

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

3 Saint Peter Street, Winooski, VT 05404 · (802) 655-2290

Monsignor
Richard G. Lavalley
Pastor

Reverend
Joseph Sanderson
Parochial Vicar

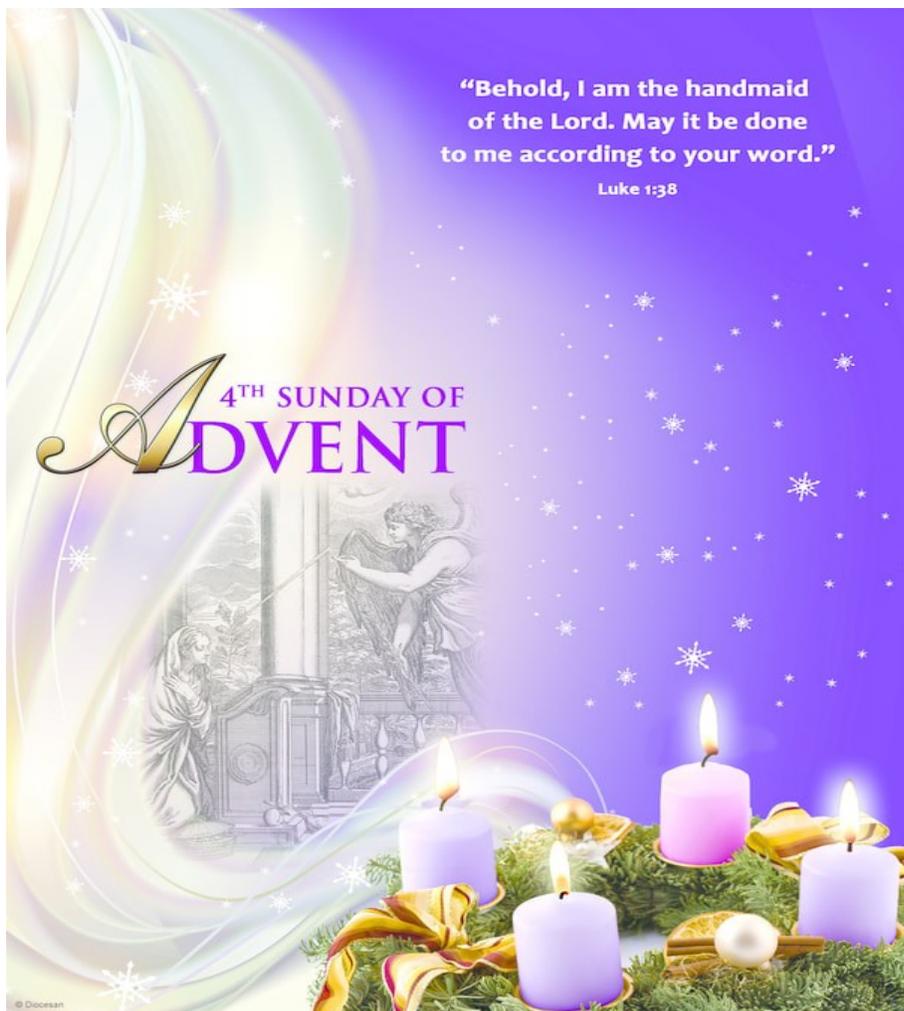
Thomas E. McCormick
Deacon

Saint Francis Xavier School
Mr. Craig Hill, Principal
Pre-School through 8th grade
655-2600

**Director of Faith
Formation**
Andrew Coulter
802-399-0097

**Our
Lady of Providence**
Residential Care
Facility
655-2395

St. Vincent de Paul Center
Open 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays
655 - 3006



Weekend Masses

Saturday : 4:00 PM

Sunday : 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday : 8:00 AM

Adoration

Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Confessions

Saturday 2:30 to 3:30 PM
Anytime by appointment
655-2290

Baptisms

Parent classes required. Please call the rectory for more information.

