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Sunday December 19, 2021



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

REGULAR MASS TIMES

SATURDAY: Anticipated Mass - 5:30 PM

SUNDAY: English Mass - 8:30 & 10:30 AM
 12:30 & 7:30 PM

Vietnamese Mass - 5:00 PM

African - Last Sunday 12:30 PM (Mass in English with African Choir)

WEEKDAYS: Monday to Friday (except TUESDAY) - 8:00 AM
 Tuesday - 7:00 PM
 Friday - 7:00 PM (Vietnamese)
 ***except First Friday (in English)
 Saturday - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Weekend & Daily Masses: half an hour before each Mass

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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



Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule Inside



Sunday Missal for 2022 is now available for purchase for \$5.



2022 Sunday envelopes are now available for pick-up at the Fireside Room. Pls. do not use until January 2022.



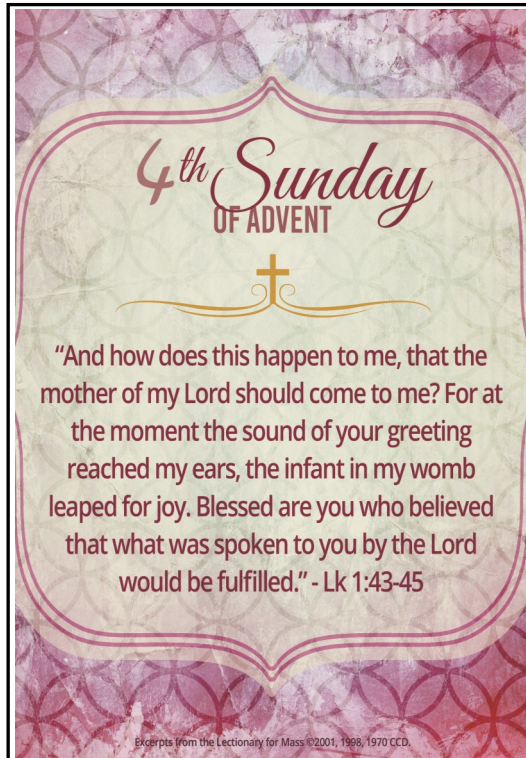
Through the generosity of parishioners like you, we were able to build the Parish Center. We now need your support to help us pay the mortgage. In addition, we need funding for our share of the cost of renovations and building new facilities at Holy Cross Regional High School. Your contribution will go a long way to helping us achieve our goal.

GIVE NOW. Tax receipts for 2021 can only be issued for donations received no later than Dec. 31, 2021. You can participate by (1) Completing the Pledge card and putting in the regular Sunday collection, or (2) By submitting you pledge to the parish office, or (3) By telephone at 604683-0281 ext. 50323 or (4) By giving on-line at projectadvance.ca. **REMEMBER-- NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL.**

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.



St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that He would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem!

God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as His mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known. ©LPi

Stewardship Reflection

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized His wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

CONTACT LIST—ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH MINISTRIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| African Community | Ms. Tina Obiwumma obiwumma@stmatthewselementary.ca |
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| Altar Women | Mrs. Margaret Pereira 604-589-2448 |
| BLD Community | Ms. France Alayon / francealayon@yahoo.com |
| | Mrs. Nerrie Hombrebueno nerrehombre@gmail.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. Raffaele Salvino rsalvino@rcav.org |
| Choirs: Fri 7 PM | Mr. Hahn Nguyen henryq.nguyen@yahoo.ca |
| Sat 5:30 PM | Mr. Danilo Bernabe dannybernabe9@gmail.com |
| Sun 8:30 AM | Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean grosjean@shaw.ca |
| 10:30 AM | Mr. Peter Luongo sluongo@telus.net |
| 12:30 PM | Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes askmymusic@rocketmail.com |
| (last Sunday) 12:30 PM | Ms. Tina Obiwuma aneledom@hotmail.ca |
| 5 PM | Mr. Vincent Nguyen vien4cdsurrey@gmail.com |
| 7:30 PM | Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze nannettelg@gmail.com |
| Couples for Christ | M/M Dino/Sweden De Guzman dino.deguzman@gmail.com |
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| R.C.I.A. | Fr. Raffaele Salvino rsalvino@rcav.org |
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| St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen | Mrs. Belle Carson bellecarson@hotmail.com |
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| Sports Ministry (Volleyball) | Mr. Tot Phan totphan@gmail.com |
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| Vietnamese Community | Mr. Chau Nguyen trhbme1@yahoo.com |
| Youth Ministry | Ms. Eleanor Wong eleanorwong@aol.com |

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No kidding.....even if you have seen the series previously, it's amazing how seeing it again and participating in group discussion will have you discovering and contemplating things you may have missed the first time.

