# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

3 Saint Peter Street, Winooski, VT 05404 (802) 655-2290

Monsignor Richard G. Lavalley **Pastor** 

Reverend Joseph Sanderson **Parochial Vicar** 

Thomas E. McCormick **Deacon** 

Saint Francis Xavier School Mr. Craig Hill, Principal Pre-School through 8th grade 655-2600

> Director of Faith Formation Andrew Coulter 802-399-0097

Our Lady of Providence Residential Care Facility 655-2395

St. Vincent de Paul Center Open 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays 655 - 3006

# PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

> Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

> > Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

> > > Amen.

Weekend Masses Saturday : 4:00 PM Sunday : 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

<u>Weekday Masses</u> Monday - Friday : 8:00 AM

<u>Adoration</u> Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM

<u>Confessions</u> Saturday 2:30 to 3:30 PM Anytime by appointment 655-2290 **Baptisms** Parent classes required. Please call the rectory for more information.

> Marriage Plan six months in advance. Contact the rectory. Attend Pre-Cana classes

 
 Registration

 New parishioners and newly married couples should register by calling the rectory as soon as possible.

 655 –2290

School telephone numbersSchoolAfter School655-2600655-4660School Website: www.SFXVT.org

www.sfxchurch.org

# The Information The Diocese of Burlington

# God first loved us

hope this last edition of *The Indand See* for 2021 finds you and your loved ones healthy and growing in faith in our Lord lesus Christ.

This edition leads us through the celebration of Christmas and into the new year, a year that I have designated as a year of "Communion: Creed, worship and life." As we celebrate Christmas, I see an opportunity for us to reflect upon the Incarnation as the greatest moment of communion between God and humanity. Consider if you will that God did not have to choose to be born through the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, but He did in the person of Jesus who later revealed why: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

Think about that for a moment, "for God so loved the world." As such, this primary love for us, as revealed to us, calls forth a response from us to either love or not love Him in return. When we do choose to love God, we are called do so as the great commandment says, "with all our heart, with all our mind and with all our soul." Sr. Augustine of Hippo offered great encouragement for us when he wrote, "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."

Now out of God's love, comes the crux of what we celebrate at Christmas, that God "gave his only Son ... so that we might have eternal life." God did so by incarnating Himself as "true God and true man" in Jesus Christ: The Incarnation was the grearest communion because it was the primal communion, it is what began the whole great plan of salvation in and through Jesus Christ. All other communion flows from that moment. Notice as well that this moment is Trinitarian: God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, became man in the person of Jesus. Subsequently, that communion becomes manifested in each of us at the moment of baptism, when we are born again and take on the new person of Christ.

During this time of Christmas and the beginning of the Year of Communion, my encouragement is for all of us to begin by praying and meditating on the fact that God first loved us and how we love Him in return. As baptized members of the Church, we share in its communion as community and as ones in communion through the sacraments. Loffer the words of Pope Leo the Great (c.400-461) from one of his Christmas homilies for your prayerful reflection:

"Our Savinur, deathy-beloved, was born inday: let us be glad. For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and



brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from ibaring in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and deash finds none free from charge, so is He come to free us all. Let the sains exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in that he is called to life. ..."

God bless.



Sincerely yours in Christ, + Chaistphen J. Come

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne Bishop of Burlington

# Upcoming Events



12 [28, 01 (04, 11, 18, 75 - 17 SDA\*S Courageous Women Bible Study Studyn Macney, S. Barlington - 9 can or 6:30 pm For this study we will use, "Courageous

Women: A Study on the Hernines of Biblical History "by Stacy Mitch, written with a fernale audience in mind yet it is equally approachable for men. There are 8 sessions; participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. FOR MORE INFO: Connie McDonald (802) 864-4166 x204 or SJVGoodNews@gmail.com



#### 12 30 TEURSDAY More than the Magi: Celebrating the Riches of Epiphany 2022

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7-8:30 pm A reflection on the history, liturgy, and spirituality of a feast of feasts, with Fr. Bichard Berube, SSE.



