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Sunday, August 23, 2020



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

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PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor ttran@rcav.org; frtientran9@gmail.com
Rev. Lucio Choi, Asst. Pastor lchoi@rcav.org
 604-589-2083 Rectory

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
 604-589-2448 office@saintmatthews.ca

Parish Admin: Ms. Caroline P. Mrazek
 Mrs. Stephanie Chessell
 Mrs. Anna G. De Leon

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Melanie A. Narvaez
P.R.E.P.: Mrs. Trish Van Vliet prep@saintmatthews.ca

Maintenance: Mr. Lorne Ward lorne@saintmatthews.ca
Elementary School: 604-589-7545 www.stmatthewselementary.ca
Preschool: 604-589-1222

REGULAR MASS TIMES

SUNDAY: English Masses - 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 7:30 PM; Vietnamese Mass 5 PM; African: Last Sunday 12:30 PM (Mass in English with African Choir)

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM / Anticipated Mass at 5:30 PM

WEEKDAYS: Monday to Friday (except TUESDAY) 8:00 AM
 Tuesday 7:00 PM
 Friday Night—Mass at 7:00 PM (Vietnamese)
 ***except First Friday (in English)

CONFESSIONS
 Half an hour before mass, pls. advise the usher for a priest to be called.
 OR, call or email the office to book an appointment.
OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING

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REGULAR DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary
 20 minutes before daily Mass

Divine Mercy
 Tuesday after the 7 PM Mass

Our Lady of Fatima
 3rd Monday of the month 6:30-7 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 Saturday after the 9 AM Mass

First Friday
 After the 8 AM Mass - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 12:00 noon Benediction
 6:25 PM—Holy Rosary

PROJECT ADVANCE 2020 Our Catholic Response to the Crisis

Please consider giving to Project Advance to help vulnerable individuals and families during this time, as well as supporting our Parish needs and other ministries of evangelization and outreach. Please see our website for details.

SUNDAY MASS REGISTRATION

St. Matthew's regular Sunday Mass schedule will continue to be live streamed on our YouTube channel. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted by the Archbishop.

Parishioners are required to register in advance by clicking <https://saintmatthews.ca/pages/mass-registration> or by phoning the parish office. Registration for all weekend Masses opens on Tuesdays at 10am and closes each Friday at 7:00 pm. Please do not register for more than one Sunday Mass every two weeks (including Saturday Anticipated Mass) so we can accommodate more people.
(see additional guidelines inside)

ATTENTION NEWCOMERS AND NON-REGISTERED PARISHIONERS:
 Please take the time to fill out our Parish Registration Form found behind the counter by the Parish Office, if you have not done so yet. Thank you.

APPEAL TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

- ⇒ Please be mindful that the hymn books in the pews are **not toys**.
- ⇒ Please take a minute to restore them in the right order in the pews.
- ⇒ Garbage should be disposed of in receptacles provided.

BAPTISM: By appointment with a minimum of 2 months' notice (during pregnancy) so that instructions can be given to parents and godparents about the duties and responsibilities assumed in this Sacrament.

MARRIAGE: A minimum of 6 months' notice with one of the parties registered in the parish and practicing his/her faith. The Marriage Preparation course is mandatory. Please ask for "Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage".

FUNERALS: Please call the parish office before making arrangements.



The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.

For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?

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LIVE THE LITURGY

To stand in the presence of God is to stand in the presence of incomprehensible mystery. We are people of proofs and facts. With good reason, we are becoming more doubtful of what presents itself to us, as technology makes it easy to fabricate false images and distort what is actually true. What we think is real actually may not be. We become skeptical. Does this skepticism affect our relationship with God? To have faith in God means that we must be willing to trust in the absence of full knowledge. To know the mind of God means we would know God himself, and that is impossible. To acknowledge Jesus as the Christ means we acknowledge that the reality and presence of an incarnate God has a fundamental claim on who we are. When we name this truth, we participate in a depth of knowledge that stretches us far beyond the scope of our minds. It brings us to silence, which is the only way to touch our soul.

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Stewardship Reflection

The Choice of Stewardship

What does it mean to be a good steward? Does it mean to be an active parishioner, or something more? Are we better stewards because we give more in terms of our money and time to our parish, or are we called to do even more than that?

The truth is that stewardship is a way of life. We are not simply called to be active parishioners, but instead be active disciples all the time. In fact, what we learn to do in our parish should serve as preparation for the mission field of the world. What have we really done if we only act like disciples of Jesus Christ while we are assembled with others who claim to be the same?

