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St. Matthew's R.C. Parish
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Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor - ttran@rcav.org;
- frtientran9@gmail.com
Rev. Patrick Le, Asst. Pastor - ple@rcav.org
Rev. Mark Gazin, CSB Part-time Asst. Pastor - mgazin@rcav.org
Dcn. Steven Potusek, Deacon - spotusek@rcav.org

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Rectory: 604-589-2083
Office: 604-589-2448 parish.smat@rcav.org

Parish Admin: Caroline Mrazek
Anna De Leon
Bookkeeper: Ma. Lourdes Tejada
P.R.E.P.: Christine Maypa - prep@saintmatthews.ca
Maintenance: Lorne Ward - lorne@saintmatthews.ca
Principal: Deborah Welsh - wels@stmatthewselementary.ca

Elementary School: 604-589-7545 - www.stmatthewselementary.ca
Preschool: 604-589-1222 - preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca

Sunday, November 19, 2023



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Well done, my good and faithful servant." - Mt 25:21

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
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)
First Friday—7:00 PM (in English)
Saturday and Holidays - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS
Weekend & Daily Masses: half an hour before Mass

OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING



REGULAR DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary
30 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun.	Nov. 26	SMES Pancake Breakfast
Sat.	Dec. 2	Christmas Dinner, Show & Raffle Draw
Thu.	Dec. 7	Witness to Love Date Night
Sat.	Dec. 16	Christmas Concert

(see details inside)

2024 Sunday Missal and Calendar are now available
Missal—\$5 Calendar—\$2




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.

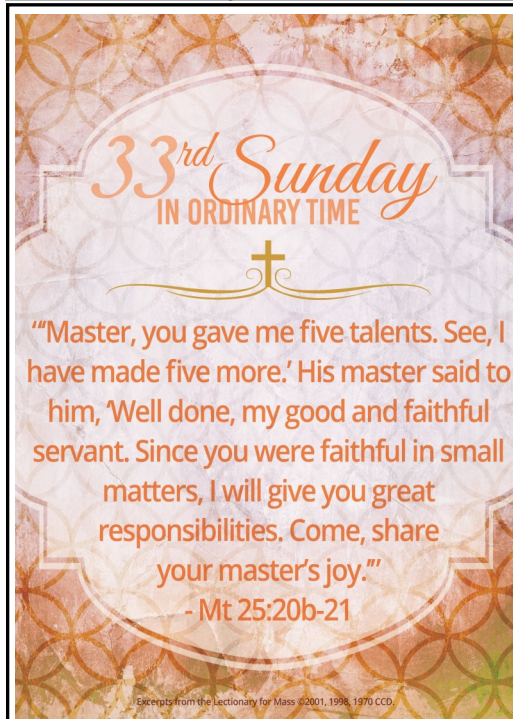
APPEAL TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

- ⇒ Please be mindful that the hymn books and prayer cards in the pews are **not toys**.
- ⇒ Please take a minute to restore them in the right order in the pews.
- ⇒ Garbage should be disposed of in receptacles provided.

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. Contact parish.smat@rcav.org.

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.



When I was a kid, I hated playing Monopoly because my siblings and friends always seemed to win. But worse was how it happened. Scared to risk my fake money on buying properties, I'd hold on to it. My opponents hungrily bought up the various real estate squares on the board. Then, inevitably, my poor, low-equity self would land on their spots, pay them rent, and my money would drain to zero. It seemed so unfair. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. I had to learn that monopoly money is meant to be spent. I was scared to lose some of it. So, I lost all of it.

How do we see what we possess? Jesus' parable about the talents is not really about economics but about the investability of everything He entrusts to us. How marvelous that everyone in the fable who places talents in the open market doubles their investment. The only one who doesn't is the man who fearfully buries his one talent. Jesus' success strategy for us seems to be, whatever we have, *get it out of our possession*. Risk it as quickly and as fully as we can.

You and I have precious gifts. We have valuable things to invest — time, talents, treasure. The Lord invites us to be brave and even somewhat reckless, to give as much away as possible. If we give it away in the direction of love and truth, it will grow. If we hold on to it in fear, the little we have will be taken away. Let me challenge you this week: find something in your life you're holding on to, and risk it by giving it away. It won't double if you hold on to it.

- Father John Muir
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LIVE THE LITURGY

God entrusts special gifts to each of us, but they are not gifts to be hoarded and hidden. Let's work each and every day to multiply those gifts in the world.