01 05, 19, 02 02, 16, 03 02, & 16 WEDNESDAYS **Resisting Happiness Book Club** Oaline - 7 pri

Come eo olore with us Matthew Kelly's book Reviving Hoppiness at 7-8 pm every other Wednesday for six weeks. Freebook and study guice, contact ptumleys) aoluem.



01 07, 21, 02|07, 18 FR DAYS The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls

Immoculate Heart of Mary, Addiston - 6 - 8 pm

Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue friendship and their Catholic faith. FOR MORE INFO: contact Mary Niekrewicz, mary.of.vl/ggmail.com, (802) 878 5538 or Audrey Walko, audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.



#### 01-16 SUNDAY DeGoesbriand Council 279 Burlington Pancake Breakfast

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington + 8:30 - 17:30 am Sponsored by Knights of Columbus DeGoeshriand Council

279. 3y donation, the suggested donation is \$8.



01-25 TUESDAY Saints & Sinners Online • 7 pm

Join Usin November when Deacon Phil Lawson presents on Saints Philip, Athanasius and Lawrence. Fur mure info: vermonit cathulic.org/saints and sinners.



#### 02.05 SALURDAY Our Lady of Fatima Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction - 8 am Rosary, Confessions, and Mass at 8:30 am.



#### 02|5 SATURDAY Adoration Mini-Mission with Holy Hour St. Inter Kenner, S. Kurlington

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington 10:30 am - 12:36 pm



DEC. 26, 2021 – JAN, 1, 2022

# CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

#### Feast of the Holy Family We hear how Jesus goes "missing"

this week, but in truth he is in his Father's house. The fear of Mary and Joseph was real, as was their joy. This week make time to share an experience from this year when each of you experienced fear and joy. Listen to what each family member is saying to understand the situation. End with the *Our Father* in gratitude for your family.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

Not sure what adoration is a labout? Or maybe you've not been to adoration for awhile and could use arefreshier course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event corning this Lent, Josh Perty, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission aw thinstruction about acoration, followed by a holy hour.

#### 02 C6 SUN DAY Marriage An



Marriage Anniversary Mass Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington - 10 am

Are you and your spouse celebrating a

milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20.1.55, 57) in 2022? To register please contact ik kole flamiliton at nhamiliton vermontcatholic.org or (302)558-5110, ext 1131.



#### 02|12 SATURDAY Padre Pio Devotions

Pagre Pio Devotions Holy Family, Essex Juncium - 8 am Rosary, Mass and discussion about Padre Pio.

# 02|22 TUESDAM



Saints and Sinners

Jain us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisleux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. For more info: vermon teatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

# DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:

Diocesan Catechetical Leader

Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

Human Resources Generalist

St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington: Director of Nursing (DON) Up to \$7,500 Sign-On Bonus

St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

St. Mark Parish, Burlington: Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Randolph, Bethel: Accompanist

### vermontcatholic.org/careers



As of Dec. 14, 2021: **\$1,875,133** To learn more of make a gift visit vermontcatholic.org/giveonline



Monday	December 27, 2021
8:00 ÅM	Joseph Cohill by Norm & Bonny Picard
11:30 AM	Mass at OLP Chapel No public attendance
Tuesday	December 28
8:00 ÅM	Janet Bouffard by Norm & Bonny Picard
11:30 AM	Mass at OLP No public attendance
Wednesday	December 29
8:00 AM	Ann & Mike McKenzie, 60th Wedding
	Anniv. By Aline Gingras
11:30 AM	Mass at OLP No public attendance
Thursday	December 30
8:00 AM	Donald LeDuc by Family
11:30 AM	Mass at OLP No public attendance
6 to 7 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	December 31
8:00 AM	Tri Van (Peter) Nguyen by Family
11:30 AM	Mass at OLP No public attendance
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<u>Masses for Feast of Mary Mother of God</u>	
4:00 PM	Intentions of Parishioners
Saturday	January 1, 2022
10:00 AM	Ntegukongirwa Gasper by Wife & Children
****	*******
4:00 PM	Philip Dezotell by M/M Walter Dezotell
Sunday	<b>T O</b>
	January 2
7:30 ÅM	Living & Deceased Members of the

