FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 19, 2021

This Week's Mass Schedule

Please welcome Fr. Romanus Igweonu as our celebrant this weekend

Saturday, December 18

4:00 pm - St. John's - *Lector: Rachael K.; Altar Servers.: Fletcher B & Lewis H*
† Georgette Rainville — by Warren & Marie Hull

Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am – St. Anthony - *Lector: Olivia Domingue*
† Lucille Minckler (27th Anniv) — by The Family

10:00 am – St. John's – *Lector: Laurie O; Altar Servers: Kennadie A & Ella L*
♣ Normand Gervais (3rd Anniv) — by The Family

Monday, December 20

9:00 am – St. John's – † Ronald Panko — by Dorothy Panko

Tuesday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Dr. of the Church

6:30 pm – St. John's – † Andrew Rainville — by Fernand & Jeannette St. Pierre

Wednesday, December 22

9:00 am – St. John's – † Roger Parent — by Geoff & Mary Jackson

Thursday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty, Priest

9:00 am – St. Anthony - † Dale Magnant — by Robert & Diane Parent

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – St. John's – *Lector: Melissa H; Altar Servers: Fletcher & Sawyer B*
† Elrick Robtoy — by Marguerite Robtoy

9:00 pm – St. John's – *Lector: Shawna L; Altar Servers: Ada & Michael K*
♣† For the Parishioners

Saturday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

8:00 am – St. Anthony – *Lector: Agnes Masson*
† Guy Lussier — by Candace Lussier & Family

10:00 am - St. John's - *Lector: Rachael K.; Altar Server: Jason F*
† Deceased members of the Larose Family — by Jean Jewett

***** NO 4:00 PM MASS ******

Sunday, December 26 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 am – St. Anthony - *Lector: Laurie Belisle*
† Henry Laroche — by Andrew & Agnes Masson

10:00 am – St. John's – *Lector: Michaella V; Altar Servers: Derek & Isaac V.*
♣† For the Parishioners

View our 4pm and 10am Weekend Masses on cable 1079 and on facebook.com/St-John-the-Baptist-106691320969118/

MASS READINGS

Readings for December 26 (Green Missal, Year C #876)

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 — **Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10**
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 — **Luke 2:41-52**

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR: December 12th:

	ST. JOHN'S	ST. ANTHONY	ST. MARY
Needed Weekly:	*($1,810.00)*	*($753.00)*	*($355.00)*
Sunday Offering:	$1,642.00	$517.00	$135.00
Holy Day:	317.20	83.00	15.00
Monthly:	182.00	30.00	5.00
Retirement Fund Rel:	487.00	355.00	15.00
Xmas Flowers:	105.00	75.00	
Christmas Offering:	50.00		
Vigil Candles:		104.00	
Donations:		75.00	

We offer online giving @ https://www.stjohnbaptistvt.com/donate

Second Collections

December 19: No Second Collection
December 26: No Second Collection

PROLIFE CORNER: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"10 ways to support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

Please Pray For: Lorraine Bergeron, David Bielicki, John Bielicki, Deanna Choquette, David & Ann-Marie Cormier, Paul Darby, Elisabeth Erno, Maryanne Flaherty, Marie B. Howard, Warren Hull, Julianna Hoy, Shari Joyal, Asher Lawrence, Kim Messier, Frank Parent, Holden Perrotte, Pierre Poissant, **Roger Prive**, Joel Rasco, Alene Spiekermann, Lucy Stillman, Beverly Sylvester, Nancy Wells, for Expectant Mothers and their unborn children, and for all those who are homebound, in nursing homes, suffering from cancer and other diseases and for those serving in our Military Services and those affected by the Covid-19 Virus.

Please pray for the souls of the recently deceased and for all the souls of the faithful departed.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Fridays from 9am to Noon @ St. John the Baptist
Benediction begins at 11:45am
Come spend some time with Jesus in praise and Thanksgiving!

