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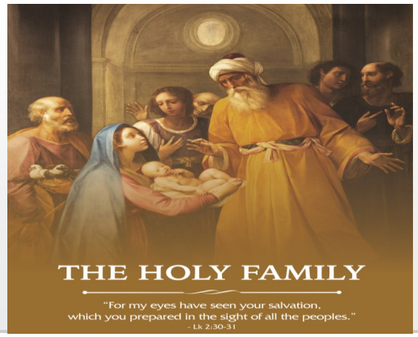
Sunday, December 27, 2020



PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran,	*Pastor*	*ttran@rcav.org;*	*frtientran9@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

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 god-parents 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.

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover His presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find Him and do His will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! ©LPi

Stewardship Reflection

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all His life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?
As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

– Tracy Earl Welliver
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LIVE THE LITURGY

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face. ©LPi

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of St. Matthew's Parish, together with Father Lucio Choi and Deacon Raffaele Salvino, I would like to wish everyone and your family a safe, healthy and Blessed Christmas Season! No doubt, this Christmas is not the same because of the pandemic. You cannot come to gather as a community of faith in the church to celebrate the Birth of Our Savior, but we trust that you are gathering as a family to participate in the livestreamed Mass to celebrate Christmas at home. Please don't forget that you could still come to church to receive Jesus in Holy Communion after the livestreamed Mass. Do come as a family to welcome Our Savior to your heart at Christmas and every Sunday in the Eucharist!

We would like to thank you all for your patience, perseverance, prayers, and generous support to our parish throughout this difficult time. In particular, we, at the rectory, are very grateful for all the Christmas cards, food, gifts that many have sent us over this holiday.

May the Saving Lord come and stay with you all to bless everyone with the fullness of life, peace, joy, happiness and good health during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year 2021.

Looking forwards to seeing you soon at church!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tien Tran, Fr. Lucio Choi and Deacon Raffaele Salvino

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

New Year Mass Schedule (Livestream)

New Year's Eve (Thursday, Dec. 31)
5:30pm English Mass

New Year's Day (Friday, Jan. 1)
10:30am English Mass
5:00pm Vietnamese Mass

Parishioners are invited to receive Communion (curbside) after all the masses.

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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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.

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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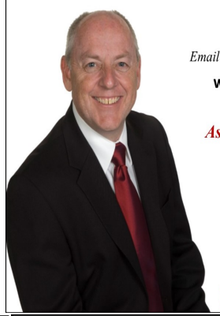

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CWL Corner

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Help us to allow you to fill our world with peace.
Happy Birthday Jesus!

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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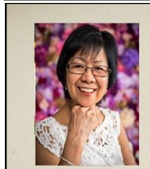

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Email: office@saintmatthews.ca Website: www.saintmatthews.ca
PASTOR: FR. TIEN TRAN ASST. PASTOR: FR. LUCIO CHOI
DEACON RAFFAELE SALVINO

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