9:00 AMBecky Read by Family11:00 AMIntentions of Parishioners

# <u>PARISH SUPPORT</u>

November 28, 2021\$	5,890.00
Online Giving Offertory ( 66 Givers)\$	2,207.00
Weekly Average ( July 1st Week 22)\$	8,819.43
Weekly Goal\$	8,500.00
<u>December 5, 2021</u> \$	7,094.00
Online Giving Offertory (72 Givers)\$	2,967.00
Weekly Average ( July 1st Week 23)\$	8,873.41
Weekly Goal	8,500.00
School Support	5 1,509.00
Online Giving School (30 Givers)	<b>833.00</b>
December 12, 2021	6,348.00
Online Giving Offertory (67 Givers)	\$ 2,585.00
Weekly Average ( July 1st Week 24)\$	8,875.90
Weekly Goal	

Thank you for your continued support

# **Guardian Angel Prayer**

Angel of God My Guardian Dear To whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side

To light and guard to rule and guide. Amen

# The Winooski Knights of Columbus



The Winooski Knights of Columbus meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Senior Center at 7 PM. Any man 18 years of age or older wishing to join the Knights should contact; *Grand Knight Greg Clairmont at 343-8446 or* 

listandsellvt@gmail.com or Deputy Grand Knight Greg Bolger at 660-9044 or <u>gbolger@ccnne.com</u> For additional information about the Knights of Columbus visit our web site <u>www.wkofc.org</u> and "like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Winooskikofc2284

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## "For I was hungry and you gave me food" Matthew 25: 35-40

Our St. Francis Xavier parish community is partnering with the new Winooski Food Shelf to help feed our neighbors in need. This parish is an extremely valuable partner in providing the consistent donations of food to the many people coming for assistance. The WFS is grateful for your sustained commitment of providing donations each week and your generosity continues to serve families in need. <u>There is a strong need right</u> <u>now for toiletries such as shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable razors. Non-perishable food items for distribution such as cereal, tomato paste, and canned food are always appreciated.</u>

Collection boxes are placed in the church vestibule and delivered to the Food Shelf each week.

Your donations may also be dropped off at: J & J Market 12 Malletts Bay Ave. or at Commodities Market on Winooski Falls Way.

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The St. Vincent DePaul Center The St. Vincent DePaul Center will be closed on the following days during the month of December: Thursday, December 23 Tuesday, December 28

Thursday, December 30

#### The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is Open at St. Mark Parish

Located in the Family Center

1251 North Ave., Burlington All are invited to participate in this opportunity for prayer in the presence of Our Lord. Every day from 7 AM to 9 PM. If

you were previously signed up for a day and time before Covid, you are still on at that time. If you would like to sign up or adjust your hour to another day or time, please go to our website: stmarksvt.weadorehim.com or contact the parish office at 864-7686 or stmark@vermontcatholic.org.

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#### **St. Therese of Lisieux's Daily Offering** Oh my God!

I offer You all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to His infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them in the furnace of His merciful love.

Oh my God!

I ask of You for myself and for those dear to me the grace to fulfill perfectly Your holy will, to accept for love of You the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in Heaven for all eternity. Amen.

#### The Cares Catholic Network: St. Francis Xavier Health & Wellness Ministry

*Compassion, Advocacy, Respite, Education, Service* We are three Mercy Associates who are working with the Parish Nurse to collect and redistribute medical equipment in an effort to help those in need have a better quality of life. We are seeking wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, adult diapers, bed pads and other related equipment (good condition only, please). If you have any equipment that you would like to donate of if you are in need of equipment, please call 863-8508 or578-9920 and ask for Monique.