Marriage

Plan six months in advance.
Contact the rectory. Attend Pre-Cana classes

Registration

New parishioners and newly married couples should register by calling the rectory as soon as possible.
655 - 2290

School telephone numbers

School	After School
655-2600	655-4660

School Website: www.SFXVT.org

www.sfxchurch.org

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 18–24, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



‘Christmas is about coming together’ even in an ongoing pandemic

Following the recommendations of health officials of the State of Vermont and the lead of the governor, the Diocese of Burlington lifted all the Covid-19-related restrictions and mandates in June. However, due to town mask mandates being enacted, some pastors have implemented parish-wide protocols for their communities.

With the onset of the delta-variant surge, Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne told pastors and parishes to follow their local mask mandates and is encouraging parishioners in places that don’t have mandates, especially those who are not vaccinated, to wear masks and physically distance as they are able. He also encourages Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to wear masks while distributing communion.

Josh Perry, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington called wearing a mask at Christmas an act of charity. “As Christians, we should be helping each other on the path to holiness. And if someone is uncomfortable coming to Mass (for whatever reason), we should really consider how we can best help alleviate that issue,” he said. “Today, the issue of whether people are masked indoors is a real issue for some. ... You may disagree with those who wear masks or not wear masks. However, if it would make someone feel more comfortable attending Mass if they saw the majority of parishioners wearing masks when attending Mass at Christmas, then we should really consider the use of masks. That small gesture of charity and — yes — sacrifice — can go a long way in helping one another on the path of holiness.”

Hand sanitizer is also recommended, and most parishes have a supply of hand sanitizer available at the doors of the

church. “Sanitizing the worship space is not mandated, but it’s a good practice,” he said.

Last Christmas, some parishes required Christmas Mass-goers to sign up to ensure the church did not exceed its Covid-restricted capacity. But this year because there are no capacity restrictions in place, parishes are not required to have registration for Christmas Masses.

Christmas Mass gatherings are important, especially this year after the restrictions in place last year because of the pandemic. “At its core, Christmas is about coming together, because Christmas is about Emmanuel — ‘God with us,’” Perry said.

Christmas is always a Holy Day of Obligation. Because Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, Catholics must attend Mass twice over the course of the weekend.

Perry explained: “One can fulfill the Christmas obligation by attending Mass on Christmas Eve (4 p.m. or later on Dec. 24) or attending Mass anytime on Christmas Day (Saturday). Then the Sunday obligation is fulfilled by attending Mass on Saturday evening (if you’ve already gone to a Christmas Mass on Friday night or Saturday morning) or anytime on Sunday. And yes — you can go to Mass twice on Saturday — once in the morning (for the Christmas obligation) and once in the evening (for the

Sunday obligation); however, if the first Mass you attend is Saturday evening, it counts for your Christmas obligation, and you’ll have to attend again on Sunday to fulfill the Sunday obligation.”

Contact your pastor if you have questions.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban



Upcoming Events



12|21, 28, 01|04, 11, 18, 25 TUESDAYS
Courageous Women Bible Study
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am or 6:30 pm
 For this study we will use, "Courageous

Women: A Study on the Heroines of Biblical History" by Stacy Mitch, written with a female audience in mind yet it is equally approachable for men. We will meet for 8 sessions; you can choose the time that fits your schedule best. Each session is mostly independent of the others, so participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. Look for the sign-up sheet at the top of our ramp entrance. Copies of the book are available through the parish for \$12 each.
FOR MORE INFO: Connie McDonald (802) 864-4166 x204 or SJVGoodNews@gmail.com



12|30 THURSDAY
More than the Magi: Celebrating the Riches of Epiphany 2022
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7-8:30 pm

A reflection on the history, liturgy, and spirituality of a feast of feasts, with Fr. Richard Berube, SSE.