The choice before us is to give of ourselves in all aspects of our day and life. The call of Jesus will come in our everyday lives with our co-workers, family, and friends more often than it will within our parish community. First, if we can't become good stewards when we are among those who proclaim Jesus as Lord, how will we be able to do so when we are with those who are non-believers? Second, when our muscles of gratitude, generosity, and graciousness are strengthened within our parish community, we are more able to meet the challenges of this world. However, we do not become good stewards by accident. We must always choose to live this way. What will you choose?

– Tracy Earl Welliver

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CONTACT LIST—ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH MINISTRIES

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| African Community | Ms. Tina Obiwumma | aneledom@hotmail.ca |
| Altar Servers | Mrs. Teodora Suzuki | teodora.suzuki@gmail.com |
| Altar Women | Mrs. Zenaide Teixeira / Mrs. Margaret Pereira | 604-582-8818 |
| BLD Community | M/M Lito & Lulu Imperial | jimperial324@live.com |
| Bible Study | Mrs. Gail Estrada | bible_study@live.com |
| Catholic Women's League | Mrs. Louise Klaponski | klaponsk@telus.net |
| Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS) | Fr. Lucio Choi | lchoi@rcav.org |
| Choirs: Fri | Mr. Hahn Nguyen | henryq.nguyen@yahoo.ca |
| Sat | Mr. Danilo Bernabe | dannybernabe9@gmail.com |
| Sun | Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean | grosjean@shaw.ca |
| | Mr. Peter Luongo | sluongo@telus.net |
| | Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes | askmymusic@rocketmail.com |
| (last Sunday) | Ms. Tina Obiwuma | aneledom@hotmail.ca |
| | Mr. Vincent Nguyen | vien4cdsurrey@gmail.com |
| | Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze | nannettelg@gmail.com |
| Couples for Christ | M/M Cris & Ophel Quidasol | cris_quidasol@icloud.com |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | Mrs. Deborah Joel | djoel@positec.com |
| Fifty Plus Group | Mr. Andre Maris | anne_andre_maris@telus.net |
| Greeters & Gift Bearers | Mrs. Stella Lemos | stella.lemos15@gmail.com |
| Hospitality Committee | Mrs. Maureen Fadum | mgfadum@gmail.com |
| Knights of Columbus | Mr. Richard Thompson | grandknight@shaw.ca |
| Lectors | Mr. Jon Javier | jon2ejavier@yahoo.com |
| Legion of Mary | Mrs. Carmen Caballero | 604-589-2448 |
| Liturgy of the Word for Children | Mrs. Nenita Capili | capilin@shaw.ca |
| Our Lady of Fatima | Mrs. Germana Brotto | grbrotto@gmail.com |
| Pro Life Ministry | Mrs. Teresa Gares | tgares@live.com |
| Parish Education Committee | Mrs. Katrina Bellosillo | katrina.amurao@gmail.com |
| Parish Pastoral Council | Mr. Bill Bouwman | bouwbill@gmail.com |
| R.C.I.A. | Fr. Lucio Choi | lchoi@rcav.org |
| St. Matthew's Prayer Group | Ms. Christie Castro | christie1225@hotmail.com |
| St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen | Mrs. Belle Carson | bellecarson@hotmail.com |
| St. Vincent de Paul Society | Mr. Eric Andres | 604-589-2448 |
| Sports Ministry (Basketball) | Mr. Marlowe Billedo | marlowe25@hotmail.com |
| Sports Ministry (Volleyball) | Mr. Tot Phan | totphan@gmail.com |
| Ushers | Mr. Doug Thomas | dougjamesthomas@hotmail.com |
| Vietnamese Community | Mr. Hoang Minh Nguyen | nhoang682@gmail.com |
| Youth Ministry | Ms. Eleanor Wong | eleanorwong@aol.com |

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PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Dear PREP Families:

A Big **THANK YOU** once again to all the catechists and assistants who shared their faith with the young people of our parish this past year. We are so blessed to have such an amazing group of people!

We are in need of catechists and assistants for the fall. Catechist application forms are available in PREP tub on the wall or on-line. Vanspec has a great need for catechists/assistants to help our special needs students as some of our volunteer staff have moved away and graduated. We are also in need of a Site Coordinator for Vanspec please contact the Prep or Vanspec office for more details. This is a volunteer position.

PREP Registration is now available for pick-up in the PREP wall tub next to the parish office. On-line Registration and payment is available. This is an option and not the only route to registration! Paper registration forms with cheque or cash payment can be dropped off during office hours or put into the parish mailbox. We cannot accept paper registrations with notations to be paid by "Credit Card". This is available as an on-line registration form/payment only at the time of registration.

We anticipate classes to begin **October 7th**. Early bird rates will apply.

How classes will be administered is yet to be determined.

Grade 7 Confirmation class of 2020 – SAVE THE DATE: September 26 & 27, 2020
We will be having our Gr. 7 Retreat – My Seven from Heaven on the weekend of September 26 & 27. How that retreat will be happen is yet to be determined but we are anticipating numbers for events to increase by that point....please pray for this so our students can do this as the Confirmation Class of 2020 together! It will be held at the parish with our dedicated Service Team.