Evening Prayer and Adoration - Holy Hour on Tuesday evenings with Deacon George. Exposition at 7 p.m., Evening Prayer at 7:40 p.m. followed by Benediction. Please feel free to stop by for some quiet time with the Lord. Also live-streamed on Facebook.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. John's – Saturday 3:15pm to 3:45pm
St. Anthony – Sunday 7:15am to 7:45am
Anytime by Appointment

St. John's Penance Service
Sunday, December 19th at 3:00 PM

Fr. Dan, Fr. Romanus and Fr. Mercure will be hearing confessions until all are heard. You may also take advantage of one of our regularly scheduled confession times or make an appointment to meet with one of our priests.

RCIA Classes
Wednesday, December 22nd
at 7:00 PM in the Rectory.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about the Catholic Faith is welcome to attend.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I wish to offer to all of you a very Merry Christmas. This is our third Christmas together. I know it's been a challenge and will remain so hopefully not too much longer. As Catholics, it is important for us to be welcoming to each other. One of the earliest precepts of our shared faith is to be welcoming to those who are new to you.

I have personally felt that welcome during the ups and downs and I do sincerely think of myself as part of this wonderful parish family of St. John's, St. Anthony's, St. Mary's, All Saints, OLL and St. Isidore's. This is a credit to all of you and your wonderful hospitality and openness to each other. Fr. Romanus has been with us for his first year and he also feels extremely welcomed by all of you.

Our wish for all of you is a great and holy Christmas season and we are happy to be with you in this parish.

In Christ Jesus,
Fr. Dan Jordan and Fr. Romanus Igweonu

RELIGIOUS Education

Grades Pre-K ~ 3: 8:30 – 9:45 AM
Grades 4 ~ 6: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 19: Class – All Grades
Friday, December 24: Christmas Pageant @ 3:30 PM
Children participating in the pageant are asked to please arrive at the church by 1:45 pm for one more practice before the pageant.
Sunday, December 26: No Class – Christmas Break

Karoline Flower at kaflower@comcast.net or 802-370-4219

COMMUNITY FOOD SHELVES

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink;" Matt 25:35

ENOSBURG FOOD SHELF: Your food, cleaning products and monetary donations are always welcome. "Enosburg Food Shelf"; PO Box 614, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450. Open Thursdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

SHELDON FOOD SHELF: The Sheldon Food Shelf located at the Sheldon United Methodist Church. If you are in need of food or would like to make a donation, please call 802-933-4487. Monetary donations may be made to "Sheldon United Methodist Church" Attn: Food Shelf ~ 953 Northrop Rd., Sheldon, VT 05483.

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2021

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2021

Thank you to all who have made a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The Diocese is now at 74% of their goal. If you have not yet made a gift to the appeal or would like to make an additional gift online, please visit: vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

PARISH PROGRESS AS OF 12/8/2021

St. Anthony ~ 103% ~ $191.40 over goal ~ **We have met our goal!**
St. John the Baptist ~ 80% of $18,974.35 (3,739.35 needed)
St. Mary ~ 64% of $2,789.20 ($1,010.20 needed)

Gift Distribution Change

CHRIST OUR Hope BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH

The focus of this campaign has always been on parishes, and many are close to reaching at least one of their tiered goals. That is why 80% (instead of 60%) of new gifts made will go back to the parishes to support their efforts and 20% will be split evenly between faith formation and emergency aid. To make an online gift visit: https://www.christourhopevt.org/donate

Our Parish Goals and Progress: (updated 12/8/2021)
St. Anthony – $5,027 raised toward goal of $39,909 ~ 13%
St. Mary - $2,502 raised toward goal of $21,200 ~ 12%
St. John's - $23,815 raised toward goal of $106,442 ~ 22%

Congratulations - St. Anthony is now among the parishes that received a $1,000 matching grant as a parishioner gave $1,000+ to our Christ Our Hope Campaign!

