

NEWS FROM The Inland See

November 18–24, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Are we
listening,
People
of God?



I have a confession to make. I'm an introvert. It's extremely difficult for me to go into what I call "uncontrolled" social situations — large or even smaller gatherings of strangers where I am to "mingle" or make "small talk." Just typing those words make me sweat and want to run.

Back in my seminary days, we were asked to serve the poor through work in soup kitchens. "Okay," I thought to myself, "this won't be so bad. I'll stay in the kitchen preparing the food. Maybe I'll even help in the serving line." But I soon found out that those who were volunteering were expected to sit with those that came through the line and engage in conversation. I worried about this for days before going yet I still went. There was a little talk, but it was mostly what I thought was terribly awkward silence. Some other people sat around us and thankfully started conversing. I mostly listened. After that night, I promised to myself not to do that again. I'd find an excuse not to go. I did end up going a few times more, but it was more of the same experience. I eventually just stayed in the kitchen helping where I could.

A funny thing happened that summer though, that I can describe only as a Holy Spirit moment. I was with a friend spending the day in downtown Chicago. In the late afternoon, we were talking about getting dinner when a man approached asking for money. I couldn't believe what came out of my mouth. "I'm sorry, I don't have any cash I can spare, but my friend and I were just going to grab a bite to eat before taking the train home. Why don't you join us?" My friend's eyes widened. I thought "what did I just do?" The man said, "sure..." We spent the next hour sitting at McDonalds eating burgers. There was no lack of conversation.

I don't remember everything we talked about — but I do remember asking "what's your story?" Here, in this moment, we were "breaking bread" and sharing stories. And in that short span of time — we were strangers no longer.

I recall this as we come upon the first "World Day of the Poor" promulgated by Pope Francis to be celebrated on the Sunday before the feast of Christ the King. The pope calls us to seek out encounters with the poor among us. At the same time, I am reminded of the advice Bishop Coyne gave to all the confirmation students this past year as he went around the diocese celebrating the Sacrament: don't stifle the Spirit. I recognize that I'm still an introvert and don't make small talk very easily. If I serve the poor at shelters or soup kitchens, you'll probably still find me in the kitchen — behind the scenes. But maybe not. Maybe the Holy Spirit will help me once again think outside the box — even a little bit. Who knows. Maybe I'll be making small talk in the serving line.

Are we listening to the Holy Spirit, People of God? Can we let the Spirit move us to serve in ways we never thought possible?

— *Josh Perry is the Director of Worship and Liturgy for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington.*

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UPCOMING EVENTS



11|20 Gospel of Mark

*Holy Family - St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Jct.
7 - 8 pm*

Donna Bibby-Cayole will lead reflections on the Gospel of Mark which will pursue an understanding of Jesus as suffering savior, sensitive human being and light of the world in His Resurrection. The format will include teaching, group discussion and sharing of insights into the parables and miracle stories. Please bring a Bible and a notebook.



11|19 Piano Recital

*Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
3 pm*

Donald McMahon will perform a piano recital; the program will include compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Robert Schumann, Maurice Ravel and Sergei Rachmaninoff. All facilities are accessible to those with special needs, and convenient parking is available adjacent to the church.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 442-3141 x5



11|21 Columbiettes Meeting

*Knights of Columbus Hall, Bellows Falls
6 pm*

This is the first meeting of the Columbiettes. The purpose of this meeting is to meet others who are also interested in helping out the community. At least 20 participants are needed.

FOR MORE INFO: (603) 209-8633



11|27 St. Amadeus Parish 4th Annual Memory Tree Lighting

St. Amadeus, Alburgh • 6:30 pm

'Purchase' a light for a loved one (living or deceased) to help us light up the night and light up the holidays! The cost is \$5 per person commemorated. The tree will be lighting up the St. Amadeus Church/Rectory lawn throughout the season! The ceremony is both inside and outside with refreshments to follow.

FOR MORE INFO: Connie (802) 796-3425, Maurice (802) 796-4418 or Laura at the rectory office (802) 796-3481



12|02 Haiti Benefit Concert — Jericho Road Crew

*Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
7 - 9 pm*

The Jericho Road Crew's music is always full of fun, harmonies and hope, lyrics and love, and fun for the whole family. There will be desserts and beverages offered throughout the evening. Suggested donations are \$10 per person. Every dollar raised in donation goes to helping children and families in Haiti.



12|03 First Day of Advent

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.



12|03 Christmas Concert

*St. Michael's College, Colchester
3 pm*

The 16-voice Schola is in residence at St. Michael's College. Since its founding in 2000, the Schola has sung more than 125 concerts, liturgies and synagogue presentations. The concert is free and open to the public, but a free-will offering will be accepted.



12|03 Healing Service

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington • 3pm

Service includes Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration and Charismatic laying-on of hands for physical, spiritual and psychological healing.



12|03 Matthew: The King and His Kingdom Catholic Bible Study

St. Marys, Fair Haven or Your Parish

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom is a Catholic Bible study with Jeff Calvins that brings the personhood and kingship of Christ to life through Matthew's Gospel. You are welcome to join this online self-study which uses a study guide and 24 one hour videos for a chapter by chapter examination of the literal and spiritual senses of the text in the context of the Old and New Testaments. The study covers approximately one lecture a week starting with the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017 and concluding after Pentecost on June 5, 2018, You may either join us at St. Mary's School in Fair Haven on January 9 at 6 pm, when we will discuss the first 4 talks OR organize your own parish discussion group.

FOR MORE INFO: matthewsignup@vtelwireless.com or ascensionpress.com/studies/24389/registrations/new



12|05 Mass of Thanksgiving

*St. Anthony, Bethel
6 pm*

Fr. Harlow will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



12|08 Lessons and Carols

*St. Michael's College, Colchester
7:30 pm*

Held in the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel. The St. Michael's College Chorale will be joined by local professional vocal ensemble Counterpoint for a celebration of music and scriptural readings. Admission is free. A festive reception will follow in the Alliot Student Center lobby.

FOR MORE INFO: (802) 654-2284



12|11 St. Paul School Christmas Concert

*St. Paul, Barton
6 pm*

Join us for this concert by St. Paul School students.



12|12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

Catholics throughout the world pray for intercession on behalf of the unborn to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org



12|12 Mass of Thanksgiving

*St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury
5:15 pm*

Father Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of the Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Submit your event to the diocesan calendar!
vermontcatholic.org/calendar

CRAFT FAIR & MARKET DIRECTORY

Christmas Marketplace, St. Ambrose, Bristol, 9 am to 5 pm, **INFO: (802) 453-2488**

Christmas Bazaar, St. Ann, Milton, 9 am to 2 pm, **INFO: (802) 893-4012 or (802) 893-2487**

12|02 Christmas Bazaar, All Saints, Richford, 9 am to 2 pm, **INFO: (802) 848-7741**

Christmas Bazaar, Our Lady of the Lake, S. Hero, 9 am to 2 pm, **INFO: (802) 372-4092**

Christmas Bazaar, St. Patrick, Wallingford, 9 am to 2 pm, **INFO: (802) 446-2500**

12|09 Craft Fair, St. Jude the Apostle, Hinesburg, 9 am to 3 pm