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be held in the Fall. Dates and times to be determined as restrictions and guidelines are released.

Please do not hesitate to contact the PREP office via email or telephone with any questions or concerns. I am checking my emails and voice mail weekly until I return to regular hours.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon, until then....many blessings to you all for a Safe and Healthy Summer.
Trish Van Vliet—prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-589-2448 ext. 233

CWL Corner

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is celebrating it's 100th Anniversary in 2020! The 100th national convention had to be cancelled however the renowned speakers that were to present to convention in Montreal were featured in "The Summer Speaker Series Webinars" last week. NOW these presentations are available on the CWL website! The speakers were relevant and informative and interesting! If you have a chance please take a peek and prepare to be amazed. See <https://cwl.ca/re-watch-the-summer-speaker-series-webinars/> or go to the bottom of the home page www.cwl.ca for the news updates.

St. Matthew's Prayer Group

During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the prayer group meets every Mondays (via Zoom) from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm to experience God's love in a personal way through the power of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to join us, experience the peace and joy in praise and worship through spiritual music and songs. You can also email your prayer requests to SPMGPrayerline@hotmail.com and this prayer community will join in praying for your request. Please send us a note when your prayer is answered. Thank you!

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Pray For... Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Ryker Slaney; Carol Ward; Liz Da Costa; Erwin & Annemarie Belgardt; Tommy Contreras; Walter Slaney; Victor Miller; Gerry Della Mattia; Daisy Rodriguez; Thea Luyten; Nora Bawasanta; Julie Cunningham; Helen Stote; Rosa Villarama; Elmer Kachur; Horst & Elsa Seliger; Romualdo Nicdao; Josefina & Teodulfo Hosain; Nenita Cabilan; Dr. Demetrio Tamparia; Loida Tobias; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; Anton Carriedo; Ilse Van Brakel; Madge Vecchio; David Keenan; Alberto Ordonez; Carl Erveen Santa Ana; Colleen Salmon; Teresita Dimaano; Marie Petines; Irene Collingwood; Karen Guinto; Felix Djuhari; Bill Cabading; Sueann Zore; Andrew Stephens; Andrew De Leon; Demetrio Tamparia

Priority on this list is given to parishioners, as space permits. Names will be removed from time to time. If you submit a name to the Prayer List, it is your responsibility to inform the office should his/her circumstances change.



Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima

Please recite the Holy Rosary daily

Please include in your prayers **+Andrew Stephens and +Jean Pierre Pesch** who have gone home to the Lord. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Were you married outside the Catholic Church?

If you are married, but were not married in the Catholic church, we would like to offer you an opportunity to have your marriage regularized with the Church. Please make an appointment with our priest to discuss having your marriage convalidated.

Sacrament of the Sick. What was referred to as "Last Rites" is now called "Anointing of the Sick" administered by a priest when one is "in danger" due to sickness or old age. Please call the Parish Office to arrange.

Hospital/Care Home Communion Visits. Please remember to let the Parish Office know whenever you or a loved one is hospitalized or moved into a Fleetwood area care home. The Parish has a dedicated group of people who will bring Holy Communion weekly to you or yours. Please phone **Deacon Raul Abella 778-512-9163** for a visit and to receive Holy Communion.

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Is Jesus a "part" of your life or is He at the "center" of your life as He should be?

We invite you to make Him the center of your life by joining us for this exciting series entitled: **Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and The Life**, a 10-week video study program that explores the entirety of Jesus' life and what He means for us as Catholics today.

St. Matthew Parish will begin the **Jesus** study on **Thursday, September 24th** from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation by Marcelino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri, followed by a lively group discussion and fellowship.

For more information or to register, contact Gail at: bible_study@live.com or you can register and obtain course material at the Parish office. We hope you can join us!

Upper Room Conference 2020
At the Upper Room Conference, you will hear from incredible speakers, be able to connect with other disciples and gain insight and resources on how to live out your mission call in your homes and communities. We'll have times of worship, prayer, community, and hear from amazing speakers like Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. John Riccardo, Pete Burak, Matt Maher, and Archbishop J. Michael Miller.

This year's conference marks one year since the launch of the Proclaim movement in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Led by the vision of Archbishop Michael to see the Gospel shared, the heart of the Upper Room comes back to the prodding of the Holy Spirit in our city. The Upper Room Conference will be streamed live on **Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm**. You can watch the live stream from the comfort of your home or with others at select parish host sites. Registration coming soon to upperroomvancouver.com

Join us as we listen to the Holy Spirit and respond to God's call in our Archdiocese. This is your invitation to see God move.

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