We would like to thank our sponsor of the week we encourage you to patronize them.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Please be aware that we will not have a Mass on Christmas night. Sunday Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family will only be on Sunday at our usual times.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(St. John's Masses will be on FB live)

Christmas Eve:
4:00 PM ~ St. John's
5:00 PM ~ All Saints
8:00 PM ~ All Saints
9:00 PM ~ St. John's

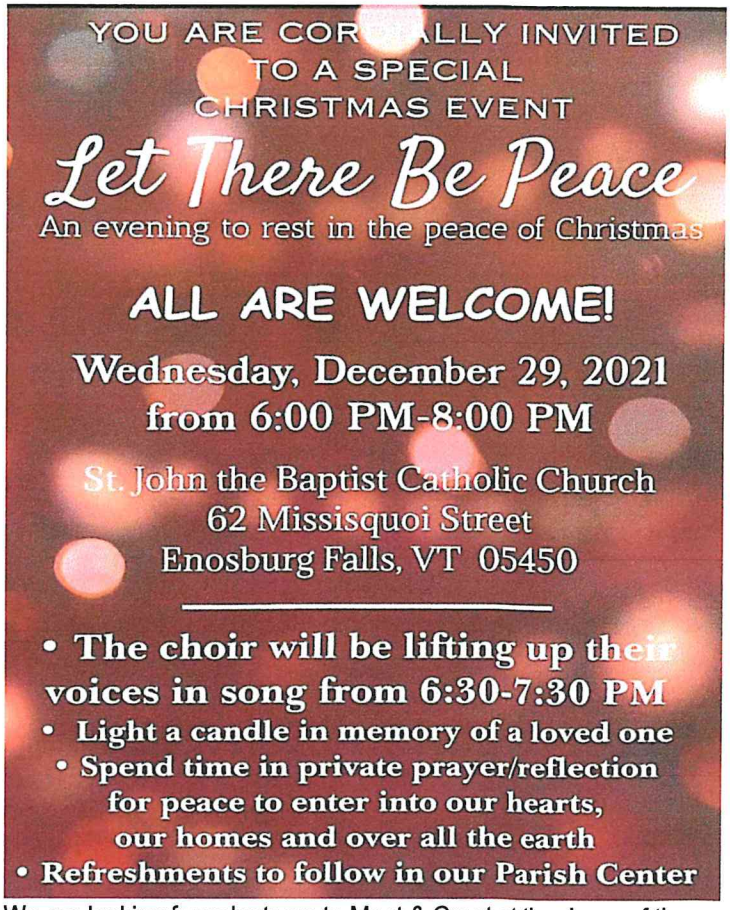
Christmas Day:
8:00 AM ~ St. Anthony
8:15 AM ~ All Saints
10:00 AM ~ St. John's
10:30 AM ~ St. Isidore
(10:00 AM Mass broadcasted on cable 1079)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

New Year's Eve:
4:00 PM ~ St. Anthony
6:30 PM ~ St. John's

New Year's Day:
8:00 AM ~ All Saints
9:00 AM ~ St. John's



We are looking for volunteers to Meet & Greet at the doors of the church and also to donate refreshments for the reception following the event.
? Please contact Laura @ 802-393-0770 or Laurie @ 802-734-8905

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Getty Images

Blessing of a Christmas Manger

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,

from the very beginning of creation

you have made manifest your love:

when our need for a Savior was great

you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,

justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;

may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,

and raise our thoughts to him,

who is God-with-us and Savior of all,

and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

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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 awith 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.**

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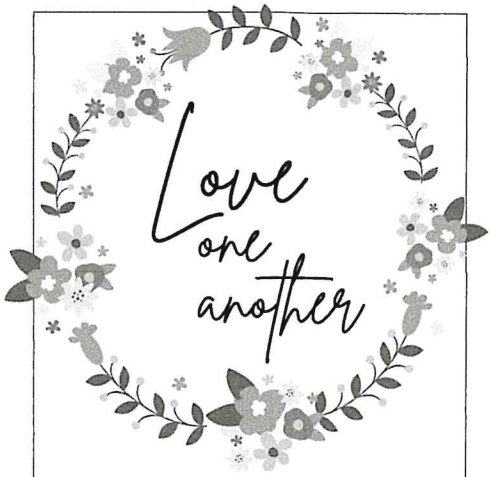
vermontcatholic.org/careers



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

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