

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 2–8, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Taking the time for Advent

When we think of Advent, it's natural that Christmas isn't far behind in our minds.

And with Christmas on our minds, the time of Advent becomes obscured. Instead of a "period of devout and expectant delight" as one Church document describes Advent, we find the endless to-do lists: Christmas shopping, Christmas-card writing, prepping for meals, Christmas decorating. Advent is indeed a time of preparation for Christmas, but I'd like to propose another way of thinking about Advent, and it is simply this: at the center of Advent is the theme of time.

As a season of preparation for Christmas, Advent gives us an opportunity to look back in time — at the coming of God in the flesh into the world. Observing the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas is an ancient custom in the Church, and the Nativity forms one of the two hinges of the liturgical year (Easter is the other one). Just as we need to prepare for our own celebration of Christmas, we also need to spend time spiritually preparing to celebrate and remember the birth of our Lord. Advent gives us that time. The latter part of Advent, especially, focuses on this theme of looking back in time in preparation to celebrate the first coming of Jesus.

Much of Advent, however, gives us the opportunity to look forward in time — to the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. Thinking about the end times can be a frightening idea and scripture even alludes to this fear ("May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping!" Mark 13:36 — First Sunday

of Advent), but this doesn't have to be a fearful time. In fact, Advent calls us to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ and to wait for the Second Coming with joyful anticipation. Why is this? Because of what is ultimately promised in the Second Coming: "God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 3:9 — First Sunday of Advent). In the midst of the calamity that is foretold, there is a message of hope and redemption.

Finally, Advent calls us to take the time to look at the present and seek Christ in our lives today. Advent offers us a time to renew our relationship with Christ today, especially through the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Do we see Christ in those in need? Sometimes, we don't even need to look further than our own families.

So, let us take the time for Advent. Let us take the time to thank God for the gift of Himself in the child Jesus. Let us take the time to continually acknowledge the presence of God in our lives today. Let us take the time to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming or, more personally, take the time to prepare to meet Christ at the end of our own earthly existence. If we take the time to enter into the opportunity Advent gives us to look at time — past, present, and future, then we will be ready to receive Christ into our lives, not only at Christmastime, but all the time.

— *Josh Perry is director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington.*

Upcoming Events



12|06, 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. This series began on Nov. 29. Register at: forgivencosp@gmail.com.



12|08 FRIDAY
Essex Community Dinners
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm
They are intended to feed the hungry, lonely and needy amongst us. These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. Take out dinners are also available for those who still need to avoid crowds.



12|09 SATURDAY
St. Peter's Cemetery Bingo
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 pm
Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 pm.

Family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.



12|09 SATURDAY
Catered Roast Pork Dinner
St. John the Evangelist, Northfield • 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Scrumptious food, catered by Sambels! Tickets are \$20 each and the space is limited to 100. Take out containers are available as well. RSVP at (802) 485-8313 to RSVP.



12|07, 08 THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directive Presentation
12|07 at St. Jude, Hinesburg, 6:30 pm
12|08 at Assumption, Middlebury, 6:30 pm

Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive, which explains Catholic teaching on end of life care and enables you to appoint a healthcare agent to act on your behalf in the event you are unable to communicate or participate in healthcare decisions.



12|10 SUNDAY
K of C Breakfast Buffet
St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am
\$12 adults, \$7 children 8 to 12 yrs., \$38 immediate family maximum.



12|10 SUNDAY
Monthly COSP K of C Fund Raising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm



12|10 SUNDAY
K of C DeGosbriand Council # 279 Community Breakfast
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 9 - 11:30 am

Join us for an old-fashioned all-you-can-care-to-eat pancake breakfast. \$10 per person or \$ 25 for family of four or more.



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, 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. Dinner is free – donations will be accepted to help offset the costs.



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). Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, coffee, and juice.



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
BINGO
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9:30 pm
The St. John Vianney Knights of Columbus

have restarted a monthly bingo, to be 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. All food items are donated to the local Food Shelf.

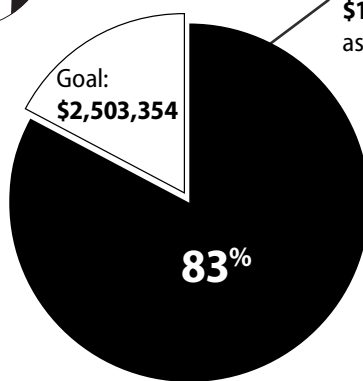


12|25 MONDAY
Free Christmas Dinner!
St. Anthony, Bethel • 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Come enjoy a free, incredible, and scrumptious

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.



BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL



Raised:
\$1,949,886
as of Nov. 20

Progress: 83% to goal

Give Online
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

