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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 17, 2023

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water, but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1990, 1970 GCD.



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

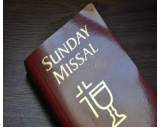

Sat.—Sun. Jan. 6-7 New Year's Bottle Drive

Sat.—Sun. Jan. 13-14 CWL Membership Campaign

(see details inside)

2024 Sunday Missal and Calendar are available

Missal—\$5 Calendar—\$2

2024 Sunday Envelopes are now in the Fireside Room. Please see inside for important reminders.



Advent PREPARING THE WAY

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

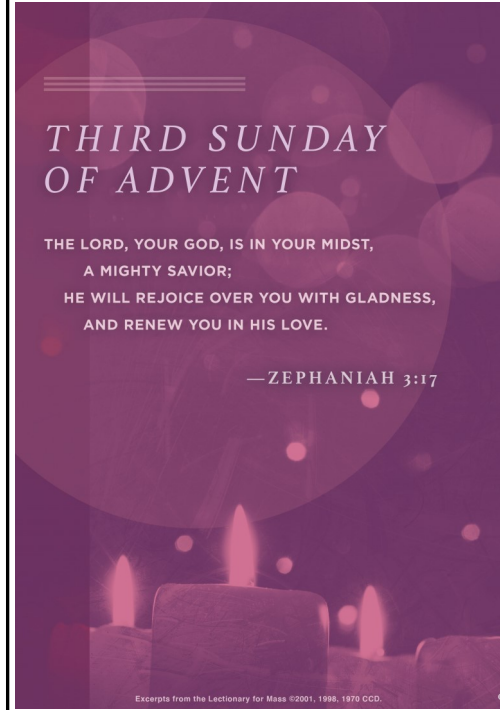
There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." — John 1:8

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Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen Him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen Him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus.

This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

- Father John Muir
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LIVE THE LITURGY

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life.
Pray you can be this person for someone else.

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African Community
Altar Servers
Altar Women
Bereavement Ministry
BLD Community

Bible Study
Catholic Women's League
Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS)
Choirs: Fri 7 PM
Sat 5:30 PM
Sun

8:30 AM
10:30 AM
12:30 PM
12:30 PM
5 PM
7:30 PM
(last Sunday)

Community Outreach Ministry
Couples for Christ
Elizabeth Ministry
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Fifty Plus Group
Gift Bearers
Knights of Columbus
Lectors
Legion of Mary
Liturgy of the Word for Children

10:30AM
12:30PM

Marriage Prep-Witness to Love
Our Lady of Fatima
Pro Life Ministry
Parish Education Committee
Parish Council
Pastoral Council
Project Advance
R.C.I.A.

St. Matthew's Prayer Group
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Sports Ministry (Basketball)
Sports Ministry (Volleyball)
Ushers
Vietnamese Community

Youth Ministry

CONTACT LIST - ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH COUNCIL

Ms. Tina Obiwumma
Mrs. Teodora Suzuki
Mrs. Margaret Pereira
Dcn. Steven Potusek
Ms. France Alayon /
Mrs. Nerrie Hombrebueno

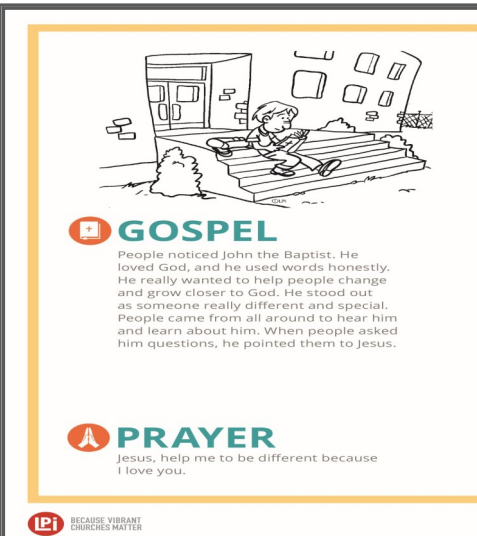
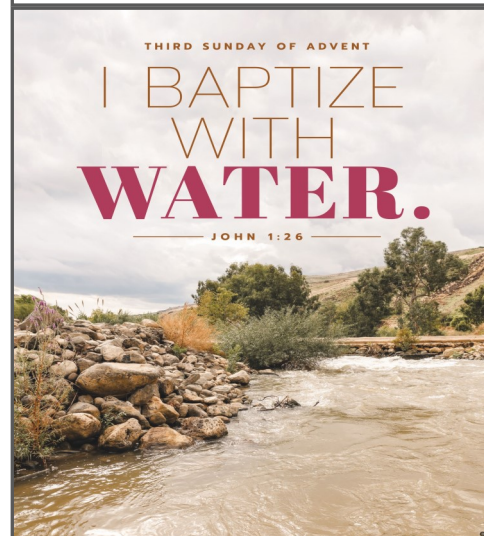
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Mrs. Hoang Nguyen
Mrs. Letty Regis
Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean
Mr. Peter Luongo
Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes
Ms. Tina Obiwumma
Mr. Vincent Nguyen
Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze
Mrs. Maureen Fadum
M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reyes
Mrs. Ann Amsing
Mrs. Deborah Joel
Mr. Andre Maris

