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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 31, 2023



THE HOLY FAMILY
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

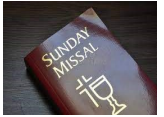

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat.	Jan. 6	Altar Server Post-Christmas Lunch
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.



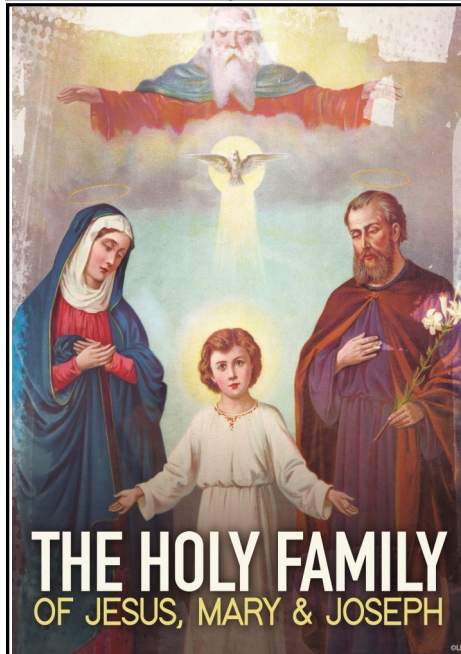
HAVE A BLESSED new year



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.



I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see Him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving Him and then handing Him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever He is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds Him out to you and me. She rejoices to place Him in our arms to hold, and to hand Him on, too.

- Father John Muir
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LIVE THE LITURGY

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

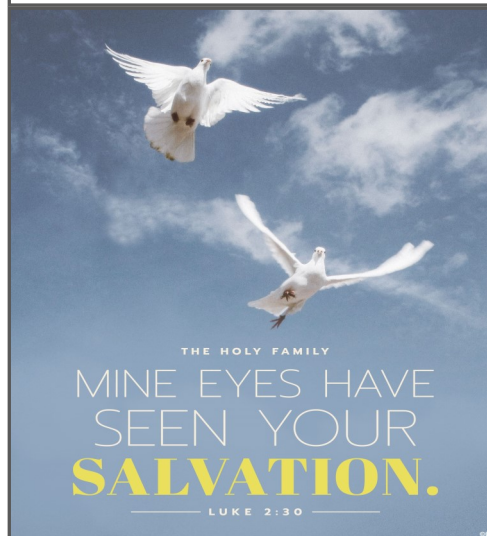
How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..."
— Colossians 3:12

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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)	Mrs. 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	eleanorwong@aol.com
Youth Ministry		



GOSPEL
Mary and Joseph went to the temple and presented the baby Jesus to God. Two older people recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. They gave him special blessings. They thanked God for this child. Just like Mary and Joseph, your parents gave thanks to God when you were born. They were very happy God gave you to them. They had you baptized in church, and presented you as a gift to God, too.

PRAYER
Lord, thank you for bringing the baby Jesus into my life.

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NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

December 30
5:30PM – Regular Sunday Mass (English)

December 31
8:30AM – Regular Sunday Mass (English)
10:30AM – Regular Sunday Mass (English)
12:30PM – Regular Sunday Mass (English)
5:00PM – Regular Sunday Mass (Vietnamese)

7:30PM – New Year’s Eve (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) English Mass

January 1
8:30AM – New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) English Mass
10:30AM – New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) English Mass
12:30PM – New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) English Mass
5:00PM – New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Vietnamese Mass
NO 7:30PM Mass

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

SIMBANG GABI—THANK YOU!



We would like to thank the different parish ministries and choirs who participated in our annual Simbang Gabi Advent tradition now on its 15th year.

Thank you Fr. Tran, Fr. Patrick and Fr. Mark for celebrating the masses and joining us after mass festivities.

Special thanks go to the Simbang Gabi Committee who worked so hard in setting up, serving, cleaning and ensuring there is food for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see more people come to the masses and share their goodies with us next year! Until next Advent, we wish all of you a Prosperous and Happy New Year!

Chito & Mary Ann Marfori

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

May you and your family be blessed with another year full of happiness, laughter, and good health.
I wish you a lovely year ahead.

January Calendar

January 10	PREP Class Resumes
January 13	5:30 pm Mass - Confirmation Class Mass (PREP,GR.7 & Viet PREP) Meet at the Fireside by 5:10
January 24	6:35 pm Level2, CIC2, Gr.2, Parent, Student and Teacher Mtg. PREP & SMES
January 27	5:30 PM Mass, FHC class Celebration Mass “ Caring” PREP & SMES, Meet at the Fireside by 5:10
January 31	7:30 PM Early Dismissal

"Thank you to the children who participated in the Christmas Pageant!"

PREP Email:

Please add prep@saintmatthews.ca to your contact list to avoid emails 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.

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Psalms 105

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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 eleanorwong@aol.com. Thanks for your help!

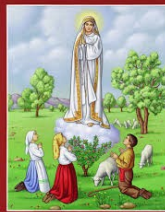
ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT



Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference


We are excited to partner with Family Life Canada to offer weekend getaways to married couples in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! 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 atmosphere is relaxed, warm and fun! You'll hear from real couples doing real life together... God's way. You'll be given time to process what you're learning. And together, build a joyful marriage that lasts a lifetime. 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 visit <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/marriage-conference-weekend-getaway>.

SUNDAY COLLEC-TION REPORT	to December 18th, 2023				Balance-October, 2023	Payments - November	Balance-November, 2023
	Actual	Budget	Variance				
Sunday Collection	73,473	76,736	- 3,263				
Year-to-date	1,091,032	1,073,692	17,340	Construction Loan - Parish Center	1,863,734	- 37,306	1,826,428
Building Fund	7,581	9,375	- 1,794	School Construction Commitment	1,216,000	0.00	1,216,000
Year-to-date	80,322	99,375	-19,053				



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.

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 Pirraque; 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

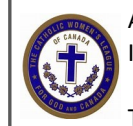
Priority on this list is given to parishioners, **as space permits**. Names will be removed from time to time. If you submit a name to the Prayer List, **it is your responsibility** to inform the office should his/her circumstances change.

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



Are we ready for the New Year? The new CWL National Theme for 2024 is "Here I am Lord, send me." Shari Guinta is the new National President.

Take some time to explore the National Website at www.cwl.ca. Look for the new theme prayer card in The Canadian League magazine (winter edition). The theme's focus will be mental health awareness.

Share the Word:



34. PEACE - The Catholic Women's League helps members grow in their relationship with God and with each other, a true peace. Find peace with 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.

ALTAR SERVER



There will be an altar server post-Christmas lunch on **Saturday, January 6, 11:30am to 2pm at Parish Centre Room 4**. Please contact Teodora Suzuki at teodora.suzuki@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.


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.



2024 CATHOLIC EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 VANCOUVER TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE
 CECREGISTRATION@CISVA.BC.CA for conference inquiries

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- 1. EXPOSURE** With our conference set to attract a large crowd of over 1500 attendees, your brand will gain maximum exposure.
- 2. NETWORKING** Connect with our 46 schools, potential clients, and fellow vendors to establish valuable business connections.
- 3. PROMOTION** Benefit from our extensive marketing efforts that will promote your presence before, during and after the event.
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 III Spiritual and Practical Preparation

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