A Rivier Christmas

Rivier University kicked off the holidays with a community celebration and tree-lighting event on the Chapel Quad Thursday.

"One of the beauties of Christmas is its ability to bring people together and to bring warmth during the coldest time of the year," said Michael Carr, class of 2016 student and president of the Student Government Association, which sponsored the event.

Joined by the campus and Greater Nashua community, the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony included music, a blessing and the signature tree-lighting event.

"As Advent prepares our hearts for Christmas, we are thankful to come together and celebrate the start of the season with our extended campus community," Carr said in a press statement.

Rivier President Sister Paula Marie Buley, led the countdown to the lighting, with children surrounding the front of the tree. Campus Chaplain Brother Paul Demers, offered a Christmas blessing.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand, and the Rev. Regina Shearer, associate vice president for student success, performed "O Holy Night" and "The Christmas Song."

Nashua ... From the Inside was compiled by Kathryn Marchocki and Tina Forbes.