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

What Remains

When my grandfather died, my parents, siblings, and I were left with the question: what's to become of the house?

Anyone who has inherited property knows that it's not simply a matter of assuming ownership of a plot of land upon which sits four walls and a roof. Those four walls and a roof usually contain memories and objects — an enormous volume of both, in the case of my grandfather. When they're left to you, you have to sift through them, the memories and the objects, and with each one you have to think: *Is it worth it? Do I keep it? Will I need it?*

And slowly, painfully, you disassemble the physical existence of the person who lived here. You accept, with a pang, that most of it must be given away or discarded. You cry when you bag up the clothes to take to Goodwill. You can't even bear to look when they break the piano into a hundred pieces and throw it in a dumpster, realizing that no one wants or has a use for something that was once so precious.

But when you come upon a rosary that was used so many times it has begun to fall apart, you don't even think twice before keeping it, and not because you need the rosary. You need what it means. You need what it reminds you of.

When all is said and done, each of us will be called before our Master to settle accounts, just as my grandfather was.

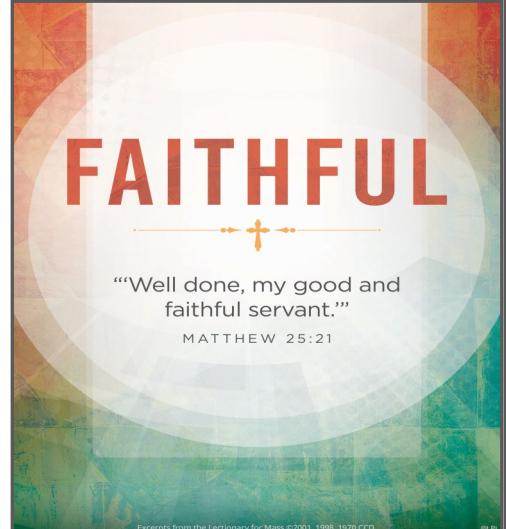
"Where are the gifts I gave you? What remains of the fortune to which I entrusted you?" He will ask us. "What have you done with the peace? What have you done with the love? What have you done with the mercy?"

"You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night."
1 Thessalonians 5:2

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CONTACT LIST - ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH COUNCIL

African Community	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Mrs. Teodora Suzuki	teodora.suzuki@gmail.com
Altar Women	Mrs. Margaret Pereira	604-589-2448
Bereavement Ministry	Dcn. Steven Potusek	spotusek@rcav.org
BLD Community	Ms. France Alayon / Mrs. Nerrie Hombrebueno	francealayon@yahoo.com neriehombre@gmail.com
Bible Study	Mrs. Louise Klaponski	cwlstmatthewssurrey@gmail.com
Catholic Women's League	Mr. Johan Rego	cyasurrey@gmail.com
Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS)	Ms. Hoang Nguyen	hoangn.nguyen93@gmail.com
Choirs: Fri 7 PM	Mrs. Letty Regis	letic@telus.net
Sat 5:30 PM	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	grosjean@shaw.ca
Sun 8:30 AM	Mr. Peter Luongo	sluongo@telus.net
10:30 AM	Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
12:30 PM	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
(last Sunday) 12:30 PM	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	vien4cdsurrey@gmail.com
5 PM	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	nannettelg@gmail.com
7:30 PM	Mrs. Maureen Fadum	mgfadum@gmail.com
Community Outreach Ministry	M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
Couples for Christ	Mrs. Ann Amsing	annamsing@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Ministry	Mrs. Deborah Joel	djoel@positec.com
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mr. Andre Maris	anne_andre_maris@telus.net
Fifty Plus Group	Mr. Shane Gogo	shanegogo@gmail.com
Gift Bearers	Mr. Jon Javier	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
Knights of Columbus	Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham	morillabala@yahoo.com
Lectors	Ms. Ariel Bejer	arielbejer@gmail.com
Legion of Mary	Ms. Alexandra Jose	ajose.smp@hotmail.com
Liturgy of the Word for Children 10:30AM	M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon	doreenmck@shaw.ca
12:30PM	Mrs. Germana Brotto	grbrotto@gmail.com
Marriage Prep-Witness to Love	Mrs. Teresa Gares	tgares@live.com
Our Lady of Fatima	Mr. Peter Tang	peter_tang@me.com
Pro Life Ministry	Mr. Tim McKinnon	tjm3499@gmail.com
Parish Education Committee	Mrs. Katrina Amurao	katrina.amurao@gmail.com
Parish Council	Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye	bolingo1@mac.com
Pastoral Council	Dcn. Steven Potusek	spotusek@rcav.org
Project Advance	Ms. Christie Castro	SMPGPrayerline@hotmail.com
R.C.I.A.	Mr. Paul Stevens	604-589-2448
St. Matthew's Prayer Group	Mr. Eric Andres	604-589-2448
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	marlowe25@hotmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Mr. Tot Phan	totphan@gmail.com
Sports Ministry (Basketball)	Mr. Gerry Petines	glpetines@gmail.com
Sports Ministry (Volleyball)	Mr. Minh Nguyen	minhnguyen725@shaw.ca
Ushers	Ms. Van Nguyen	kathynguyen027@gmail.com
Vietnamese Community	Ms. Eleanor Wong	eleanorfwong@aol.com
Youth Ministry		



