

**Edmundite
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Message from Fr. Brian Cummings, S.S.E.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Advent is a special time that is easily overlooked amidst the busyness of Thanksgiving and the commercial hype as we progress towards Christmas. However, Advent can be a peaceful and reflective time if we choose to make it such. The season of Advent presents us with the opportunity to ponder the mysteries of our faith. Through the Advent biblical figures of John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and in the writings of Isaiah and St. Paul, we are invited each day to pause amidst the hectic world we live in to pray for the much needed coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

One of the most frequently conveyed messages in the bible to various individuals or groups of people is not to be afraid. When the angel Gabriel appeared in the Annunciation inviting Mary to consider her important role in the salvation of all people, the Angel's first words after the initial greeting were: "Do not be afraid, Mary." Likewise the Angel said to Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife." And Isaiah writes: "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!" Fear is a natural and sometimes lifesaving response to a real or perceived threat in our life.

I think it is important for us to know and understand our fears. In our world today there is much fear about many things. The way we cope with this fear as individuals and as a nation will have profound implications on how we treat others and how safe our country will be. Fear can be a prime motivator to action or cause us to flee. Knowing and understanding our fears can be a first step in facing them. Once we know them, we can become aware of God's presence with us in a particular way and listen to the words of scripture: "Be not afraid." This Advent, it might benefit all of us to pray to God with our fears trusting in his power to help us through them. When we are truly afraid we reach for the God who is Emmanuel, God with us, who is ready to respond.

We in Edmundite Campus Ministry wish you a prayerful Advent and a joyful Christmas. May the God of endurance and encouragement be with you during these holy seasons, and let us walk in the light of the Lord, for our salvation is near!

Sincerely,

Brian J. Cummings, SSE

Fr. Brian J. Cummings, SSE
Director



December 2016

Saint Michael's College



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

Advent Focus 2016

*Let us walk in the light of the Lord,
for our salvation is near.*

CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Christmas Vigil, Saturday,
December 24th at 8:00 pm.**

**Christmas Day, Sunday, De-
cember 25th at 11:00 am.**

**New Year's Day (Mary, the
Holy Mother of God), Sun-
day, January 1st at 11:00 am.**

**Worshipping Community
Program**

**December 3rd: Advent Even-
ing of Reflection.** 6:00 to 7:30
p.m. in the Edmundite Dining
Hall. All are welcome to join us
for a simple meal and reflection
on the readings throughout the
season of Advent. RSVP is re-

quired; please contact Anna
Lester at 654.2897.

**Lessons & Carols: December
9th, 7:00 pm:** This year, the
College Chorale, accompanied
by a professional string ensem-
ble, rings in the Christmas sea-
son with a suite of traditional
carols arranged by the great Eng-
lish composer, Ralph Vaughan
Williams, and members of the
College community read tradi-
tional lessons foreshadowing the
recounting the Birth of Christ.
Come join in the cheer and sing
along. Free admission.

**December 4th: A second col-
lection will be taken up for
"Retirement Fund for Reli-
gious."** Please give to those
who have given a lifetime.

MASSES

Sunday

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm
(Last 7:00 p.m. Mass on 12/11)

Mondays

11:30 am & 4:30 pm

Tuesday-Friday

11:30 am

MORNING PRAYER

Monday-Friday

7:40 am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th

11:30 am & 4:30 pm

MASS IN SPANISH

Will resume in February

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

January 1, 2017 10:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Sunday, December 18th

After each Mass

or by appointment any time

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

Checks should be payable to “St. Michael’s Chapel”. Write “RFR” on the memo line.

December 18th: Saint Michael’s College presents **A Festival of Gregorian Chant: Seasonal and Organ Music** by the **VT Gregorian Chant Schola** under the direction **Professor Emeritus William Tortolano**, at **3:00 pm** in the **Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel**. The Schola will perform the *Mass of the Angels* as well as liturgical rounds from France, Josquin des Pres and Jacques Clement. Vocal soloist Rosemary Rogers will sing a setting of the *Ave Maria* by Marcel Dupré. No admission fee. Donations to St. Anne’s Shrine are welcome.

