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St. Matthew's R.C. Parish
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Tel: (604) 589-2448 Fax: (604) 589-2344
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, December 10, 2023



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

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

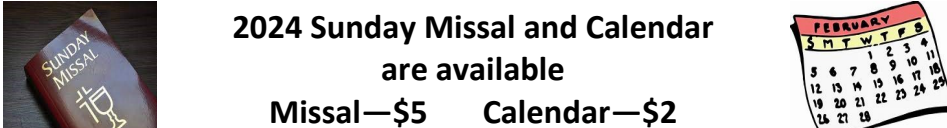
UPCOMING EVENTS

Tue.	Dec. 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration Mass
Wed.	Dec. 13	St. Matthew's Advent Penitential Service
Fri.	Dec. 15	Simbang Gabi Begins
Sat.	Dec. 16	Christmas Concert

(see details inside)

2024 Sunday Missal and Calendar are available

Missal—\$5 Calendar—\$2



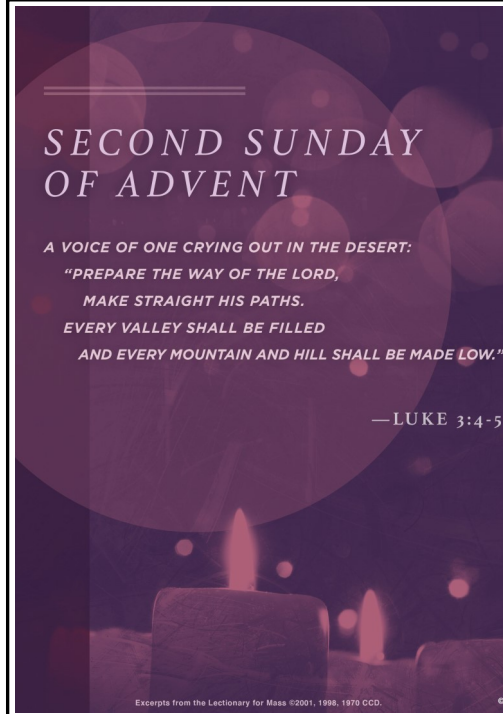
Advent PREPARING THE WAY



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.



We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But

try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and He has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow Him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

- Father John Muir
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LIVE THE LITURGY

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts this Advent. Clear away whatever blocks His way. Make straight the path. Invite Him in.

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The World Is Pregnant

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13

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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	cw1stmatthewssurrey@gmail.com
Catholic Women's League	Mr. Johan Rego	cvasurrey@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	vien4cvsurrey@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	eleanorwong@aol.com
Youth Ministry		



GOSPEL

Imagine John the Baptist is preaching today. He is preaching not only to you, but to people watching television at home. You and your family are down by the river having a picnic. John says, "Tell God that you are sorry for your bad behavior." John warns, "Stop sinning. Follow God's commandments." You say: "Count me as a child of God. Wash me with the waters of God's baptism."

PRAYER

Lord, I repent of my sins. Bathe me with your waters of forgiveness.

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2023 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come and hear
St. Matthew's Choirs in Concert

"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth" ~ Luke 1:14



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 7 PM

Free Tickets Available From the Welcome Center



St Matthew's R.C. Church, Fleetwood, Surrey BC



SIMBANG GABI 2023

- Friday, December 15 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 16 5:30 PM
- Sunday, December 17 7:30 PM
- Monday, December 18 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 19 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 20 7:00 PM
- Thursday, December 21 7:00 PM
- Friday, December 22 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 23 5:30 PM

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Everyone is invited to join the annual feast day celebration mass in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Tuesday, December 12 @ 7 PM.** We look forward to seeing you there.