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ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT



**Walking in the Way of the Lord: Attuning to God
Advent Retreat for Divorced and Separated**

Join us as, Jody Garneau, through her life experience and formal education, leads participants through a process of self-awareness, healing, and growing in trust. Our desire is that participants will increase their ability to maintain boundaries, establish healthy relationships with others, and move forward with more integration and peace. By establishing a more profound level of interior peace, participants have the opportunity to be attuned to God and his vision of each person.

The day will start with Mass and participants will have the opportunity to have small group discussions, time for Adoration and Confession and a shared meal.

Jody earned a BA from Thomas Aquinas College in California. After returning to Canada, Jody married and embarked on a 25-year adventure in parenting and homeschooling her four children. Jody earned a Masters in Clinical Counselling through Divine Mercy University (Virginia) where she was immersed in the study of psychological healing with an emphasis on trauma treatment. Jody's own life experiences and challenges have provided a wealth of earned wisdom to enhance her professional development.

This retreat will take place on **December 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish in Surrey.** Registration is \$15.

Learn more and register online at <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/walking-in-the-way-of-the-lord-attuning-to-god>

You're invited to
A-Not-So-Silent-Night
December 2nd
6:30pm to 10:00pm
CHRISTMAS DINNER & SHOW
ANNUAL CASH RAFFLE DRAW AT 9:00PM
For 4 Prizes From \$1,000 to \$20,000
Tickets: \$25



Get your tickets for this year's Christmas Dinner and Talent Show, and Yes there will be a dance floor for your added enjoyment, and.... the much-anticipated Raffle Draw for \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$20,000 Dollars. Dinner tickets are available after the weekend masses and at the office.

Raffle Tickets will continue to be sold after weekend masses and at the Parish Office until December 2nd. Purchased tickets would need to be filled out and submitted the same day.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

A total of 73 students from St. Matthew's Parish (St. Matthew's PREP, St. Matthew's PREP Vietnamese and St. Matthew's Elementary School) attended the Spirit Day last Nov 4 at Chandos Pattison Auditorium.

Thank you parents for your usual support in your child's journey to faith!

November—December Calendar

- November 22 **Family is a Gift: Parenting in the Digital Generation** – Parents are Invited to attend 6:35-7:35pm St. Matthew's Elementary School Gym
- November 22 L7 Confirmation Interviews 1, 6:30PM, Jubilee Hall
- November 29 Movie and Pajama night (Level 3, 4 & 5)
- November 29 Level7 Saints Project & Sponsor Form Deadline
- December 6 Early Dismissal – Staff Christmas Party
- December 13 Mass Students and Family meet in the Church
- December 20 No Class – Christmas Break
- December 24 Christmas Pageant – Christmas Eve - Children's Mass 5:00 pm

Christmas Pageant:

Attention all PREP and SMES students! You are invited to an Information Session on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at the Fireside Hall at 6:00 pm.** Please note that attendance to at least two out of three rehearsals is mandatory. The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 24th at the Children's Mass at 5:00 pm. Roles available include Narrator, Joseph, Mary, Innkeepers, Wisemen, Shepherds, and Angels. Parent volunteers are also needed, and those interested can email prep@saintmatthews.ca.

The rehearsal dates are as follows:

- December 9th, Saturday: 10:30-11:30 am rehearsal followed by lunch & costume assignment (12:30 pickup)
- December 16th, Saturday: 10:30-11:30 am Dress Rehearsal
- December 22nd, Friday: 10:30-12:00 noon Dress Rehearsal

For Level 7 & Grade 7 Students, this event qualifies for 20 Service points for church or community.