Mr. Shane Gogo
Mr. Jon Javier
Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham
Ms. Ariel Bejer
Ms. Alexandra Jose
M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon
Mrs. Germana Brotto
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Mrs. Katrina Amurao
Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye
Dcn. Steven Potusek
Ms. Christie Castro
Mr. Paul Stevens
Mr. Eric Andres
Mr. Marlowe Billedo
Mr. Tot Phan
Mr. Gerry Petines
Mr. Minh Nguyen
Ms. Van Nguyen
Ms. Eleanor Wong

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letic@telus.net
grosjean@shaw.ca
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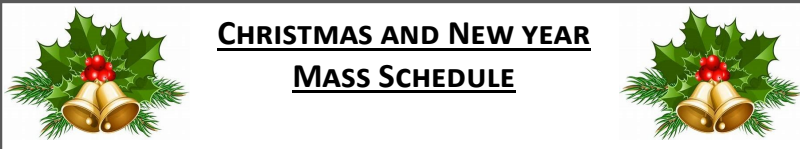
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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

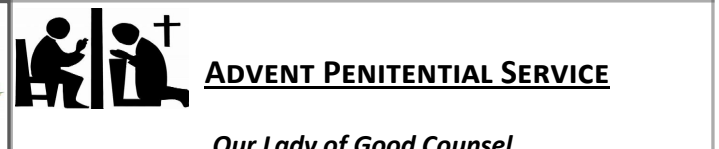
December 24
5:00PM – Children’s Mass (English)
7:30PM – English Mass
9:45PM – Vietnamese Mass
12MN – English Mass

December 31
7:30PM – English Mass

December 25
8:30AM – English Mass
10:30AM – English Mass
12:30PM – English Mass
5:00PM – Vietnamese Mass

January 1
8:30AM – English Mass
10:30AM – English Mass
12:30PM – English Mass
5:00PM – Vietnamese Mass

Christmas and New Year’s Day, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, fall on a Monday this year and are **Holy Days of Obligation**. All parishioners are obligated to attend Mass for Sunday, Christmas, and New Year’s. And that one mass cannot count for both the Sunday obligation and the Christmas or New Year’s obligation.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

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



SIMBANG GABI 2023

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

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PSALM 85

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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

As your family gears up for the holiday season, we wish you abundant joy, hope, and a safe and blessed Christmas.

December Calendar

December 20 No Class – Christmas Break
December 24 Christmas Pageant – Christmas Eve - Children’s Mass 5:00 pm
January 10 PREP Class Resumes

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 23rd, Saturday: 10:30am-12:00 noon Final Dress Rehearsal, drop off and pick up at the Church

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

SUNDAY ENVELOPE AND ONLINE DONATION REMINDERS

SUNDAY ENVELOPES

1. If you missed Sunday mass/es, please put all consolidated donations in one envelope. Do not separate them into different envelopes as recordings can no longer be backdated (nor post-dated).
2. Do not use envelopes from the past years, the number assigned per family changes every year. Either use pink envelope and write your full name on it, or request for a new one from the Parish Office if nothing has been assigned to you yet.
3. Do not use Sunday envelopes for other purposes (i.e., mass offering, payment for Church fees, etc.), it will cause confusion for our Sunday counter volunteers.
4. If you do not use your Sunday envelope at least 10 times within the year, the system will not automatically assign a new one for the following year. However, you may always request for one at the Parish Office.

