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PARISH OFFICE

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Rev. Lucio Choi, Asst. Pastor lchoi@rcav.org

Dcn. Raffaele Salvino, Deacon rsalvino@rcav.org

604-589-2083 Rectory

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
604-589-2448 office@saintmatthews.ca

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

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Ma. Lourdes Tejada

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

Sunday, December 6, 2020



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 "Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

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
 Call or email the office to book an appointment.

OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING



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 <https://saintmatthews.ca/> for details.

SUNDAY MASS REGISTRATION

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE TO ALL MASSES IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Our parish is adopting a new system of attending Sunday Mass, once we are allowed back to celebrate mass with a public congregation. The first step is filling out the form you received in an email from our parish 'Flocknote' called 'Sunday Mass Preferences Survey'.

If you have not received it, check your junk folder OR sign up by going to our parish homepage and clicking the button with the picture of a blue sheep.

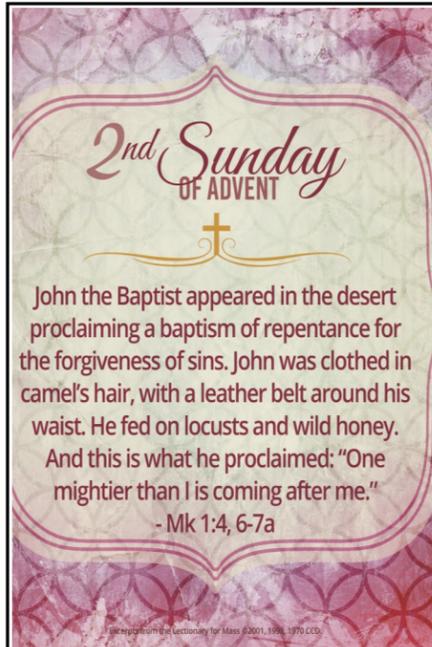
- * Only one response per family is allowed.
- * If you or your family members serve in a ministry, your response does not affect your involvement. Your ministry head will give you further details.
- * Since we have to move all our communication online, an email is required in order to attend Mass, so please sign up for Flocknote!

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.

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.



John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when He comes, do you? After all, if He comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, He may catch you off guard. Or, He may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize Him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate His coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for Him to come again? If not, why not?

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LIVE THE LITURGY

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.

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Stewardship Reflection

Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

— 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 |
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| Liturgy of the Word for Children | Mrs. Germana Brotto | grbrotto@gmail.com |
| Our Lady of Fatima | Mrs. Teresa Gares | tgares@live.com |
| Pro Life Ministry | Mrs. Katrina Bellosillo | katrina.amurao@gmail.com |
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| R.C.I.A. | Ms. Christie Castro | christie1225@hotmail.com |
| St. Matthew's Prayer Group | Mrs. Belle Carson | bellecarson@hotmail.com |
| St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen | Mr. Eric Andres | 604-589-2448 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Society | Mr. Marlowe Billedo | marlowe25@hotmail.com |
| Sports Ministry (Basketball) | Mr. Tot Phan | totphan@gmail.com |
| Sports Ministry (Volleyball) | Mr. Doug Thomas | dougjamestomas@hotmail.com |
| Ushers | Mr. Hoang Minh Nguyen | nhoang682@gmail.com |
| Vietnamese Community | Ms. Eleanor Wong | eleanorwong@aol.com |
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Archdiocesan Day of Mercy

Archbishop Miller has set aside **December 12**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as a dedicated Day of Mercy. The particular day itself will see vast opportunities throughout the Archdiocese for people to prepare their hearts to receive Jesus at Christmas by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Visit rcav.org/christmas to learn more about the numerous opportunities for Reconciliation on the Day of Mercy and throughout Advent.

