



Saint Anthony Church

15 Church Street

White River Jct. Vermont 05001

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020

Father Charles R. Danielson, Pastor

Deacon John P. Guarino

Bishop of Burlington: Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne

Parish Office

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed on Wednesday

Secretary: Ms. Joanne Collins

Telephone: 802-295-2225, ext. 3

E-mail: stanthonychurch@vermontcatholic.org

Website: <https://stanthony.vermontcatholic.org>

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM

Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin

Rectory Chapel

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Religious Education

Coordinator: Mrs. Julie Hamilton, 295-3989, juliehamilton130@comcast.net

Sacraments

Reconciliation: By appointment only. Please call Father Danielson to schedule.

Baptism: Parents must contact the rectory to get the necessary forms at least one month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least six months in advance.

Mass Intentions

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne reminds us that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted until further notice. We join Bishop Coyne in asking those with a cough or fever of any sort and anyone feeling sick to not come to the church for a visit or to attend liturgy. Those who are at a higher risk from COVID-19 or those caring for the sick are asked to stay home.

Saturday, December 19 4:00 P.M. Lena & Albert Romano by Herb & Patti Castellini
Sunday, December 20 8:30 A.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Monday, December 21 9:00 A.M. Blessed Mother's intention for Wanda Larrivee by Wanda Larrivee

Please be sure to bring your tickets to Christmas Mass as they are required for admission.

Christmas Eve,

Thursday, December 24 4:00 P.M.

All those in whose memory

Christmas flower offerings have been made

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25 8:30 A.M.

are remembered in the celebration

of these Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 26 4:00 P.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Sunday, December 27 8:30 A.M. Jeannette Albanese by Pauline



Diane Laroche
Frank Klymn
Richard Avicolti
John Patterson
David Lillie

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps
will burn for:
Saint Anthony
Parishioners
& friends



Sacrificial Giving Report

To meet our expenses we need: \$ 3,700.00
Offerstory collection December 12-13: \$ 4,056.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$ 780.00

**Thank You for Your Support
of Saint Anthony Church!**

Bless You: Saint Anthony Parish thanks those of you who have continued to mail their donations and offertory envelopes. We **truly appreciate your support** during this difficult time. Although we are trying our best to minimize expenses, we still have bills to pay. We understand that many of you, **our people**, are experiencing financial hardship, and we pray for you. Through prayer and trust in the Lord, we will get through this together.

*We pray for one another and for all who are being impacted
in any way by the Covid-19 pandemic.*

Message from Fr. Rick:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020



With Christmas but five days away, today is a good day to ponder the Archangel Gabriel's final words to Our Lady at the Annunciation:

"For nothing will be impossible for God." Savor these words ... ponder them

"For nothing will be impossible for God."

You may recall that one of my favorite poems was composed in 15th century England by the English priest, martyr, and poet St. Robert Southwell. His wonderful poem "*The Nativity of Christ*" includes these words:

"... the Word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep, Might feeble is and force doth faintly creep ..." In his interplay of opposites, the Word is silent, the joy of Heaven weeps, and the all-powerful crawls like a baby. St Robert expresses well the sheer impossibility of Christmas. The Almighty God willingly assumes the fragile condition of a newborn baby. For, indeed, as Gabriel says, "Nothing shall be impossible for God."

As we move into these uncertain winter months, I want you to know that we at Saint Anthony are here for you. We miss you. We invite you to come back to Mass if you have been away, even if it is one of our weekday Masses with fewer people present. I am also available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. For Catholics, the Sacraments are instituted by Christ to give us grace. Pope Francis reminds us that Communion is not a reward for good behavior but medicine for the sick. We all need Christ's help during these difficult times. Take time out each day for your own prayer. Pray as a family before meals. Watch Mass online or on TV if you don't feel safe coming to Mass, and join in the online offerings that our parish and diocese offer. I am here for you and pray daily for you. This is my duty and blessing for me as a parish priest.