Come and join us for this 8-week series of: **THE CHOSEN Season Two** on **Thursday, Jan. 27th in the Parish Center (Room 1 & 2) from 7-9pm.** Cost is \$25. Contact Gail at: bible_study@live.com or register at the parish office.

Watch the bulletin for further details as we draw closer to commencement.

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PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Thank you to all the catechists and their assistants for all the hard work and dedication each and every week. We are truly blessed to have so many who share their faith with our children. Thank you to all the parents who are supporting their children in the PREP classes. **Classes resume on January 5th**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: A Big Thank You to all the students from PREP and SMES who came forth to partake in the Christmas Pageant this year. We have a full cast for our Children's Mass on Christmas Eve! Thank you to all the parents for supporting this and my parent helpers!

As we continue to pray for peace in the world and hope for a better world in the New Year, let us continue to love and spread joy always! Be the light of Jesus this Christmas Season!

PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICKUP YOUR CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CERTIFICATES FOR 2020 & 2021. Any discrepancies please contact the PREP office NOT the parish office! Thank you!

PREP Office hours Tuesday - Thursday (10:00 am – 6:00 pm) (Hours Resume on January 4th)
Trish Van Vliet—prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-589-2448 ext. 233

Archdiocesan Event



Synod Snippets

"Pope Francis wants Catholics to begin to live more concretely what Benedict XVI said when he affirmed that the laity are "co-responsible" for the Church's mission. The word "synodality" captures this. It refers to the habits of mind, heart and spirit needed for us – clergy and lay faithful together – to participate fruitfully in discussions that will advance the Church's mission."

From Archbishop Miller's address at the [10th Annual Archbishop's Dinner](#) on November 10, 2021.



Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

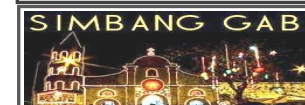


December 24, Friday—Christmas Eve
5:00PM — Children's Mass (English) **full vaxx required**
7:30PM — English Mass **full vaxx required**
9:45PM — Vietnamese Mass
12Midnight—English Mass

December 25, Saturday—Christmas Day
8:30AM — English Mass
10:30AM— English Mass **full vaxx required**
12:30PM— English Mass
2:30PM — English Mass
5:00PM — Vietnamese Mass
NO 5:30PM Mass

December 31, Friday—New Year's Eve
5:30PM — English Mass

January 1, Saturday—New Year's Day
8:30AM — English Mass
10:30AM— English Mass
12:30PM— English Mass
3:00PM — Vietnamese Mass
5:30PM — English Anticipated Sunday Mass (Epiphany)



SIMBANG GABI



"Simbang Gabi" is a tradition unlike any other. A Christmas Marian Novena of Masses, "Simbang Gabi" is a nine-day devotion that honours the Annunciation, the expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and culminating in the birth of Jesus. Centered on the Eucharist, it is a combination of deep prayer, community spirit, reconciliation, hope, love, and the grateful recognition of our redemption. We invite all faithful to celebrate this Promise of Salvation, by attending the Nine-Day Novena Masses ("Simbang Gabi".) These masses will be available in-person at twenty-four (24) participating Parishes across the Lower Mainland, at different times, and in both English and Tagalog. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events.

At St. Matthew's, masses will be on **Dec. 15-23, 2021. 7:00 pm on weekdays, 5:30pm on Saturday (Dec. 20), and 7:30pm on Sunday (Dec. 21).** There will be no reception after the Simbang Gabi masses due to the pandemic.