PREP Email:

Please add prep@saintmatthews.ca in your contact list to avoid mails going into junk/spam

PREP office hours: Wednesday 9am – 3pm and 5–8pm
Friday 9am – 5pm

A big thank you to all for your continued dedication in ensuring that your children attend prep classes weekly. It is so wonderful that we can continue to grow in our faith together.

CHRISTINE MAYPA - PREP Coordinator

Email: prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-5892448 ext 233

If we want children and teens to become lifelong Catholics and members of the Church, we have to start now by involving the whole family in the life of the Church -John Roberto, Family Catechesis

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Jewelry, scarves, hats, shoes, boots, belts, purses, men's ties – gently used.

Thank you for your generous donations... We appreciate your support!

The **St. Nicholas' Catholic Women's League** is hosting a Jewelry and Accessories Sale in the Parish Centre located at 20675 87th Ave. Langley on **Saturday, November 25 9am-7pm, and Sunday November 26 9am—8pm.** Come and check out gently used items. Sales are by donation.

St. Matthew's Parish Hall
15079 88 Ave. Surrey
catholicpacific.ca/fundraiser
Registration ends November 27

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BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
MASS @ 8AM • PROGRAM @ 9AM • KEYNOTE @ 9:45AM
For more info: 778-869-1167

TEXAS BRUNCH TICKETS \$30

- Mass @ 8am
- Texas Brunch
- Keynote Speaker
- Live Advent Sacred Music
- Student Testimonials
- Message from the Founders

Keynote Speaker
Fr. Deacon **Andrew Bennett**

GIVE 2025 CAMPAIGN

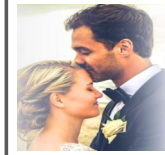
ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT

Advent Retreat: Choose the Better Part



Join us on **Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver** for a transformative Advent retreat inspired by the words of Luke 10:41: "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.*" This message beckons us to reassess our priorities, making this event a perfect opportunity to pause, reflect, and rejuvenate our spiritual lives during the Advent season. Registration is only \$25, offering you a chance to delve into spiritual reflection, strike the perfect balance between contemplation and action, and foster connections within our Catholic community. This retreat is open to all who lead and serve in ministry. Don't miss this chance to rediscover the true meaning of Advent and welcome Christ into your life with renewed enthusiasm.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY



All married couples, including mentor and mentee couples under the Witness to Love Program, are invited to join us for a joy-filled dinner of celebration and encouragement. It's a time set aside to:

- Have intentional marriage-strengthening conversations
- Learn and laugh with other couples with the same values
- Hit pause and make space for your relationship, allowing the grace of God to shed wisdom and light to see each other in a new way

Cost is \$30/couple. On **Thursday, December 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Parish Center**. Registration deadline: **Thursday, November 30**. Register at <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/date-night>.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Our **Christmas Hamper** appeal is ongoing. If you know of anyone who is in need of some assistance **within the parish community**, please phone the Parish Office. Deadline to request a hamper is **December 2nd** but the earlier the better. Our **Jesse tree** will be at the front of the Church for the first three weekends of Advent: Nov.25/26, Dec. 2/3 and Dec.9/10. Thank you for your annual generous support.



PROJECT ADVANCE



Our appreciation goes out to all parishioners who have made a gift to Project Advance. To date, we have received gifts totalling \$68,000 from our parishioners. We are close to 50% of our target for 2023. Remember that funds received over our Archdiocesan goal will be returned to us and use for paying down our Parish Centre mortgage and paying our portion of rebuilding Holy Cross Regional Secondary School. Please continue to respond in prayer and generosity. Our sharing reflects our caring. You can give online at <https://support.rcav.org/project-advance-2023/>, (you can set up monthly or one time gifting online) by phone at 604-683-0281 ext. 325, or in-person at our Parish Office. Thank you so much for your support.