God bless,
Fr. Rick

At our celebration of joy for the birth of our Savior, let us keep in our prayers all those who grieve for deceased family members, especially those who mourn the loss of children.


Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Karl 'Boomer' Nott**, relative of a parishioner, who died last week. May his family find solace in their faith and in the promise of eternal life with our heavenly Father.

Parish Office: The office will be closed Christmas week, December 21-25. We will return Monday, December 28 to respond to messages. The office remains closed for in-person visits. ***During this time for emergencies, please call Fr. Rick in Windsor at (802) 674-2157.*** We wish you all a very happy, blessed Christmas, and urge you to make your celebration a safe one.

Reminder: All personal correspondence for Fr. Rick should be sent to his residential address: Rev. Charles R. Danielson, 30 Union Street, PO Box 46, Windsor, VT 05089.



Christmas Mass: Please note that a **ticket is required** for admission to our Christmas Masses. You must bring your ticket to the church and sit in the pew designated on your ticket. ***Those not holding a ticket will not be admitted to the church.*** On Christmas morning the 6 a.m. Mass will **not** be broadcast on WCAX. You may view Bishop Coyne livestreaming Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass> or our homepage at <https://stanthony.vermontcatholic.org>.

 **Christmas Flowers:** Envelopes are available in the bulletin box located outside the rectory office door. In order to include Christmas flower offerings that are made this weekend, we will include the list of names in the bulletin next week. Our Christmas Masses will be offered for all those in whose memory Christmas flower donations have been made.

Confessions: Due to the confined space of the confessional at St. Anthony Church, the Sacrament of Reconciliation continues to be offered by appointment only. Please call Fr. Rick to make an appointment.

Weekly Bulletin: Our bulletin is on our website <https://stanthony.vermontcatholic.org>. For those who do not have web access, or who prefer a printed version, you may pick up a bulletin outside the parish office in a plastic container on the small porch near the office door. Also in the box, we have *The Magnificat Advent Companion* and *Living Faith* booklets. Bring one to a friend or neighbor if you know someone who would like it. The box is being sanitized, and is replenished as needed.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: As of December 11th Saint Anthony Parish has reached 59% of our BAA pledge goal of \$36,876. with donations totaling \$21,602. We are grateful to those who have been able to participate. Read more at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/donate/bishops-annual-appeal/gift-at-work/>.

Christ Our Hope: To our *Christ Our Hope* campaign supporters, we offer a sincere thanks during this giving season. We cannot carry out our mission and realize our dreams without your help. Others will soon receive a follow-up mailing. You may return your completed pledge form or go online to christourhopevt.org/donate to make a gift. Your donation of any size will help address our needs at St. Anthony Parish but also support fellow Catholics across the state. As of December 4th Saint Anthony Parish has reached 11% of our 3-year goal with donations and pledges totaling \$28,962.

A Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic: O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.



Marriage Day Mass: Married Catholic couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2021, who wish to be recognized at the Diocese Anniversary Mass with Bishop Coyne, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington, February 7, 2021, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass should register at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-day-mass-with-bishop-coyne-2/>. Given the health restrictions this year, there will be a limit of 20 couples to be recognized in person at this Mass. Couples can bring up to 6 family members with them (a total of 8). Registrations will be accepted through January 28, 2021, at the website above. Please contact the parish office if you will be celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2021. We need both names, date and Catholic parish of marriage and name of celebrant, priest/deacon.



Catholic Mass on TV: The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended, especially for those in a high-risk category. We encourage you to view celebration of Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m., livestreamed on our website, or watch the following:

Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. on WCAX-TV, channel 3; **Sunday** mornings at 10:00 a.m. on WNNE-TV, channel 13 (or consult your local listings.)

Televised Masses may be found on The CatholicTV Network, cable channel 166 (or consult your local listings) **Sunday** at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m., with rebroadcasts at 7 and 11:30 p.m.