St. Matthew's Day of Mercy Schedule—December 12

10:00AM—12:00PM

2:00PM—4:00PM

Additional Confessions During Advent

December 5 Saturday 11:00AM—12:00PM

December 19 Saturday 3:00PM—4:00PM

St. Matthew's Prayer Group

The St. Matthew's Prayer Group meets every Mondays (via Zoom) from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Come join us praise, sing, pray and share the word of God with joy! We will bring your needs and concerns before the merciful Lord during our prayer meetings. To join the Zoom meetings or to submit your prayer request, please email smppgprayerline@hotmail.com. You can also drop your prayer intentions in the prayer box located at the Welcome Centre and we will offer your requests to the Sacred heart of Jesus every first Friday of the month.



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PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Dear PREP Families: IMPORTANT UPDATE

PLEASE NOTE ALL FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING.

Teachers will contact students weekly to arrange for a ZOOM or other platform to carry out classes until the end of the year. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate through the next few weeks. We feel that extending the time till the end of the schedule for 2020 will allow for alternative platform of teaching to formulate. Please continue to watch the bulletin weekly on the parish website for more updates.

Mass is being live streamed each week please tune in off the parish website! Instruction for receiving Communion and Confession are available on the website as well!

Gr. 7 -Mass Journals began last weekend.

Thank you to all the Gr. 7 students who contributed food etc. items for St. Vincent de Paul and to those who completed cards for the widows of the parish! Thank you for being the light to so many this Advent!

Saint's Projects can be dropped off during parish office hours or put into the mailbox.

Interviews – please continue to study questions as per binder and information will be sent via email as to how they will be conducted along with Confessions.

PRE-SCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN – ZOOM classes have started.

Gr 1 – hosted by Janet Ali and assistants via ZOOM began November 25th.

Gr. 2 – hosted by Josephine Copon and assistants are being hosted via ZOOM began November 25th.

Grade 3 – Joyce Baniqued - Zoom began November 18th.

Grade 4 – Shawn Chessell (teacher) and Brian Bui (assistant) via ZOOM began on November 25th.

Grade 5 – continues via ZOOM with Nenita Capili.

Gr 6 – ZOOM began last week with Google Classroom follow-up.

Gr. 7 – Hosted via Zoom by Matthew Furtado and Group Leaders

CIC1 – Bob Chessell will continue with ZOOM. Older children who are behind in their preparation for the sacrament of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation are part of this class.

CIC2 - Mary Ann Mafori continues via ZOOM.

Thank you to everyone for all your patience and understanding during this pandemic time and with Advent just around the corner.....be the light and share your blessings with others this Advent season!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THE PARISH WEBSITE/BULLETIN FOR WEEKLY UPDATES. FROM TIME TO TIME UPDATES MAY BE SENT FROM THE PREP OFFICE AND/OR TEACHER DIRECTLY VIA EMAIL.

Families who wish to register please contact the PREP office at prep@saintmatthews.ca for information. Registration is still available for some grades please check with the PREP office prior to registering on-line to see if there is still space. Gr. 7 is FULL.

Trish Van Vliet—prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-589-2448 ext. 233

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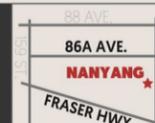
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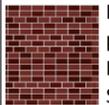


St. Vincent De Paul Society



Due to the recent Provincial Health Order restricting in-person attendance to all masses, there is no need to pick-up tags from the **Jesse Board**. Instead, donation of gift cards amounting to \$20 and up from Superstore, Walmart and Dollarama will be accepted at the Parish Office, or you may drop it in the Church mailbox **on or before December 18, 2020**. Thank you so much for your support.

Legacy Brick Campaign



Be a part of building our "Parish Centre" and leave a legacy donation that will live on past your lifetime, in memory of your support. We have a Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Brick board where your contributions will be placed. Platinum is worth \$2,000 and up, Gold is \$1,200.00; Silver is \$600.00; and Bronze is \$300.00. A donation can be a one-time donation or monthly payments through Pre-Authorized Offering Payment e.g. 12 monthly payments of \$25.00 is a \$300.00 Bronze Donation. When you make a donation, you will receive a "brick" to go onto one of 4 Brick Legacy boards. When the building is complete, these Brick Legacy boards will be placed along the wall so you can see who the builders are. The "brick" can be "in memory of" a loved one or simply a contribution from your family, organization or ministry. All donations stay in the Parish. Contact the Parish Office to make your Legacy Brick Donation and be part of the church builders.