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers **All the Souls in Purgatory**
Eternal rest grant upon them O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Liz Da Costa; Tommy Contreras; Victor Miller; Gerry Della Mattia; Helen Doyle-Stote; Horst & Elsa Seliger; Demetrio Tamparia; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; David Keenan; Alberto Ordonez; Colleen Salmon; Teresita Dimaano; Irene Collingwood; Antonio, Adela, Arvin, Johnna, Virgilio & Karen Guinto; Jane & Eunice Dare; Adelaida, Ronald & Andrew De Leon; Felix Djuhari; Sueann Zore; Cathy, Colleen & Gavin Herrera; Jaime & Nita Fermalan; Emilia & Rose Sayson; Norbert De La Tour; Ma. Lydia Ramirez; Aida Bunagan; Yvonne Bailey; Cora De Jesus; Mary Grace Navasca; Lario Roma; Vicenta Ty; Leny Uy; John Pinto; Ricardo Piraquive; Rowena Serviento; Leonora Fejer; Roy Arbiol; Ely Pamintuan; Andrea Bernabey; Caceres, Rios, Alonso and Santa Cruz family; Pablito Basit; Helena Olivares; Consuelo Santos; Catherine Sullivan; Margaret Lee; Valeriana Quinto; Deanna Maceda Silva; Lena Pinto; Gregorio De Guzman; Concepcion Romero; Paul Fernandes; Scott Strobel; Don Barber; Jorge Papa; Lynn Hagglund; Juliet Buan-Torres & Joseph De La Cruz.; Mitch Montero; Talah Bautista; Mauricio Engada; Martha Doyle; Luz Eugenio; Pam Barthelette; Gerry Jansen; Alanna Mckinley; Regina Diolata; Lawrence & Susan Odubajo; Theresa Fagbamiye; Naty Parinas; Mary Ann Cabading; Jurest Pe Perion; Greg Narciso

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.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) CORNER



CWL General Meeting - November 21st after the 7pm mass. All are welcome.

CWL would like to thank all the parishioners for their generosity and support towards our massage wellness projects. As the year is coming to a close, we at CWL would like to thank every parishioner for their continued support throughout the year, we are very grateful and feel very blessed.

Open invitation to the ladies of our Parish:

We at CWL are always looking for new members, come, join us to help in all our community and parish activities. Membership forms are available at the Parish Office or email us - cwlstmatthewsurrey@gmail.com

Share the Word



30. LOVE: Love is more than a feeling, it's a decision. It requires practice, focus, patience and faith. Come join the Catholic Women's League and share the love.

ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



St. Matthew's Elementary School is hosting another pancake breakfast on **Sunday, November 26, 2023 after the 10:30 am mass**. Tickets will be sold at the door of the venue on November 26. Tickets are sold for \$8 per person. All proceeds go to elementary school upgrades.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CARE



Enjoy your Christmas with a chocolatier taste! Please support our Purdy's Christmas Chocolate Fundraising this year to help with on-going classroom needs. All chocolate orders in hard copy are **due on November 27, Monday, and November 28, Tuesday for online orders. Pick up date will be on December 11, Monday** at the Preschool classroom or Parish Office. For more details, please contact us at 604-589-1222 or email preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca. For online orders, our Customer Number is **27832** and all cheque payments are payable to **St. Matthew's Parish**. Thank you for your support!

Job Opportunity: St. Matthew's Preschool & Out-of-School Care is hiring a licensed ECE / ECE Assistant Teacher. Please email preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca for the full job description and details.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Save the Date: December 16th at 7:00 pm - St. Matthew's Christmas Concert
Plan to bring family and friends to this year's Christmas Concert. Always a great way to stay grounded and go deeper into the true meaning of the season. Rekindle relationships with family, friends, and others by sharing and experiencing what makes Christmas both meaningful and heart warming during the holidays and how it can last for the rest of the year.



PRECIOUS BLOOD ADVENT BAZAAR SAT. NOVEMBER 25 9 AM - 2 PM

Join us for our annual Parish Bazaar. We are looking forward to gathering together as a parish and school community!!
We hope that you encounter Jesus in a very special way, and that you invite Him into your hearts during a season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.
Please come and visit with our wonderful parish groups. Enjoy a meal with your fellow parishioners and school friends and get a start on your Christmas shopping with lots of beautiful handmade items.
ADMISSION BY DONATION (cash or non-perishable food item) to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your support!

- Welcome Table by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Knights of Columbus All Day Breakfast
- St. Theresa's Circle Baked Table
- Legion of Mary
- Pro-Life
- Children's Games & Concession by PREP & Youth Ministry
- Charity Tree hosted by Children's Liturgy
- Craft Tables of Handmade Items
- Religious Items
- CCS Student Crafts
- CCS Used Uniform Sale
- Performance by the Cloverdale Catholic School Choir at 11:30 AM
- Poinsettia/Wreath sales and Raffle supporting Cloverdale Catholic School's Parent Fundraising Group

PLUS A SPECIAL VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS!!
CLOVERDALE CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE, 17475 59 AVE, SURREY, BC



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