Televised Masses may also be found on EWTN, channel 38 (or consult local listings) **Sunday** 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Daily Mass is Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Prayer for Making a Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy Eucharist. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Haven: The Haven's Food Shelf is open to anyone in our community. Shop via curbside pick-up for a week's worth of groceries, once a month, for anyone. Visit uppervalleyhaven.org/foodshelffaq/ for more information. Curbside pick-up is available Monday-Friday 9 - 3 and Sunday 12-3 p.m.

Saint Anthony Parish has long supported the Haven by collecting food in the basket at the entrance of the church before and after Masses. ***We remain temporarily unable to continue collecting food or supplies for the Haven at the church.*** Please bring your donations directly to the Haven.

Food Shelf Needs this week include canned fruit, sliced bread, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce and soup. **Other Needs** include gravy mix packets and canned gravy, new or like-new winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens & scarves for all ages and baking ingredients (baking mixes, flour, sugar, etc.), gift cards to local grocery stores, can openers and personal care items. Thank you!

We pray that you and your family stay safe and healthy.
We are happy to welcome you back to worship at Saint Anthony Church.



NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 19–25, 2020

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

God is with us

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined” (Is 9:2).

My brothers and sisters, if we ever needed to be reminded once again of the full meaning of the Incarnation, the present situation in the world and in our country presents itself for consideration. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16). Throughout the centuries in this epoch of Christ and the Church, time and time again the world has been assaulted by the darkness of sin, war, racial hatred, disease and pandemics and, time and time again, the Catholic Christian faith has been a light that has shined in the darkness.

In Christ, sin and death — personified as darkness — have been overcome by light — Christ the Word made flesh. The various biblical stories and traditions of Christmas enfold this truth: The closeness of Christmas Day with its lengthening of days to the day of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year in the north; the star hovering above Bethlehem, leading the Magi to the stable where Jesus was born; the heavenly voices of the angels rejoicing in the night with the triumphant message to the shepherds that a “Savior has been born;” and the later traditions of the yule log and the lights on the tree and candles in the window all proclaiming that upon those who

dwelt in darkness and despair a light has shone. How timely for us to hear these bearings of good news again today.

Yet, what does the Christian message bring to a divided nation gripped by pandemic and increasing political, economic and social separation? Everything. What does our message of hope bring to people who feel isolated, angry and socially adrift? Invitation. I believe that more than ever, just as the message of Christ has been incarnational from its beginning — “God made man” — so the message of Christ that is carried forth in the salvific work of the Church is incarnational as well: God the Father, Son and Spirit in the Church are manifested in the baptized believer who makes present to others the fullness of truth that resides in his or her heart that God is with us. I think our most important work right now in our families, in our communities, in our places of work is to be with others as a Roman Catholic, preaching the word of salvation by the sermon of our lives.

How can others know that “God is with us?” Because I live as one who says, “God is with me.”



Merry Christmas,

+ Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

CHRIST OUR

Hope

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH



Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

To learn more or make a gift visit: christourhopevt.org.

36%

As of Dec. 9: \$3,492,712

Goal: \$9,582,456

Where to watch *Christmas Eve and Day Mass*

EWTN

[www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule/
united-states/2020-12-24](http://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule/united-states/2020-12-24)

Christmas Eve: 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Day: 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral Livestream

[www.vermontcatholic.org/news/
communication/tv-mass/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/)

Christmas Eve: 4 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10 a.m.



To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:
vermontcatholic.org/events

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DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Accounting Assistant — AP/AR

*Rice Memorial High School,
S. Burlington: Bookkeeper, Part-time*

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Full-Time LPN or Med Tech
— \$1000 Sign-On Bonus*

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Part-Time LPN or Med Tech*

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Full-Time LNA or Caregiver
— \$500 Sign-On Bonus*

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Part-Time LNA or Caregiver*

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers

DEC. 20–26, 2020

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE



IT'S THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

As you look over the list you made together,
the acts of service for someone else, share a moment
of gratitude. What are you thankful for?