01|05, 19, 02|02, 16, 03|02, & 16 WEDNESDAYS
Resisting Happiness Book Club
Online • 7 pm

Come explore with us Matthew Kelly's book *Resisting Happiness* at 7-8 pm every other Wednesday for six weeks. Free book and study guide, contact pturnley@aol.com.



01|07, 21, 02|04, 18 FRIDAYS
The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 8 pm

Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. It's a place for girls to learn about themselves by doing apostolic projects and creating a positive impact on family, friends and the world. **FOR MORE INFO: contact Mary Niekrewicz, mary.of.vt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.**



01|16 SUNDAY
DeGoesbriand Council 279 Burlington Pancake Breakfast
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 8:30-11:30 am

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus DeGoesbriand Council 279. By donation, the suggested donation is \$8.



01|25 TUESDAY
Saints & Sinners
Online • 7 pm

Join us in November when Deacon Phil Lawson presents on Saints Philip, Athanasius and Lawrence. **For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.**



02|05 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Rosary, Confessions, and Mass at 8:30 am.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
2021
 UPDATE



As of Dec. 6, 2021: **\$1,851,294**
 To learn more or make a gift visit:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline



02|5 SATURDAY
Adoration Mini-Mission with Holy Hour
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Not sure what adoration is all about? Or maybe you've not been to adoration for awhile and could use a refresher course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event coming this Lent, Josh Perry, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission with instruction about adoration, followed by a holy hour.



02|06 SUNDAY
Marriage Anniversary Mass
 Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
 Are you and your spouse celebrating a

milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2022? To register please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or (802)658-6110, ext. 1131.



02|12 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Rosary, Mass and discussion about Padre Pio.



02|22 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
Online • 7 pm

Join us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. **For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.**

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Christ the King School, Burlington:
 Afterschool and Summer Camp Director

Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:

Human Resources Generalist

Diocesan Catechetical Leader

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington:
 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

St. Mark Parish, Burlington:
 Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

vermontcatholic.org/careers



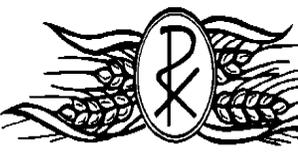
DEC. 19 - 25, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

The Fourth Week of Advent

Who haven't you spoken to in a long time? Reach out to that person with a phone call, home visit, or a handwritten card to let them know you are thinking about them. Ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you share some positive news with him/her.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday December 20, 2021
 8:00 AM Janet Bouffard *by Paul Magnani*
 11:30 AM Mass at OLP Chapel *No public attendance*

Tuesday December 21
 8:00 AM Dorothy Fitzgerald *by Family*
 11:30 AM Mass at OLP *No public attendance*

Wednesday December 22
 8:00 AM Nancy Villemaire *by Family*
 11:30 AM Mass at OLP *No public attendance*

Thursday December 23
 8:00 AM For the Intentions of Philip O’Callaghan
 11:30 AM Mass at OLP *No public attendance*
 6 to 7 PM **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday December 24
 4:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners
 7:00 PM Deceased Members of the Gagnon Family
By M/M Bernard Turmel

Midnight Rick Marcotte *by Family*

Saturday December 25
 10:00 AM For Peace in the World

Sunday December 26
 7:30 AM Living & Deceased Members of the
 Thibault Family
 9:00 AM Intentions of Parishioners
 11:00 AM Christine Yandow Connolly *by Family*

PARISH SUPPORT

This bulletin was transmitted before financial information was available. Financials will appear as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 12 from 2 PM to 3 PM
 Monday, December 13 from 5 PM to 6 PM
 Tuesday, December 14 from 5 PM to 6 PM
 Wednesday, December 15 from 7 PM to 8 PM
 Thursday, December 16 from 6 PM to 7 PM during
 Adoration
 Friday, December 17 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
 Saturday, December 18 from 2:30 to 3:30 PM
 Sunday, December 19 at 2 PM to 3 PM
 Monday, December 20 from 5 PM to 6 PM
 Tuesday, December 21 from Noon to 1 PM
 Wednesday, December 22 from 5 PM to 6 PM
 Thursday, December 23 from 6 PM to 7 PM during
 Adoration
 Friday, December 24 from 11 AM to Noon