Prayer 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; Teodulfo Hosain; Nenita Cabilan; Dr. Demetrio Tamparia; Loida Tobias; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; Anton Carriedo; Ilse Van Brakel; 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 De Leon; Demetrio Tamparia; Coring Ilagan; Rosendo Joe Paz; Judith Dilla

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 **+Louise Sprovieri** who has gone home to the Lord. May her soul 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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CWL Corner



Watch your mailboxes for the CWL mailout that is on its way! While you are doing some Christmas preparations, please take a moment to read it and fill in the membership form and mail it in with your cheque or drop it off at the parish office, all completed and sealed! The form has changed so it will need your attention .

ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2021-2022 APPLICATION FORMS FOR ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Application forms for the 2021-2022 school year for Kindergarten through Grade 7 will be available beginning **January 5, 2020** at the school office. For more information please contact the school office at 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca

The True Meaning of Christmas



While it may be cliché to say, the truth is that we can often lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas in the midst of all the planning and dealing with dysfunctional family dynamics. This talk is geared towards re-orienting our hearts to have the sentiments of the divine heart this Christmas towards ourselves, our family, and any suffering we may experience during this holy time. As we will see, the Incarnation of Christ was filled with suffering for the holy family, but also more deeply joy. This talk will reflect upon that paradoxical reality as well as what the birth of Christ says to who we are as persons, a truth worth rediscovering and accepting, again and again, especially those of us who have been rejected or forgotten at times in our families. Join us for this talk on **Thursday, Dec. 17 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm on Zoom Webinar**, followed by a small-group breakout session. Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events

Youth Ministry Second Collection



This weekend's second collection goes towards supporting Archdiocesan youth programs. 50% is returned to the parish for youth programs where applicable.

Give now at support.rcav.org/donate-second-collection

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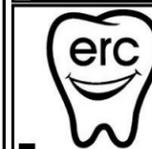
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Email: office@saintmatthews.ca Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

PASTOR: FR. TIEN TRAN ASST. PASTOR: FR. LUCIO CHOI

DEACON RAFFAELE SALVINO

24 November 2020

Dear St. Matthew's Parishioners,

As you know, public Masses have been suspended in our parish church in order to comply with the directives and guidance of the Premier and the Health Authorities in British Columbia. Archbishop Miller made this difficult decision after much prayer.

As your pastor, I continue to offer Mass each day, praying for each and all of you and asking the Lord to quickly bring an end to this pandemic, to heal the sick and suffering, to strengthen all our medical personnel, and to guide the minds and hearts of our researchers. As a parish, we continue to care for the spiritual and emotional needs of our people in person, by phone and internet, and through Sunday Mass on-line available through our website, Facebook page and YouTube.

As you will understand, parishioners have been asking how to continue to support the parish and make their regular contributions. The Archdiocese has set up a simple way for you to give online. This will make it easy for parishioners to support their own parish through a weekly or monthly gift made by credit card or direct debit. The funds will go directly to our parish.

To reach the donation site: www.rcav.org/sunday-offering

I am appealing to you to make this now your preferred way of continuing to fulfill your support to our church. Although you cannot attend Mass at this time, on-line giving will allow you a simple and easy way to demonstrate your commitment to the Parish.

Some of you have already made this or similar arrangements and I am grateful. I know that this is a difficult time for many of you financially and so I am especially mindful of your generosity, your sacrifices and your faith.

Let us pray that all may be made well soon and that we can meet again around the Altar of the Lord's Sacrifice in our beautiful parish St. Matthew's.

With my blessings,

Fr. Tien Tran