30th Annual Twelfth Night Celebration: January 7th at 6:30 pm, featuring the Essex Children’s Choir. Twelfth Night is a collaboration between the choir and adult artists, a holiday tradition of song, dance, instruments, and narrative. This joyous occasion, enhanced by the beauty of the chapel, artistry of the musicians, and audience participation, brings to close the celebration of Christmas. Donations requested. Snow date: January 8th at 4:30 pm. This event is held in the Chapel. For more information, call 863-9161.

March for Life Pilgrimage, January 26-28, 2017: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington will sponsor a bus trip to our nation’s capitol for Catholic teens and their chaperones to attend the March for Life, with buses leaving from Burlington, Vergennes, Rutland and Bennington, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This trip will include an overnight hotel stay, attendance at the Rally for Life, the March for Life, and visits to the National Shrines of the Immaculate Con-

ception, Pope St. John Paul II and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. A second bus for individual adults and those travelling with their own children to attend the Rally and March for Life on January 27 will offer a shortened itinerary and overnight bus travel (no hotel stay). Contact Carrie Handy for more information on cost and registration. 802.658.6110.

One in Christ Weekend for engaged couples, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington is open to any couple preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church. Through presentations by trained married couples and a Catholic priest, each couple is invited to deepen their faith and to better understand the Christ-centered nature of Sacramental marriage. Held at beautiful St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte. **April 28—30, 2017.** Contact Lori Daudelin at the Diocese (802.658.6110, ext. 1131) or email (Ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org) for information.

Faculty & Staff Programs

Partners in Ministry: Thursday, December 8th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Eddie’s lounge, 2nd Floor Alliot Hall). We will be continuing the reading *Do You Love Me?: Jesus Questions the Church* (Chpts. 9 & 10) by Michael Crosby. Light pot luck/snacks are welcome. Contact Stephanie Noakes, snoakes@smcvt.edu or 881-5131 All are welcome!

Pontigny Society: Will resume on **February 6, 2017.** Please contact Fr. Marcel Rainville, SSE at 654.2848 for further information. To receive notices, please subscribe to the TPS mailing list on the portal page.



VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student-led programs include:

- **Link:** A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. Everyone is welcome to join us! **Wednesday, December 7th; 8:00 to 9:00 pm** in the Upper Room of the Chapel.
- **Dessert & the Divine:** Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! **Our next gathering will be November 30th; 8:00 pm** in the Upper Room, Chapel. Please contact Anna Lester for more information at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu.
- **Connections:** Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. Dates/time TBA. Alliot 125 (Anna Lester's office).

Retreat Opportunities

EMMAUS - February 17-19, 2017: This Retreat is a student-led, weekend retreat based on Ignatian spirituality which emphasizes “seeing God in all things.” Emmaus will provide you with the opportunity to meet new people, reflect on your spiritual journey, pray with the Scriptures, share your faith with other students and faculty/staff, and take some time out of your busy life to rest. Best of all, you will become reacquainted with God’s unconditional love revealed by Jesus Christ. **Application deadline: January 27, 2017.** Contact Anna Lester at 654.2897 or Alester@smcvt.edu.

LEAP - March 3rd - 5th, 2017: LEAP is a unique, communal and deeply personal experience which builds upon talks, activities and group dynamics. The weekend includes a series of presentations that explores the meaning of commitment, peace, prayer and faith in one’s life. It is an opportunity to deepen one’s understanding of self and others within the context of a believing Christian Community centered around the Eucharist. Contact Rev. Marcel Rainville at 654.2848. **Applications will be collected through January 17th.**

M.O.V.E. Activities

International Market: December 7th thru 10th: Shop for holiday gifts from around the world and support our international service programs. Alliot Hall, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Donations are welcome; please contact Lara Scott or Allison Cleary at 654.2901.



Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen