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 Tel: (604) 589-2448 Fax: (604) 589-2344  
 Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

*Sunday, December 13, 2020*



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Tien Tran,** Pastor ttran@rcav.org; frtrentan9@gmail.com

**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

**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.

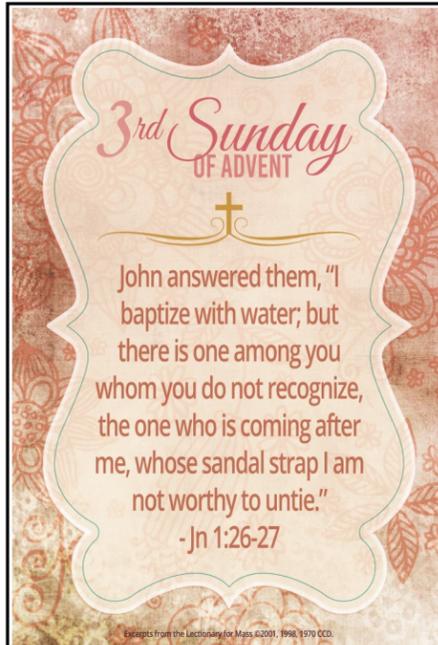
- \* Only one response per family is allowed.
- \* If you or your family members serve in a ministry, your response does not affect your involvement. Your ministry head will give you further details.
- \* Since we have to move all our communication online, an email is required in order to attend Mass,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



Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

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**LIVE THE LITURGY**

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

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**Stewardship Reflection**

**A Constant Companion**

*As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.*

*During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.*

*Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take Him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of Him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give Him all your time and let His presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation Himself.*

— 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          | Ms. Ariel Bejer                               | arielbejer@gmail.com        |
| Our Lady of Fatima                        | Mrs. Germana Brotto                           | grbroto@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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- ◇ A prayer card that describes why Jesus is the hope of us all.
- ◇ A blue milk chocolate ball.

Give a little token of hope to family, friends, or coworkers! The suggested donation is \$10/bag. Limited quantities available (and those cookies are freshly baked too, so act fast).

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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.**

Please continue to watch the bulletin weekly on the parish website for more updates and sign-up for Flocknote on the website. **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 have begun.**

Thank you to all the Gr. 7 students who contributed food items, etc. 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. They were due at Interviews on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the last class of the year for students. Classes will resume on January 13<sup>th</sup> – watch the website to see if they will be face-to-face or ZOOM.**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:prep@saintmatthews.ca) or call 604-589-2448 ext. 233

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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.



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

**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**

This Christmas season we focus on small and simple things...not our usual busy, noisy gatherings. We do this for our community. We pray for all of our members and parishioners who are health care workers, lab technicians, essential service workers. We ask Mary and Joseph who were alone, in a simple stable and far from loved ones on that first Christmas, to grant us peace, strength and endurance. Jesus, Mary and Joseph... Pray for us.

**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](mailto:office@stmatthewselementary.ca)

**A Gift of Music**

The annual **St. Matthew's Christmas Concert**, typically attended by 600-700 people, is our largest fundraiser for our St Vincent de Paul Society. This year's concert, however, will be presented online and available to *everyone!* Prepare a cup of hot chocolate, gather your friends, put on your favourite Christmas sweater and join us on **December 19th at 7:00 pm**. Please go to [Christmas Concert](#) to register.

**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 [smgp.prayerline@hotmail.com](mailto:smgp.prayerline@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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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](http://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