The Winooski Knights of Columbus



The Winooski Knights of Columbus meet every 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center at 7 PM. Any man 18 years of age or older wishing to join the Knights should contact; *Grand Knight Greg Clairmont at 343-8446 or listandsellvt@gmail.com or Deputy Grand Knight Greg Bolger at 660-9044 or gbolger@ccnne.com* For additional information about the Knights of Columbus visit our web site www.wkofc.org and “like” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Winooskikofc2284

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food”
Matthew 25: 35-40**

Our St. Francis Xavier parish community is partnering with the new Winooski Food Shelf to help feed our neighbors in need. This parish is an extremely valuable partner in providing the consistent donations of food to the many people coming for assistance. The WFS is grateful for your sustained commitment of providing donations each week and your generosity continues to serve families in need. There is a strong need right now for toiletries such as shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable razors. Non-perishable food items for distribution such as cereal, tomato paste, and canned food are always appreciated.

The Winooski Food Shelf is very appreciative of your generosity in donating the cookies collected for Thanksgiving and Christmas last year! We are continuing to collect cookies this year to include in our Thanksgiving and Christmas bags of food. We are in need of about 400 boxes of packaged store bought cookies which will be put into the bags for our neighbors in need. We cannot accept home made cookies because of the current pandemic. Distribution of pantry food will occur on our pantry days of Wednesday, November 3rd and Wednesday, November 10th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. ; Wednesday, December 1st and Wednesday, December 8th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We appreciate your continued generosity in supporting our Winooski residents in need.

Collection boxes are placed in the church vestibule and delivered to the Food Shelf each week.

Your donations may also be dropped off at: J & J Market 12 Malletts Bay Ave. or at Commodities Market on Winooski Falls Way.

Christmas Flowers:

St. Francis Xavier Parish and Sally’s Flower Shop are again giving parishioners the opportunity to give Christmas Flowers in Memory of Loved Ones. Plants will be especially priced for this purpose. Your selection will be delivered to the Church **Free of Charge**. If interested in participating please call Sally’s Flower Shop at 655-3894 or stop by the show room at 333 Main Street.

The St. Vincent DePaul Center

The St. Vincent DePaul Center will be closed on the following days during the month of December:

- Thursday, December 23
- Tuesday, December 28
- Thursday, December 30

Prayer at Genuflection

Jesus, my God I adore thee here present in the sacrament of your love.



St. Francis Xavier Parish offers Online Giving! Visit our website to sign up and to begin contributing automatically to our parish. This convenient new system does not require you to contact your bank to sign up or make changes. You can use any of your checking or savings accounts and the funds will be automatically transferred to our parish bank account. Go to www.sfxchurch.org to get started.

The Cares Catholic Network: St. Francis Xavier Health & Wellness Ministry

Compassion, Advocacy, Respite, Education, Service

We are three Mercy Associates who are working with the Parish Nurse to collect and redistribute medical equipment in an effort to help those in need have a better quality of life. We are seeking wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, adult diapers, bed pads and other related equipment (good condition only, please). If you have any equipment that you would like to donate of if you are in need of equipment, please call 863-8508 or 578-9920 and ask for Monique.

St. Francis Xavier Faith Formation
 (802) 399 - 0097
acoulter@sfxvt.org
Faith Formation Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
Coming Soon

Registration for 2021 - 2022:
Registration forms If you have an incoming First Grader or are new to St. Francis Xavier Church and would like to enroll your family in our **Family Faith Formation Program**, you can find the forms at the **back of the Church** or you can **call the Rectory** (655-2290) and we can put a registration form in the mail. If you have questions or if we can be of further service, please contact Andrew Coulter in the **Faith Formation Office** at (802) 399 - 0097 or at acoulter@sfxvt.org. It is not too late to register your child.