ONLINE DONATIONS

1. Please use the full name officially registered with the Parish Office, not names different from what was registered. Do not use your child’s name as well especially if they are minors. It causes confusion in recording online donations.
2. Monitor your bank statement regularly to make sure that your online donations are processed accordingly.
3. Update your online profile in St. Matthew’s website for any changes with your bank information (i.e., expiry date, etc.) to avoid failed transactions.
4. You may still get a Sunday envelope even if you are set up for online donation. Online donation does not give an option for Second or Special Collections (other than Building Fund).
5. If you are attending mass regularly every Sunday and your online donation is set up to be processed monthly, your mass attendance/donation record would only reflect once per month. If you wish for your weekly mass attendance to be recorded, please use your Sunday envelope, and drop it empty every time you attend Sunday mass.

Having mass attendance/donation record makes it easier for our priests to fulfill parishioners’ requests (i.e., letter of certification, subsidy to elementary or high school, sponsorship for baptism/confirmation, etc.), as it signifies the individual/family practicing the Catholic faith at least by regularly attending Sunday mass. Drop your envelope with or without monetary donation every time you attend mass, it gets recorded either way. And if you are attending mass in another parish, you may also drop your St. Matthew’s envelope and that will be sent to our Parish Office for recording as well.

YOUTH MINISTRY



New Year's Bottle Drive

Are you having any gatherings or parties over the holidays? If so, consider dropping off your refundables to the Youth Ministry's New Year's Bottle Drive happening on **January 7!** Bottles can be dropped off by the **Jubilee Hall stairs on Saturday, January 6 (there will be a sign!) or on Sunday, January 7 before 2:30pm** where a team will be able to assist you! All funds will help provide financial aid for youth to attend their upcoming retreat in May. If you have any questions, please contact Eleanor Wong at eleanorfwong@aol.com. Thanks for your help!

Come sing with us!

The Youth Ministry will be singing at the Simbang Gabi Mass on Tuesday, December 19 at 7pm, Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, December 24 at 5pm, and The Feast of Mary Our Mother on Monday, January 1 at 10:30am. Come join us for practice 45 minutes before each Mass and sing with us! All are welcome.

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT



Making Sense of Counterwill

The instinct to resist being controlled or coerced is one of the most perplexing and troublesome dynamics in dealing with children and youth. This video course by Dr. Gordon Neufeld reveals the dynamics controlling this instinct and provides suggestions for how to deal with it. This material is applicable for all those dealing with toddlers through adolescents: teachers, parents and helping professionals. Discussions will be facilitated by Kevin Bredeman, M.A.

On Tuesdays, from **January 23 to February 20, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$25.** These workshops are not being recorded. Learn more and register at <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/making-sense-of-counterwill-2>.

PROJECT ADVANCE

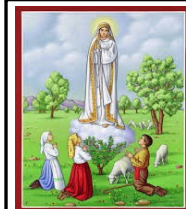


So far to date, out of a total of 2677 families, only 408 families (or 15.2%) have contributed to Project Advance. That means there are over 2200 families that have not contributed. This year, we are hoping for an increase in the level of participation among our parishioners.



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. ***For your donation to be included in 2023 tax receipt, it must be received by the Parish office no later than December 27, 2023.***



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers
†Phyllis Raskino
who has gone home to the Lord.
May her soul 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



"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern" - St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

At this time, the world **needs** to take this to heart. WE need to take this to heart and serve others with God's own love and concern.

Remember to keep those who are lonely, afraid, cold, ill and bereaved in your thoughts and actions as we progress through Advent. May the anticipation of the birth of Christ child bring comfort and peace to all. Let's prepare our own highways, to greet the Saviour of the World.

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](mailto:preschool@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 hchoysbasketball@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.hchoysbasketball.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.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Thank you, thank, thank you. The SSVp members are finalizing the Christmas hampers and readying them for delivery and/or pick up.

With your generosity, taking Jesse tree tags, we were able to meet the needs of all those who requested help. We are assisting 130 individuals or families. The make up is 64 adult males, 101 adult females, 72 girls and 41 boys. This equals 280 people. Our hampers include non-perishable food items, toiletries, socks, throw blankets for the seniors, wrapped gifts for the children and gift cards. We wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a very Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be **Friday, January 12, 2024 at 9 am in Room 1 of the Parish Centre.** All are welcome.

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

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