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#### Joseph, The Man With Many Worries By Mary J. Joachim

There was a man and his name was Joseph, and he was hurrying toward the bus stop. He wasn't feeling too well and the temperature was below zero. The biting wind felt like knives piercing against his exposed skin. He had spent the whole night, before, worrying about the bills that he just knew were going to be piling up. His place of work was closing down in two weeks. Just before Christmas. Joseph worries that it may be necessary to pick up roots in order to find a new job, maybe even move to another state. Worst of all, how was he going to break this news to his wife and children? He felt infuriated and scared every time he thought about the prospect of losing his job. However, Joseph kept pushing himself to keep walking in spite of the cold, though he'd rather turn around, go home, and climb back into bed.

As Joseph returns home from work, he is worrying about uprooting his family. They love their little town so much. As he walks through the door his wife notices that her husband is hunched over a little. Though she isn't expecting what his news is going to be, Joseph sits her down and explains that his place of work is closing. He is stunned. She isn't upset, she looks peaceful. She says, "Joseph we must place all of our trust in God. He will help us in our time of need. We can't lose hope now." On the other hand, Joseph isn't so sure. He isn't sure of anything anymore. He needs to consider all of his options. After all, this Joseph is a man with many worries.

That night, as usual, he can't sleep. He sits in his recliner and turns on the television. He can't find a descent movie to watch so he switches to the news. News! It's always the same, very negative. Where's the hope in watching the news? There is always too much arguing and too much anger. No one can agree on anything. Joseph doesn't need that. He already feels anger deep in his soul. There's no sense in feeding it more junk. He switches off the television.

Next he reaches over and picks up the bible his wife was reading before she went to bed. He opens it and the mark she placed was at the narrative of the birth of Jesus. He touches the page and the name Joseph jumps out at him. St. Joseph, he thought, never had that many problems that God didn't solve for him. Didn't God always make the paths easy for St. Joseph? However, as he sits there it feels as if someone has rubbed glue all over his hand and pressed it to this page.

What he reads next will change his life forever. Yes, he has never stopped to think that St. Joseph, also, was a man with many worries. This is a new way for him to observe St. Joseph. As he continues reading, St. Joseph's faith jumps out at him. St. Joseph was a man with strong character and great trust in God.

He reads from the book of Matthew 1: 18-20,21, When his (Jesus) mother was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.

For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Next he reads from Matthew 2: 13,19, When they (Magi) had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt....Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him....When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel for those who sought the child's life are dead."

His wife had placed, for a bookmark, a prayer card to St. Joseph from Saint Lawrence Seminary that would eventually become a part of his daily prayer: *Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day. You protected and cherished the Virgin; loving the Child Jesus as your son, you rescued him from danger and death. Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the blood of Christ. Guardian of the holy family, be with us in our trials. May your prayers obtain for us, the strength to flee from error and wrestle with the powers of evil, so that in this life we may grow in holiness and in death rejoice in the crown of victory. Amen.* 

As he finishes the prayer his eyes are welling up with tears. He realizes that St. Joseph had to give up his carpentry shop as well as keep Mary and her unborn child safe, while traveling rough terrain to Bethlehem. He had to witness Jesus' birth in a stable, and he had to travel with his wife and newborn child to a country where he didn't even know the language. He did all this to accomplish the will of God. Yes, St. Joseph was a man with many worries and his worries came from being a husband, a father and his family's protector. Nevertheless, he was a man filled with great joy and trust. In resembling his wife Mary, he didn't question the will of God.

St. Francis Xavier Faith Formation (802) 399 - 0097

acoulter@sfxvt.org Faith Formation Office Hours: Monday - Friday

# **Catechetical Ministers and Aides:**

As a Faith Community, we are called to share our faith and witness to the Gospel in our lives. As a Catechist or Aide, you are invited to journey with our young people in the parish as they cultivate and grow their relationship with the Lord. This ministry both enables you to grow as a faith-filled Catholic and has the added benefit of nurturing and inspiring the lives of others. We invite you to consider a call to serving and sharing the love of God in your life. We will provide training, education, support, and guidance to ensure your success and confidence in this endeavor. Please contact Andrew Coulter at 802 - 399 - 0097 or acoulter@sfxvt.org for more information.



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