American Sign Language interpreter, she mentioned the shortage of interpreters in Vermont, as fewer young people learn this important skill. It occurred to me

how Catholics can live out their faith, serving those living with disabilities, through their career choices.

Providing support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, either in full- or part-time positions through county agencies, is another area in which Catholics can bring hope to others, and support workers are greatly needed. Paul Cormier, a parishioner of St. Andrew Parish in Waterbury, works as a direct support professional, bringing clients with special needs to their daily activities and appointments, and providing support as needed. Since becoming a father to his son with Down syndrome many years ago, Paul has always felt called to work with individuals with disabilities.

May the Jubilee Year with the message, “Hope does not disappoint,” inspire us to look for opportunities for providing hope.

In the words of Pope Francis as he concludes “Spes non confundit,” “Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it.”

— **Eileen Haupt is respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Burlington.**

Upcoming Events



01|08 WEDNESDAY
Grief Ministry and Support
All Saints, Richford • 6 pm
 With Deacon Armand Auclair.



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.



01|10, 17, 24, 31, 02|07 FRIDAYS
Alpha Film Series
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9 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. It is free, and there is no pressure to come back. Each of the sessions begins with a meal, followed by a brief video on a broad question of the Christian faith.



01|12 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet
St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$12 adults, \$7 children 8 to 12 yrs.



01|16 THURSDAY
Spanish Mass
St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

Spanish Mass with homemade Mexican meal to follow. All are welcome! Bilingual Missalettes are available.



01|18 SATURDAY
Historic Preservation Committee BINGO
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Please join us for bingo in the parish hall. Doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Proceeds to benefit the on-going efforts for the bell tower and the church.



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 a comfortable setting. We meet in the rectory on the third Sunday of every month.



01|22 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast
Chancery Office, S. Burlington • 8:30 am

Featured speakers from Christ the King School in Burlington: Kelley Alderman, principal; Jessica Tomkowicz, associate principal; and Jon Hughes, director of admissions and school advancement, will present as a team, the ins and outs of running a preschool through grade eight Catholic school in Vermont. Breakfast foods and beverages provided.



02|16 SUNDAY
World Marriage Day Mass
Holy Cross, Colchester • 10 am
 A reception follows in the parish hall.

To register for the World Marriage Day Mass, please contact Nicole at (802) 658-6110, ext. 1131 or nhamilton@vermont-catholic.org.

Masses with Bishop McDermott

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



ROMAN CATHOLIC
 DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



BISHOP'S
 ANNUAL APPEAL

Progress

GOAL: \$2,503,354

89% as of Dec. 18
 \$2,227,741

Website:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:
 802.658.6110 x 1102

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



Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System Introductory Session

World-class, wholistic women's healthcare
 for teens, women, couples



Dr. Jessica Whelan

Saturday, January 18 at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 8 at 10 a.m.

These are live sessions,
 presented by Dr. Jessica Whelan.
 Time for Q&A will be available
 at the end of the presentations.

Take the first step in learning the Creighton Model
 and becoming empowered in your own
 reproductive health and family planning.



To learn more and register:
drwhelan.com/services

Our center is formally affiliated with:

