

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 16–22, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Christmas shopping for little Catholics

Are you looking for the perfect gift for a young child in your family this year? Spread the Gospel and give them a gift they'll love.

You may have heard it before, but it is worth repeating: If you have been baptized, it is your duty to spread the Gospel, and your family is a great place to begin. Your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and godchildren are all going to be expecting gifts this year, so give them something that will make them smile and will feed their soul.

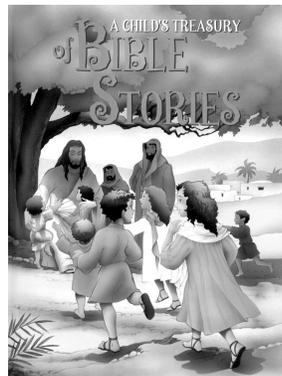


My Pick

My first suggestion is a new book: “King of the Shattered Glass” by Susan Joy Bellavance. It’s a tale about a young kitchen maid and her courageous encounter with the King. The story is compelling, the pictures are beautiful and the conversation created between parents and children is priceless. This book will lead children and their parents to consider God’s mercy in a whole new way. Don’t be surprised if you have tears in your eyes by the end. The author also has free, downloadable worksheets, coloring pages and discussion guides on her website — especially useful for a catechist who would like to use this book in the classroom.



Children’s Bible Story Book

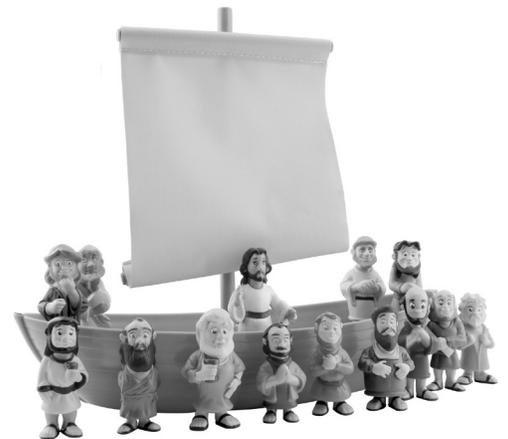


My second suggestion is to pick up a children’s book of Bible stories for your little one. I still have good memories of my own growing up. I remember how foolish that man was for building his whole house on sand — and how joyful the woman was when she found just one lost coin in her house. Growing up with these stories is a great way to be introduced to the Bible and makes for a great conversation starter between children and their parents. Ignatius Press offers “A Child’s Treasury of Bible Stories.”

For slightly older children, try “The Picture Bible” by Iva Hoth, which reads like a comic book. In the words of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen: “This picture Bible for all ages is an excellent introduction to those who do not know the Bible and an excellent review for those who do.”

Bible Playsets

Maybe the child you have in mind doesn’t want a book — you’re still in luck. Sometimes children need more than pages in their hands. Bring the stories of the Bible alive with the gift of a Bible story playset. Allow your children to set up their own Noah’s ark with the BibleToys Noah’s Ark 18 Piece Playset or put the apostles on their boat with the Galilee Boat 15 Piece Playset by BibleToys. If you’re handy, you can always make and paint your own wooden figurines.



All books and toys can be found on-line at Amazon* and other on-line retailers.

*If you’re shopping on Amazon, consider using AmazonSmile to donate a portion of your purchase price to Vermont Catholic Charities Inc. or another favorite charitable organization.



To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:
vermontcatholic.org/calendar

Michael Hagan is the coordinator of religious education and catechesis for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington.

UPCOMING EVENTS



12|17 SUNDAY

Advent Penance Service

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Middlebury
3 pm



12|17 SUNDAY

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
5 pm

The parish choir will present an annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Gaudete Sunday. The service will include Old Testament Scripture, sacred choral masterpieces of the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and the music of the church's magnificent pipe organ.

FOR MORE INFO: call the parish organist at (802) 442-3141 x5.



12|18 MONDAY

Advent Penance Service

St. Joachim, Readsboro
6-7 pm



12|18 MONDAY

Monday Night Movie

St. Monica Parish Hall, Barre
7 pm

Showing the documentary film, "Padre Pio, Man of God".



12|20 WEDNESDAY

Advent Penance Service

Our Lady of Good Help, Brandon
7 pm



12|21 THURSDAY

Advent Penance Service

St. Mary Star of the Sea, Newport
6 pm



12|24 SUNDAY

Christmas Vigil Mass

St. Michael's College, Colchester
8 pm

Members of the Society of St. Edmund will celebrate a Christmas Vigil Mass in the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel.



12|25 MONDAY

Christmas Mass

St. Michael's College, Colchester
11 am

Members of the Society of St. Edmund, the college's founding religious order, will celebrate Christmas Day Mass in the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel.



12|25 MONDAY

Christmas Dinner

Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Springfield
12 - 2 pm

A dinner will be served in the Nolin Murray Center. All are welcome.



01|09 TUESDAY

Bible Study

St. Mary School, Fair Haven
6 pm

The course is set up to enable discussion after every lecture. For more information or a direct link to the Ascension Press registration, contact Paul D. Turnley, Matthew study coordinator, at matthewsignup@vtelwireless.com.



01|11 THURSDAY

Bible Study

St Monica Parish Hall, Barre
7 pm

First of seven sessions. There is a charge for study books.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 476-6775.



01|13 SATURDAY

Rally for Life Mass and March

Montpelier • 9:30 am

To open the day's events, Catholics are invited to join Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne for the annual Rally for Life Mass at St. Augustine Church, 16 Barre St. at 9:30 am. Mass will be followed by a coffee and doughnut warm-up in the parish hall before pro-life advocates gather behind City Hall to begin the march to the Statehouse at 10:45 am. The Rally for Life will take place inside the House Chambers at the Statehouse. Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation, author of "Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong," will be the keynote speaker.



01|17 WEDNESDAY

Re-engaging the Occasional Catholic

Holy Cross, Colchester • 6:30 - 8 pm

Bishop Coyne presents, with livestreaming on facebook.com/vermontcatholic.

FOR MORE INFO: Dcn. Phil Lawson (802) 658-6110 x1453, plawson@vermontcatholic.org



01|19 FRIDAY

March for Life

Washington, DC

The annual March for Life will take place Jan. 19, 2018. The Diocese of Burlington is planning to have a bus trip for pro-life groups, individual adults and families to show their support for life at this event. The bus will leave Jan. 18 in the evening and return Jan. 20 in the morning, travelling through the night in both directions. The cost is \$75. This bus is not for youth groups or minors travelling without parents. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is organizing a youth group bus separately.
FORE MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org or (802) 658-6110 x1176. **More information about the march:** marchforlife.org/mfl-2018.

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

GOAL \$2,709,117

PLEGGED \$2,618,541

96.6% of goal

Data reflects totals as of Nov. 27, 2017

An anonymous donor has blessed the Vermont Catholic Church with a \$17,000 challenge grant to match dollar for dollar any gifts that are received by the end of December to help us reach our Bishop's Annual Appeal goal. We are 96.6% of the way there. A gift of any size will make a big difference and support many important ministries and services that impact every parish, school and Catholic charitable program around the state. Will you rise to the challenge and help us reach our goal?

Donate online: bishopsappealvt.org,

by mail: Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington,

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

or by phone: (802) 658-6110x1102.