

The Inland See

News from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington



November 29–December 5, 2025

Advent Musings from Bishop McDermott

My dear family in Christ,

While on vacation in September I had the opportunity to play a round of golf with a member of the Diocesan Finance Council of the Diocese of Rochester. As we ate lunch following an enjoyable round of golf, he was sharing his joys of being a husband and a father. In the course of our conversation about his children he said something which has stuck with me to this day. He said that as a parent, “days are long and years are short.” He was reflecting upon those long days when children were sick or the family was experiencing difficulties, but that looking back over time, he noticed how quickly his children seemed to move from infancy to being in college. Perhaps this is just another way of describing the relativity of time, but I believe there is a truth contained in his comment that ties nicely to Advent and our call to prepare ourselves to welcome Christ.

As I look back on more than 36 years as a priest and now almost 18 months as a bishop, the long days I have experienced fade into the background when I think of how quickly the years have gone. I am sometimes shocked to meet the young men and women I baptized as infants talking about their own children now in college and beyond. I think of the college students I ministered to when I was pastor in Middlebury and realize these “Midd kids” are now in their late-40’s. As much as I like to think of myself as still being young, I realize I am now the same age as my father when I was ordained a priest and he retired from more than 30 years working for Texaco. The years are short.

On this first Sunday of Advent, and really for the first three



weeks of the season, the readings and tone of the liturgies invite us to consider the return of Christ and whether we are prepared to stand before Him who will come “to judge the living and the dead.” We are being reminded that while we may experience long and difficult days in our lives due to any number of factors, these long days are moving us through the years quickly to the end of our lives on earth and preparing us to share eternity, we pray, with the Lord.

We are being challenged in these opening days of Advent to remember that our years and our

lives are short in light of eternity, and we must accept the challenge now to prepare for the journey from this life to the next. We do this by striving to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ daily, by deepening our life of prayer, by turning away from sin, by aiding those in need, in short, by heeding the words of Christ, “kingdom of heaven is at hand, repent and believe in the good news.”

While my reflection may seem more appropriate to Lent than Advent, I simply invite us all to not start the celebration of Christmas too quickly, but allow the first weeks of Advent to challenge us to remember that while our days may feel long,

our years are short and Jesus Christ is returning. Are we truly ready?

God alone suffices,

+John J. McDermott
Bishop of Burlington



GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 2



On Dec. 2, Giving Tuesday, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in support of diocesan operations, Catholic schools, faith formation programs, emergency aid, and so much more which allows the diocese to keep sharing and living the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Vermont. Give online at vermontcatholic.org/giveonline, scan the QR code to the left, call 802-658-6110 x 1102, or mail a check payable to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403.



12|01 MONDAY Tourtire Pie Sale

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Swanton
Deadline to order is December 1. Pies will be ready on or after December 6. \$15 for a 9" pie. Call or text (802) 363-1452 to order. Proceeds to benefit Kenny Gagne's wheelchair accessible van expenses.



12|01, 02, 03 MON, TUES, WED Advent Retreat

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8:30 am
Advent Retreat will be given by Monsignor Richard Lavalley, pastor emeritus of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winooski. Monsignor will preach at the 8:30 am Mass at Holy Family. Following Mass, he will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual consulting. Come join us as we will begin the Holy Season of Advent with much spiritual nourishment.



12|02, 09 TUESDAYS What is the Catholic Worker?

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 7 pm
A Catholic Worker House of Hospitality is an intentional community built upon the principles of Micah 6:8. "You have been told what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." We're working to bring the Catholic Worker to Vermont. Come join one of our meetings to learn more and see if it's something you'd want to be involved in!



12|04, 11, 18 THURSDAYS Reflections on Marian Consecration with Fr. Tim Naples

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 5:15 - 7:15 pm
This Advent, you're invited to join us for a three-part series with Fr. Tim Naples – Reflections on Marian Consecration: Total consecration and the example of St. Maximilian Kolbe. We will begin with a short video, followed by discussion. The gathering will use a hybrid model; in person in the Fr. Davignon lounge OR over Zoom, whatever works best for you. **FOR MORE INFO: Fr. Tim at tnaples@vermontcatholic.org.**



12|05 FRIDAY Art Walk & Handel's Messiah at St. Augustine, Montpelier

St. Augustine, Montpelier • 7:30 pm
Come see the 1938 stained glass windows for the Art Walk and stay for the Vermont Philharmonic's performance of Handel's Messiah. Tickets available online and at the door, concert starts 7:30. vermontphilharmonic.com



12|06 SATURDAY First Saturday Mass

Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven • 7:30 am
Rosary at 7:30 am, Mass at 8 am.



12|06 SATURDAY First Saturday Devotions

All Saints, Richford • 7:30 am
Please join us on the first Saturday of every month for confessions starting at 7:30 am followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8 am. Following Mass we pray the

First Saturday Devotional prayers. All are welcome.



12|06 SATURDAY First Saturday Mass

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Every first Saturday starting with Confessions and the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.



12|06 – 12|20 SATURDAYS SoulCore

St. Andrew parish hall, Waterbury • 9 am
Activate your mind, body, and soul: stretch, strengthen, and pray. SoulCore is an integrated faith and fitness class to the prayers of the rosary with a self-paced workout. Bring a mat and water. Suggested \$10.



12|06 SATURDAY All Saints Christmas Bazaar

All Saints, Richford • 9 am - 2 pm
Please join us in Richford to shop for a unique Christmas gift from our vendors and relax to some breakfast or lunch or take a chance at our teacup auction including gift cards from local businesses, and so much more.



12|06 SATURDAY Annual Christmas Bazaar

St. Patrick, Wallingford • 9 am - 2 pm
There will be crafts and baked goods, take out will be available for soups, macaroni and cheese, chili, and baked beans. Silent auction, themed baskets, over 50 items, once-loved room, and raffles. Returning this year is the luncheon!



12|06 SATURDAY St. Peter's Cemetery Association Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm
Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.



12|07 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 - 4:30 pm
Father Lance W. Harlow will conduct a Eucharistic Healing Service, with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament along with praying over by Father Harlow.



12|07 SUNDAY Life Teen Life Night

Fr. Lively Center, St. Johnsbury • 5 - 7 pm
All teens in grades 6-12 are invited to gather for dinner, games, teachings, and prayer.



12|12 FRIDAY Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 - 7 pm
Essex Community Dinners are provided in order to grow and promote our community! They are also intended to feed the lonely and needy among us. These meals are free to all but donations are appreciated to cover

parish expenses. Take-out dinners are also available, starting at 6 pm, for those who still need to avoid crowds.



12|13 SATURDAY BINGO at All Saints, Richford

All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am - 3 pm
Doors will open at 11:30 am and the games will begin at 1 pm. Homemade lunch, desserts & beverages will be offered. Pull tickets will be available! Proudly sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #2610.



12|13 SATURDAY St. Peter's Church Preservation Committee Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm
Doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the on-going restoration efforts for the bell tower and the church. Please join us!



12|22 MONDAY Cor Formation

St. John Vlanney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Cor Formation is an opportunity for men to grow closer to Jesus through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Snacks and beverages are provided. Contact Mike Bullock, (802) 598-8179/mtn6@gmavt.net for more information.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

How to Give:

Online:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:
802.658.6110 x 1102

Mail:
Bishop's Annual Appeal
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