Catechetical Ministers and Aides:
 As a Faith Community, we are called to share our faith and witness to the Gospel in our lives. As a Catechist or Aide, you are invited to **journey with our young people in the parish** as they **cultivate and grow their relationship** with the Lord. This ministry both **enables you** to grow as a **faith-filled Catholic** and has the **added benefit of nurturing and inspiring the lives of others**. We invite you to consider a call to serving and sharing the love of God in your life. We will provide training, education, support, and guidance to ensure your success and confidence in this endeavor. Please contact Andrew Coulter at **802 - 399 - 0097** or acoulter@sfxvt.org for more information.

A Gift For You

Our parish has just subscribed to an amazing resource called formed.org. This is a faithfully Catholic website that offers HUNDREDS of movies, documentaries, Bible studies, sacrament studies, books, and audio teachings. If you like the lighthouse Catholic media CDs, then imagine having all of those resources at your fingertips in audio and video. You can sign up for this on your smartphone, tablet, smart TV, or your home computer. Just go to formed.org (or download the app) click the "sign up as part of a parish" button, type in Saint Francis Xavier, and enter your name and email. That's all you have to do to have all of these FREE resources at your finger tips. If you need help signing up, then please call the parish office 655-2290.

Everything We Know About Christmas We Learned From Jesus

By **Mary J. Joachim**

Luke 2: 14, *"Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Jesus wasn't born into a world that cherished peace. King Herod was a ruthless, neurotic tyrant. His fear of a Messiah sent him into a rage that provoked the slaughter of innocent children. However, throughout Jesus' ministry he taught us that peace is a way of life and not for a season.

Everyday when we watch the local and national news or read a newspaper we recognize that peace on Earth and good will toward men is in short supply. More than two thousand years have passed since the birth of Jesus and still humanity doesn't cherish peace. In today's world people are angrier. We don't need to travel far to receive firsthand knowledge of this rage. Driving on the interstate will give us ample opportunity for this experience. We can encounter disputes among family members and in the work place. Where rage and hostility exists peace will not survive. Why? The answer is simple; peace hasn't seized our hearts.

Do we know what obstacles are keeping us from peace? What are the fears that possess our hearts? Pope John Paul II said many times that we should never be afraid or discouraged no matter how negative our lives appear. The peace that Jesus taught was the peace where fear doesn't exist. We need to cultivate a peace within our own little world and within ourselves. The world we live in consists of our commute to work, our family and friends, our co-workers, and our neighborhoods. Before another two thousand years have passed let us become the peacemakers that will bring compassion and joy to our fellow brothers and sisters.

When we let go of our fears and hand them over to God we begin the process of cultivating joy. It is within this joy that true peace dwells. This joy will lay the framework we need in becoming fully developed peacemakers. Anyone who plants a garden every spring knows that one has to till the soil and prepare the soil with fertilizer. We sow the seeds, we weed the garden, and we tend to it through the spring, summer and autumn months. If we are good stewards of our gardens we will reap beautiful flowers and vegetables. So it is with cultivating peace. If we are attentive to our actions in relation to others, we will bring joy to those we come in contact with each day of our lives. Remembering the words of the poet John Greenleaf Whittier will assist us with this joy. He wrote, "Somehow, not only at Christmas but all the long year through. The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you."

All that Jesus taught us consistently comes back to peace and love. We learned from Jesus that he is the heart of Christmas. How many birthdays do we celebrate in a year, other than our own, where we are the recipients of the gifts? For the birthday of Jesus, we as a nation, spend millions of dollars each year for items that we can't afford any other time during the year. Sadly, there have been times that Jesus has taken a back seat to this spending and relegated to an hour of Mass on Christmas day, if even that.

