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 Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

Sunday, December 20, 2020



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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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
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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

Donations must be received by **December 31, 2020** to be counted for the 2020 tax receipt.

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.



In Blaise Pascal's work, Pensees, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in

eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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LIVE THE LITURGY

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp? ©LPI

Stewardship Reflection

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— 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 Dino/Sweden De Guzman	dino.deguzman@gmail.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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Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule (Livestream)

Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24) 8:00pm Vietnamese 10:00pm English Mass	New Year's Eve (Thursday, Dec. 31) 5:30pm English Mass
Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25) 9:00am English Mass 11:00am English Mass 5:00pm Vietnamese Mass	New Year's Day (Friday, Jan. 1) 10:30am English Mass 5:00pm Vietnamese Mass

Holy Cross Virtual Open House

Holy Cross Regional Secondary will be hosting a virtual Open House on **January 20, 2021**. Visit our website at www.holycross.bc.ca to register for the event. Our online application will coincide with the virtual Open House and families will be able to apply for the 2021/22 school year. Come and join Holy Cross Regional Secondary's community on January 20th to see and experience our school in a virtual setting. Looking forward to seeing you on January 20th.

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PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Dear PREP Families: IMPORTANT UPDATE

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. Please refer to the bulletin for the Christmas Mass schedule.

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 9th. Some are still outstanding. Please submit as soon as possible.

December 16th will be the last class of the year for students. Classes will resume on January 13th – please watch the bulletin/parish website for format for the January schedule

Thank you to all catechists and assistants who continue to support the PREP program and share their faith with our young people especially under the circumstances of the pandemic. May the Lord bless you and your families this Christmas season.

Thank you to all the parents for all their patience and understanding in rolling out our PREP program and under the extenuating circumstances of Covid-19. Please continue to watch the bulletin on the parish website for updates. Please continue to be the Light this Advent season So many need our prayers, patience and kindness!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Blessings,

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

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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; 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

A Special "Thank you" to all who helped to present the Christmas Concert Virtually this weekend! Such a Blessing to share in the Joy of the Music of Christmas!

Thank you to all the workers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul whose efforts help to meet the needs of families in our community with the donations from you!

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

Christmas Tree Chipping by Donation

St. Matthew's Knights of Columbus are accepting Christmas trees for chipping by donation, on **Saturday January 9 and Sunday January 10** at **St. Matthew's parking lot from 10 am to 4 pm.**

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 smpgprayerline@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

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