



**ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH  
YEAR B  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**EUCCHARISTIC  
CELEBRATION**



Sat:	12/9/2023	4:00 PM (Open For Intentions)
Sun:	12/10/2023	9:00 AM †Roland & Gerard Limoges By Jerry & Nicole Pion
Tue:	12/12/2023	9:00 AM
Wed:	12/13/2023	9:00 AM
Thurs:	12/14/2023	9:00 AM No Mass
Fri:	12/15/2023	9:00 AM No Mass
Sat:	12/16/2023	9:00 AM No Mass
Sat:	12/16/2023	4:00 PM †Paul, Rhina and Leo Letourneau By Jacques and Pauline Couture
Sun:	12/17/2023	9:00 AM

**Intentions for Daily Masses are available.  
Please call or stop by the office  
with your request.**

**Candle Intentions**

Sanctuary Lamp: **Roger Raboin**  
Sacred Heart: **Yves Morrisette**  
Blessed Mother: **Judith Teehan**

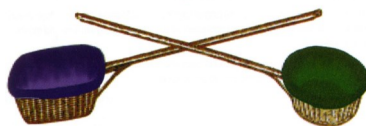


Sanctuary lamps/candles in front of  
the statues of Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and Mary are available to be lit in  
honor/memory  
of your loved ones.  
Each candle cost \$10.00.  
The candle will be lit for one week.

**Contact the office with your**

**SECOND  
COLLECTION**

**This Week is for:  
  
Retirement Fund**



**PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 12, 2023  
6:30 PM**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
7943**

**Monthly Family Breakfast  
8:00 am to 11:00 am  
Sunday, December 17th, 2023 (every third Sunday)**

**Sacred Heart Church Hall  
Eat-in or Take out is available.**

All you can eat \$10.00  
(6-12 years of age \$5.00)  
(Children 5 and under - FREE).  
May God bless all those who help support our efforts.  
If you have any questions, please contact:  
Deborah @ 673- 7510 or  
George @ 323-2470.

***Prayer for the Sick***

*Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of need. Alleviate our worry and sorrow with Your gentle love and grant us the strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands. We place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servant to health. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge and accept Your will.  
Amen*

**Please call the parish office  
at (802-744-4066)  
if you would like to add a name to the list**



**Andre LeBlanc, Annette Morse,  
Kristi Leblanc, Kimberly Thibault,  
Brian Bonvechio, Rose Blais,  
Abigail Jackson, Wilma Therrien,  
Rita Taylor, Purie Mesina,  
Rick Bouchard**



## Offerings

**The Church  
Collection Envelopes  
are now available  
You can pick them up at the  
back of the Church**

### The Ladies Of St. Andre Bessette

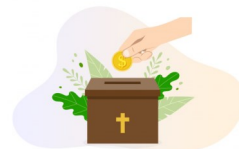
Thank you to all who donated or participated in our Christmas Cookie Exchange luncheon on December 5th. We are very pleased with the turnout and good spirit this promotes. We made 50 plus cookie platters to donate to our community members that we thought needed our well wishes or appreciation.



### Donations for the Priest bedroom

are starting to come in. A sincere thank you to those who have already given.

The total has reached  
\$2,450.00 towards the \$8,455.59.



**If you would like to donate, please contact the office.**

### Saint Paul's Catholic School News



*Students Christmas Shopping* - we are accepting gently used and new repurposed gifts to "buy" for our family members of all ages by Dec 11. Simple items smaller than a milk crate size are appreciated. Thank you for not sending books, weapons or clothing.

**Contact Joanne Beloin at 802-525-7101.**

Happy 128th Birthday to Saint Paul's Catholic School. Would you consider being one of our valued 128 donors by donating \$128 towards our annual appeal to help us reach our goal?



Donations can be made to: St Paul's Annual Appeal and mailed to 54 Eastern Ave, Barton, VT 05822.



### *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens*

Each year around the world, the Catholic Church welcomes thousands of adults and older children who become Catholic at the Easter

Vigil through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. These people spend many months preparing for that important day, meeting with catechists at the parish to learn more about the Catholic faith and to explore their own relationship with Jesus Christ.

The process by which they prepare is called The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, or OCIA. The OCIA has been described as an "apprenticeship in Christian living" which allows the candidates to gradually explore their faith and their place in the Catholic Church. The OCIA involves many phases, each phase marking a deepening of faith and commitment in the candidates seeking initiation. The transition from one phase to another is always marked by a special ritual celebrated by the parish community.