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

CHRIST OUR

Hope

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



Thank you to all those who have
made a gift already. We are more
than 20% behind our goal and ask
those that can to please consider
a gift before the end of the year.
You can make a gift online:
vermontcatholic.org/donate

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

77%

As of December 9: \$2,031,314

Sunday, Dec 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O KEY OF DAVID)

Unlocking every door

Those who have been incarcerated know exactly what it means to face a locked door. So do folks who have been institutionalized with mental illness. But even those of us who have not been behind a literal door may find ourselves living under a sentence of fear, bitterness, depression, or unforgiveness. We may be locked out of relationships that are important to us because of resentment or past actions. Poverty is often a prison that keeps opportunity and hope out, while also fostering despair within. O Jesus, Key of David, unlock every door that keeps us from experiencing your freedom!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

Monday, Dec 21, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

Just before dawn

They say it's darkest just before the dawn, and today we've reached that moment on the darkest day of what has been a very dark year. Our hope in the worst of circumstances reaches a crescendo in today's O Antiphon: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." We've reached the edge of a dramatic precipice in our waiting. Have faith and get ready—daybreak is coming.

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

Tuesday, Dec 22, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

The unexpected king is arriving

Today's O Antiphon heralds the Messiah's long-expected arrival as king. But clearly Jesus is not a typical king—because God's kingdom is not a typical earthly kingdom. Jesus will later proclaim, through the Beatitudes, that the kingdom of God is the inverse of what we humans expect. "Blessed are the meek," he insists—and the poor, the persecuted, and those who mourn. In fact, according to Saint Matthew's version of the Final Judgment, Jesus will be the king wielding harsh judgment against all who've neglected the "least of these." How will you serve our expected-but-unexpected king today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). *"He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly."*

Wednesday, Dec 23, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

Do not doubt—God is with us

As we the church celebrate Evening Prayer—whether in monasteries or in our own homes, the domestic church—tonight we pray or sing the seventh and final O Antiphon of Advent with these words: "O Emmanuel, our king and giver of law, come to save us, Lord our God." The name *Emmanuel* means God-with-us. As the season of Advent longing comes to a close, in a world that is in need of God's compassionate and saving presence, let us pray tonight for eyes to see and hearts to embrace the presence

of God-with-us in the events and conversations of these holy holidays. Indeed, O come, O come Emmanuel.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199).

"What, then, will this child be?"

Thursday, Dec 24, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

More than a song and dance

For many Catholics of Mexican heritage, today is the final celebration of Las Posadas, nine days of reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for *posada*, shelter. Each day the ritual is the same: Participants knock on doors, sing songs begging for shelter, while hosts respond with songs denying shelter, and finally end with the glorious moment when the door is opened wide and the Holy Family is given shelter for the night. The repetition drives home the desperation of the most famous migrant family and migrants of all times and places, including our own. Can you take some action in support of migrants and refugees this Christmas season?

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"*

Friday, Dec 25, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

The Light shines upon us!

Today as we gaze upon a tiny infant born in difficult circumstances, we are also gazing upon a powerful love that has transformed the world—and us. Fragility and strength, new life and enduring love—these are not mutually exclusive. In the Incarnation, we encounter a God who has loved us since before the creation of the world and who longs to draw close and bring us life. This life is not to be "spiritualized" but to be incarnate in our whole life, including our places of pain and challenge. Saint Athanasius writes, "For the Lord touched all parts of creation, and freed and undeceived them all from every deceit." What is the freedom that God has begun to unfold within you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."*

Saturday, Dec 26, 2020

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Don't cloak your compassion

Even the greatest among us have their darkest moment. The great Saint Paul had such a moment before his conversion, when he looked on approvingly and guarded the cloaks of those who stoned the church's first martyr, the young and courageous deacon Stephen. Saul of Tarsus, as Paul was known before his conversion, no doubt was convinced that righteousness called for such a cruel and harsh death sentence. Be on guard for misguided righteousness wherever it rears its head, especially when that head is on your own shoulders. It rarely leads to compassion or mercy, God's signposts. Saint Stephen, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. . . . They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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