

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 23–29, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

If you are reading this Christmas message, it is probably because you came to Christmas Mass and picked up a parish bulletin or a copy of *The Inland See*. I am pleased that you did so — not that you picked up a copy of this message but that you came to Mass. Many of you are regular Mass goers. Some of you come occasionally. Some come once or twice a year on the major holidays of Christmas or Easter. For others, this may be the first time you have been in a church for years or maybe even for the first time. To all of you, I say, “Welcome and merry Christmas!”

Whatever your relationship with the Church may be, I invite you to consider how the moment of the Incarnation — God becoming man in Jesus Christ — has graced all of creation with the saving power of God. Throughout the course of the Church’s history, great saints and poets have authored heartfelt praise to the mystery of the Incarnation in which they tried to capture what it meant that God, the Supreme Creator of all that is, became one like us. Writing in the fourth century, St. Gregory Nazianzen came close to offering a perfect blend of the poetic and the theological when he wrote:

“The very Son of God, older than the ages, the invisible, the incomprehensible, the incorporeal, the beginning of beginning, the light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the image of the archetype, the immovable seal,

the perfect likeness, the definition and word of the Father: He it is who comes ... to take to himself all that is human, except for sin. ... He who makes rich is made poor; He takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of His divinity. He who is full is made empty; He is emptied for a brief space of His glory, that I may share in His fullness.”

But, while St. Gregory’s words may transport us into the Mystery of the Divine Majesty of God made manifest, the greeting of the angels to the shepherds that we hear proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke lead us deeply into Christ’s humanity:

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

In this Christmas celebration, we recall the mystery of Christ, true God and true man, and offer thanksgiving that “God so loved the world, that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life.” Every time we celebrate the Mass we encounter the same Christ present among us in the Church gathered, in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist — and what a Christmas gift that is!



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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



Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

UPCOMING EVENTS



12|24 SUNDAY
Christmas Vigil Mass
St. Michael's College, Colchester
8 pm

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



12|25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Holy day of obligation.



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.



12|28
Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs



12|28
Feast of The Holy Family (Mary, Jesus & Joseph)



01|01
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Not a Holy day of obligation for 2018.



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|01
St. Paul School Lotto Calendars
St. Paul School, Barton

St. Paul School lotto calendars are now for sale for \$5. This calendar gives you many chances to win prizes. Drawings begin on Jan. 1 and are daily for the entire month. Contact a St. Paul's student or the school to get yours.



01|06
Synod Regional Listening Session with Bishop Coyne
Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
10 am



01|06
Synod Regional Listening Session with Bishop Coyne
Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland
2 pm



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|13
Synod Regional Listening Session with Bishop Coyne
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Burlington • 2 pm



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|18, 19, 20, 21
Life Is Precious Trip
Washington, DC

The Diocese will sponsor a bus trip for Vermonters to show their support for life at this annual event. Buses will leave January 18 (evening) and return January 21. This will be an extended itinerary for youth groups and their chaperones to include visits to several shrines in the DC area and overnight stays.

FOR MORE INFO: Bill Gavin, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (802) 658-6110 x1130



02|04
World Marriage Day 2018
St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington
10 am

Bishop Coyne will celebrate Mass and give recognition to those couples celebrating their Milestone Anniversaries in the year 2018 (5, 10, 15, etc. . . .). Couples can also choose to celebrate in their parish (and still receive a certificate from the Bishop) on the following Sunday, Feb. 11. Please register through the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, Marriage and Family Life at IdaudeLin@vermontcatholic.org.



JANUARY 19, 2018

LOVE SAVES LIVES

MARCH FOR LIFE