Catholic Young Adults of Surrey

CYAS Young Adult New Year's Formal

What better way to begin 2022 by celebrating together!!! This "Mass-mask-querade" will begin with Holy Mass, followed by a night of great food, drinks (soju anyone?), and faith community! Come dressed up in your snazziest attire, and enjoy music, performances, games, and many blessings for 2022! Hosted by CYAS (Catholic Young Adults of Surrey) in collaboration with St. Nicholas' Young Adult Ministry. This event is 19+. **Saturday, January 1 at 5:00 p.m.** Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Youth Ministry

Having a Christmas or New Year's get together this holiday season? The Youth Ministry would like to ask for your support in their bottle drive! They will be collecting refundables before and after every Mass on the weekend of **January 8 and 9** at the bottom of the Jubilee Hall stairs (by the Parish Centre). Alternatively, bottles can be dropped off at any Return-It Express kiosk in *clear plastic bags*. At the kiosk, enter in the parish phone number ([604-589-2448](tel:604-589-2448)) and place the tags on your bags. Your donations will support their upcoming retreat where the youth will grow as disciples of Jesus. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

The Youth Ministry invites all youth ages 15 and up to attend their Youth Retreat "Trust" happening from **February 4 - 6 at Loon Lake Retreat Centre**. Inspired by Luke 5:1-11, at this retreat, they will explore what it means to trust God in the big and little moments in our lives! Registration closes on January 15, 2022. Find all the details and registration here: <https://saintmatthews.ca/events/youth-retreat-2022-trust>

St. Vincent De Paul Society

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul thanks all parishioners of St. Matthew's Church, the various parish groups, the Preschool and Elementary School as well as Holy Cross Secondary School for supporting our annual Jesse Tree Christmas hamper drive. We were able to assemble 86 hampers. Your generosity touched 258 people (53 males, 69 females, 73 boys and 63 girls).

The SSVP thanks you and wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Archdiocesan Event



I Have Called You Friends - Healthy Relationship Series

Join Fr. Richard Conlin and Fr. Raffaele Salvino as they discuss what it means to have a Christ-centered friendship and being "best friends with Jesus." Having spent 6 years together in the Seminary of Christ the King, these young priests will share about lessons learnt for cultivating genuine friendship within the context of pursuing holiness today. **Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.** Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.



Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers **+Johann Matthew Tejada** who has gone home to the Lord. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Pray For... Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Ryker Slaney; Carol Ward; Liz Da Costa; Erwin Belgardt; Tommy Contreras; Walter Slaney; Victor Miller; Gerry Della Mattia; Daisy Rodriguez; Nora Bawasanta; Helen Stote; Rosa Villarama; Horst & Elsa Seliger; Romualdo Nicdao; Teodolfo Hosain; Nenita Cabilan; Dr. Demetrio Tamparia; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; Anton Carriedo; David Keenan; Alberto Ordonez; Colleen Salmon; Teresita Dimaano; Marie Petines; Irene Collingwood; Judith Dilla; Antonio, Adela & Karen Guinto; Adelaida, Ronald & Andrew De Leon; Felix Djuhari; Sueann Zore; Demetrio Tamparia; Colleen H.; Jaime & Nita Fermalan; Emilia & Len Len Sayson; Norbert De La Tour; Pamela Barthelette; Ma. Lydia Ramirez; Aida Bunagan; Yvonne Bailey; Silvina Medeiros; Anacleto Bellosillo; Cora De Jesus; Luciano Pistrin

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.

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** or email rabella@rcav.org for a visit and to receive Holy Communion.

CWL Corner



"Thank you" to all who helped to present the Christmas Chorus 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



Application forms for new families for the 2022-2023 school year at St. Matthew's Elementary will be available beginning Tuesday, **January 4, 2021** at the **school office**. Please note that as per CISVA policy (Policy 401) priority for admissions is as follows:

PRIORITIES FOR ADMITTANCE INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

For purposes of this policy, "practicing Catholics" shall mean those individuals who are registered in a parish and attend Sunday Mass regularly, "active in a parish" shall mean those who support the parish by using envelopes (no minimum amount specified) and participate in the work activities required of them.

1. Children presently enrolled in the school if they and their families meet the expectations of the school
2. Siblings of children already in the school, whose families are practicing Catholics active in the parish.
3. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in the parish.
4. Siblings of children already in the school, whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.
5. Children whose families are practicing Catholics coming into the parish, who have been attending Catholic school elsewhere.
6. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.

Young at Heart Club ...50 +



We will be taking a break over the Christmas period. We will not meet on December 21 and 28. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe. We will resume on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm** in the Jubilee Hall. Come and join us.

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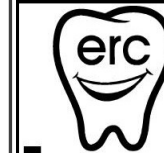
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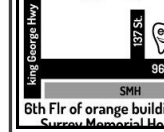
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