**On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00AM Mass**, we will celebrate the first of those rituals—the *Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens*. In this ritual, the candidate, **David Michael Valieres**, will be formally introduced to the community, and he will publicly make his first acceptance of the teachings of Jesus Christ. After hearing his acceptance, we as a community pledge our support through prayer, and David will receive the Sign of the Cross for the first time. Also, in this ritual, he becomes a "catechumen" in our community. A catechumen is a person preparing for baptism who is formally accepted into the parish community.

Although not fully initiated, through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, we embrace him as our own and help him along the journey to baptism. Please join us on December 10<sup>th</sup> and continue to pray for David as he prepares for the Sacraments at Easter.

### Parish Stewardship Report

#### Weekend of December 2 & 3 , 2023

Offertory

Stewardship

\$1720.00



Weekly Budget

\$2000.00

### REFLECTIONS December 10, 2023



### PREPARE IN THE WILDERNESS A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD

We arrive today to the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the general mood is one of intense excitement and serious preparation. Right from our 1st Reading our hearts are swept along on happy waves of good news: consolation, forgiveness, the closeness of the Lord. He comes as a shepherd to gather the lambs in his arms. Our response is to be prepared and ready. Peter invites us to consider the parallel Second Coming, for which the early Christians were eagerly waiting. Both comings spell change and newness; both will be about God visiting his people; both call for serious preparation reflected in blameless lives. In the Gospel we encounter John the Baptist, the herald of the First Coming. His is the prophetic voice crying in the wilderness and demanding that the way should be prepared for the Lord. All Jerusalem made its way to hear what John had to say. The excitement is infectious and we cannot help but to be swept along from reading to reading. Even our Responsorial Psalm joins in the drama. It is the very lovely Ps85, calling for restoration and crying for peace. It tells of a coming together of mercy and faithfulness, of justice and peace. When the Lord comes, justice will march before him, and peace behold him.

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 9–15, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## Vermont Catholic Community Foundation holds annual meeting



The eighth annual meeting of the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation (VCCF) took place at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall in Shelburne Oct. 19; nearly 100 people attended from parishes around the state to learn more about the foundation's impact in Vermont. VCCF was established in 2015 to support the apostolic ministries of the Catholic Church in Vermont and support parishes, schools, cemeteries, and charities that help those in need.

The foundation investments adhere to the Catholic social teachings and investment guidelines set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and provide a safe, affordable option for Catholic investments. Funds in the foundation are restricted and support 22 cemeteries, five Vermont Catholic Charities programs, 11 diocesan ministries, 29 parishes, 36 Catholic school financial aid and operation funds, and four VCCF charity grants.

Msgr. John McDermott, administrator of the Diocese of Burlington, opened the meeting with a prayer. He acknowledged Hartford Co-adjutor Archbishop Christopher Coyne, 10th bishop of Burlington, for establishing the foundation eight years ago and thanked Ellen Kane, executive director of VCCF, for her efforts to grow the foundation.

"When I started shortly after the foundation was established," Kane said, "I realized that no funds had been established yet in the foundation, and that is when I adopted the motto 'with God all things are possible.'"

As of the end of the fiscal year — June 30, 2023 — there were 107 funds and almost \$23 million invested.

David Mount, a long-time board member, reported on the investment management of funds in the foundation, celebrating positive returns even in unpredictable markets. "We have had increases of 11.3 percent. This is an amazing amount when we consider the fluctuating market. In the spring of 2023, VCCF distributed earnings to the beneficiaries of the foundation. The distribution was \$1,227,328. This was a record distribution for us, exceeding all previous years."

According to Kane, one of the primary goals of the foundation was to provide a pathway for individuals to leave a legacy

of faith for the next generation. She celebrated the tripling of the Christ Our Hope Legacy Society with the partnership of FreeWill, a confidential and easy software available to the Catholic community to create a legal will.

Another priority of the foundation is to give back to the community. "I am happy to report that this year we were able to make grants to 12 parish outreach programs that serve the needy in their community ranging from food pantries to migrant worker outreach to meals for shut ins," Kane said. "We were also able to grow emergency-aid funds that help thousands of households in financial crisis each year through Vermont Catholic Charities."

Beneficiaries and grant recipients from several ministries shared the impact of the support, including Andrew Nagy, principal of Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington. "We have nearly \$2 million endowment funds invested in the foundation, many being financial aid funds," he said. "Nearly 40 percent of our students receive financial aid, and I am grateful to the foundation and the individuals who established these funds to help make Catholic education accessible."

Jennifer Patenaude, coordinator of the Mater Dei Parish Food Shelf in Newport said, "With the recent discontinuation of the Covid-19 aid, we have seen a rise in requests for food. We are so grateful to the foundation which has helped us meet this need."

Patty Lewis, chair of the Catholic Migrant Ministry of Addison County, said the county has Vermont's largest population of migrant workers. The VCCF grant helped provide monthly Masses in Spanish and meal gatherings for migrant workers and their families.