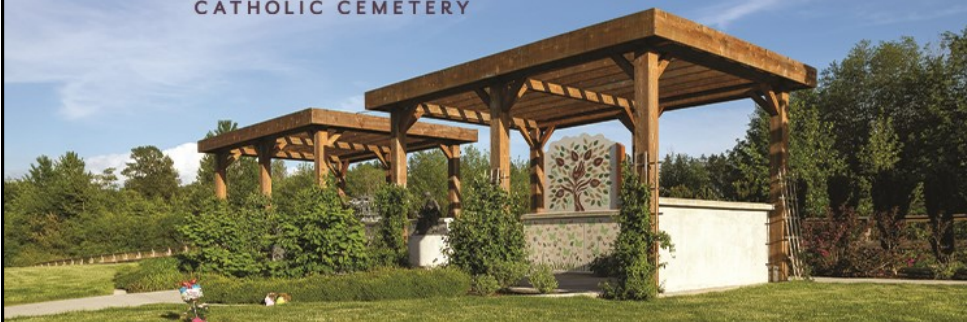
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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

"Our PREP students have been keeping busy this Advent season as we prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As your family gears up for the holiday season, we wish you abundant joy, hope, and a safe and blessed Christmas."

December Calendar

- December 13 6:35 Mass—Students and Family meet in the Church
Level 1 and 5 have prepared a special performance for our PREP family
- December 20 No Class – Christmas Break
- December 24 Christmas Pageant – Christmas Eve - Children's Mass 5:00 pm

Christmas Pageant:

Thank you to everyone who signed up and showed interest in the Christmas pageant on behalf of Ms. Jose and PREP. The full cast has been selected, and rehearsal dates are listed below:

- December 9th, Saturday: 10:30-11:30am, meeting room 4, rehearsal followed by lunch & costume assignment (12:30 pickup)
- December 17th, Sunday: 3:00-4:30 pm Dress Rehearsal, drop off and pick up at the Church
- December 23rd, Saturday: 10:30am-12:00 noon Final Dress Rehearsal, drop off and pick up at the Church

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



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

- St. Matthew's**
December 13—Wednesday—7:30PM
- Our Lady of Good Counsel**
December 18—Monday—7:00PM
- IC Delta**
December 19—Tuesday—7:00PM
- Star of the Sea**
December 20—Wednesday—7:00PM
- Precious Blood**
December 20—Wednesday—7:00PM
- St. Bernadette**
December 21—Thursday—6:00PM



CASH RAFFLE WINNERS



Nathan Capota

1st Prize—\$20,000—Ticket# 023607

Huy Bui

2nd Prize—\$5,000—Ticket# 006865

Natividad Torres

3rd Prize—\$1,000—Ticket# 042009

Eugene Motha

4th Prize—\$1,000—Ticket# 033774

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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul thanks all parishioners who so generously took tags from the Jesse tree for the past two weekends. All prepared tags with the accompanying toys or gift cards now need to be returned to the Parish Office by the set date. Our SSVp members are working hard to assemble the approximately 105 hamper requests. With the true sense of community spirit, you the parishioners, are making it possible for us to make the Christmas season just a little more special for those who find themselves struggling. Thank you.



ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT



Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. For most couples, it's a chance to reconnect, re-establish the foundation, and rekindle romance. For others, it's a fresh start. For some, it will be the weekend that saves a marriage. Wherever you're at in your relationship, this retreat is a weekend to remember.

The next getaway is on the weekend of **February 16-18, 2024 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC**. The fee is usually \$299. Use promo code **RCAVVIC** to register for \$199.

Accommodations at the Fairmont Empress Victoria for conference participants should be booked separately. Special room rate starts at \$209/night before January 26; rates may vary thereafter.

The registration deadline is **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**. For more information call Joyce 604-683-0281 ext. 223 or <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/marriage-conference-weekend-getaway>.

PROJECT ADVANCE



So far to date, out of a total of 2677 families, only 408 families (or 15.2%) have contributed to Project Advance. That means there are over 2200 families that have not contributed. This year, we are hoping for an increase in the level of participation among our parishioners.