"We help those in need because we are Catholic not because they are Catholic," said Mary Beth Pinard, executive director of Vermont Catholic Charities.

Kane concluded the event thanking the community for their trust and generosity to the foundation and the ministries it supports.

For more information about the foundation, go to [vtcatholicfoundation.org](http://vtcatholicfoundation.org).

— *Vermont Catholic*

# Upcoming Events



12|12 TUESDAY  
**Spanish Mass**

*Assumption, Middlebury • 7 pm*

Join us for a Mass celebrated in Spanish by Edmundite Father Marcel Rainville. All are welcome.



12|13, 20 WEDNESDAYS  
**FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession**

*via Zoom • 6:30-8 pm*

This program from Augustine Institute explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. Led by Fr. William Beaudin, pastor of Christ Our Savior, Manchester Center. Register at: [forgivencosp@gmail.com](mailto:forgivencosp@gmail.com).



12|13, 14 WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
**Advent Retreat**

*Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 5 - 8 pm*

Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE will present her two part retreat *The Eucharist: The Bread of Life* and *The Eucharist: Bread for Others*. Wednesday evening will be a potluck and Thursday will be a catered dinner of bread and soup. If you plan to attend the Thursday dinner, please RSVP by December 4 to [estuart@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:estuart@vermontcatholic.org). Dinner is free — donations will be accepted to help offset the costs.



12|16 SATURDAY  
**Women's Walking Group**

*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 - 9:45 am*

SJV Women's Ministry welcomes interested women to meet and walk together for roughly 45 minutes, usually leaving from the parking lot. In the event of inclement weather, check our website for a cancellation notice; [stjohn-vianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm](http://stjohn-vianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm). Have questions? Contact Connie at [sjvgoodnews@gmail.com](mailto:sjvgoodnews@gmail.com).



12|16 SATURDAY  
**Men's "Cor" Formation**

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

Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a deeper faith! 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. COR Formation will be held on the third Saturday of the month. Coffee and refreshments provided by the K of C.



12|16 SATURDAY  
**Eucharistic Presentation**

*All Saints, Richford • 2:30 pm*

Father Michael Carter, SSE, will be offering a presentation on the Holy Eucharist, including Adoration, Reconciliation and the Holy Mass. Please call the rectory to register: (802) 848-7741.



12|16 SATURDAY  
**The Chosen – Movie Night and Potluck**

*St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 - 6:45 pm*

Come join us for a movie night and potluck dinner on the third Saturday of the month. We will watch an episode of *The Chosen* together and have food and fellowship!



12|17 SUNDAY  
**Knights of Columbus Council #2284 Pancake Breakfast**

*St. Francis Xavier School gym, Winooski 8 - 11 am*

\$10 per person or \$25 per family of 4 (each additional family member \$5).



12|17 SUNDAY  
**Lessons and Carols**

*Our Lady of the Snows, Waitsfield • 2 pm*

Featuring singers from Thomas Aquinas College in Northfield, MA, and Ruth Tintle and her husband Leigh. Outdoor reception with refreshments will follow.



12|20 WEDNESDAY  
**Lessons & Carols**

*St. Michael, Brattleboro • 5:30 pm*

Join us for an Advent service of Lessons and Carols. Let hymns, sacred music, and readings from Holy Scripture prepare your heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas. All are welcome!



12|21 THURSDAY  
**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.



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.



# Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

[vermontcatholic.org/eucharistic-testimonials](http://vermontcatholic.org/eucharistic-testimonials)

"What a marvelous privilege that we can approach the throne of God every day to receive from Him His very presence. We often forget how great a gift the eucharist is; but the fact is that He is always present and always desiring to communicate something of His perfection to us. He is always desiring to make us more like Himself: to burst us from the chains of sin, to clothe us with virtues, to impart the Holy Spirit upon us to live in His divine life. We often only see a little wafer, but indeed it is love itself."

— *Cale Bombardier*

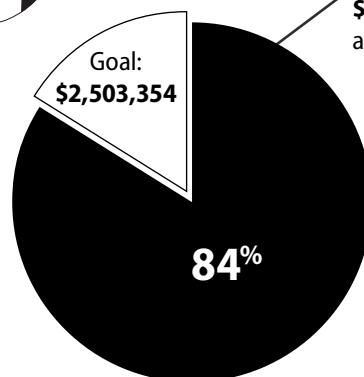
*Christ the King/St. Anthony Parish, Burlington, and Diocesan Seminarian*



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



BISHOP'S  
ANNUAL  
APPEAL



Raised:  
**\$1,973,157**  
as of Nov. 29

*Progress: 84% to goal*

## 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)