Our parish's rebate from Project Advance will go towards paying for the mortgage on our Parish Centre which provides critical meeting spaces for ministries and groups. It will also assist us to pay our share of the assessment for rebuilding Holy Cross Regional Secondary School.

We need all of us to pitch in NOW! Any contribution will be appreciated, and NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL. Please contribute what you can but please participate and give. You can give online at projectadvance.ca, or in-person at our Parish Office. You can also pick up a pledge form at the Welcome Centre and make a gift today.



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers

†Jesus Arabe, †Reynaldo Esprez, †Luz Payuran Aguilar and †Concepcion Balbao Romero who have gone home to the Lord. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Pray For: 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; 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; 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; Alanna Mckinley; Regina Diolata; Lawrence & Susan Odubajo; Theresa Fagbamiye; Naty Parinas; Mary Ann Cabading; Jurest Pe Perion; Greg Narciso; Dahlia Constance Gomez; Concepcion Lacanienta

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



St. Matthew's CWL received an Advent 2023 message in verse - from Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, which organizes the World Day of Prayer each year. It reads: "Waiting with HOPE in this hard and holy times. JOY and woe woven fine. PEACE in the places of pain, suffering and sorrow. LOVE in the lost, least, and the last. Bear the HOPE. Wear the JOY. Be the PEACE. Share the LOVE. I beg you, bear with one another in love."

Wishing you HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE...from the WICC of Canada...

World Day of Prayer March 1, 2024, St. Matthew's Parish, 1pm. Prayers focusing on the Middle East. Theme: "I beg you, bear with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Membership paperwork will be in the mail soon. Watch for it!

Share the Word



33. OUTREACH: "For it is in giving that we receive." Members of the Catholic Women's League strive to reach out to those in need. Won't you help us reach further? Come and join us.

ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



New Family Applications 2024-2025

For any families wishing to have their child attend our school for the 2024-2025 school year, application forms will be available at the school office beginning **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 9:00AM**. Application forms are only available at the school office. If you have any questions please contact the office at 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca Thank you.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CARE



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

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL SPRING BREAK BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP



Who and When:

January 2nd—5th 9am-11am Boys and Girls currently in Gr 4-7

Where: St Matthew's Elementary Gymnasium 16065 88 Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 1G3

Why: To improve overall basketball skills, meet future classmates and have fun.

How: Email Head Coach/Teacher Matthew LeChasseur hcbosbasketball@gmail.com to **confirm your child's spot** in the camp. It is limited space and first come first serve. Download and fill out a registration form at www.hcbosbasketball.com and bring a cheque/cash and completed registration form on the first day of the camp.

Cost: \$100.00 includes daily Gatorade and prizes.

Life without End Workshop

Join an Engaging 3-part workshop with Catholic resources on eternal life, meaningful funerals, and sacred burial.

Friday January 19th St. Matthews Parish 9:00am - 11:00am

I Hope and Positive Vision

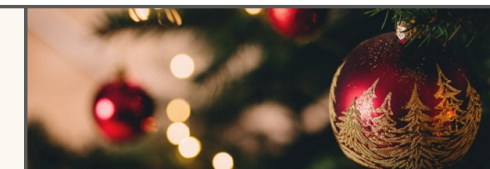
II Mystery of Death

III Spiritual and Practical Preparation

Workshop Leader: Peter Nobes
Director of Catholic Cemeteries



15694 32nd Avenue Surrey, B.C. V5Z 9V1 | 604-531-2141 | rccav.org/events



Mass & Christmas Tree of Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 17 | 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm

Join us for Mass at the Evangelist Chapel. Write the names of your departed loved ones on a Christmas ornament for the Tree of Remembrance.

Register to attend at rccav.org/events



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(Mid-efficiency, Hot water on Demand, Power Vent)

Air Conditioning
• Split Type
• Multi Zone
• Centralize
• Heat Pump

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