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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, January 7, 2024



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.—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 available in the Fireside Room.

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.

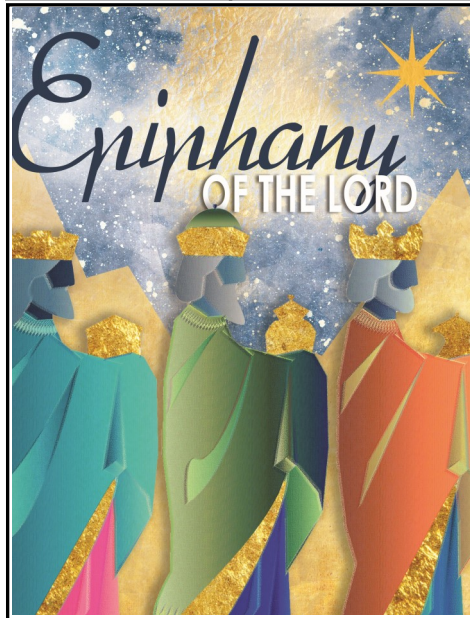
APPEAL TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

- ⇒ 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.



A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I *truly* at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." This star will bring them *home*, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

- Father John Muir
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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears His glory."
— Isaiah 60:2

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LIVE THE LITURGY

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

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CONTACT LIST - ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH COUNCIL

African Community	Mrs. 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	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	morilabalala@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
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Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 7, 2024

Sunday:
Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday:
Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1
Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday:
1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ab/c/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:
1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:
1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:
1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

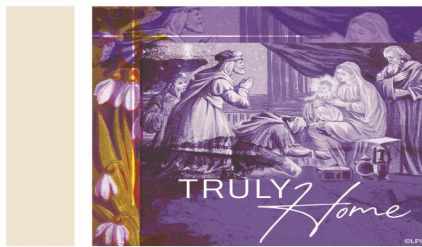
Saturday:
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:
1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42



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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ©LPI



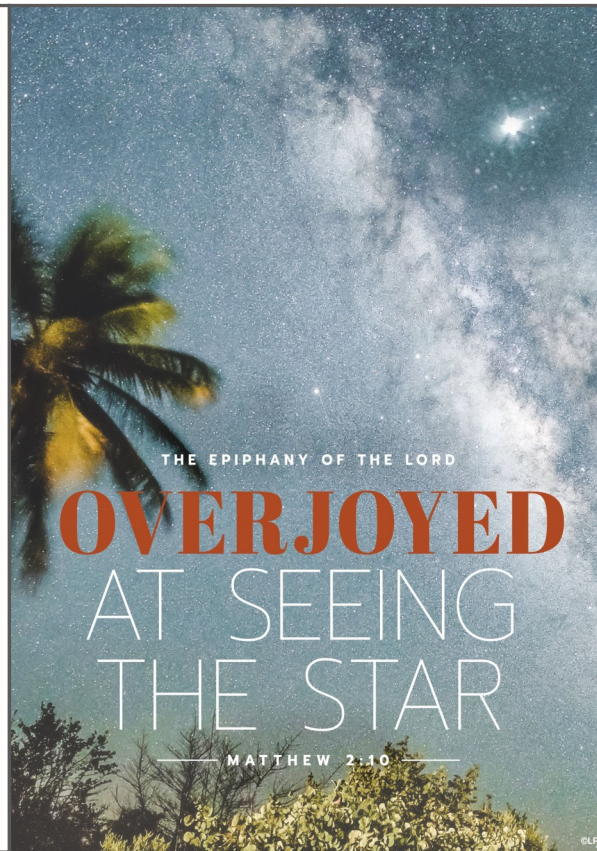
Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

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— Father John Muir



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Thank you Parents of Level 7 for supporting your children in their Confirmation Interview and Saints project.

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

TEACHER/Catechist needed for CIC 1.

If you love working with young people and desire to grow in and share the Catholic faith, we are looking for **YOU**. Consider answering the call to this ministry! We provide you with all of the resources and training you need to teach and lead the children. Catechist application forms are available on the wall folders by the parish office or fill out on the parish website.

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

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ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR 2024



Dear brothers and sisters:

At the beginning of this new year, let us raise our hearts in gratitude to the good Lord for accompanying us on our journey through time. We thank God who never abandons us and always watches over the faithful of our local Church with His merciful love. With gentle persistence He is leading us beyond the constraints of time to eternity.

As time passes, we are continually amazed by how ultimately short and ephemeral life is. So often we ask ourselves: what's the meaning of our life, and what meaning, in particular, can we give to our days of toil and sorrow? This question permeates history, running through the heart of every generation and of every individual.

But there is an answer: it is written on the face of the Child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. In "the fullness of time," God became man and remains among us today as the Living One, forever risen from the dead. He entered our history to free us from the slavery of sin and death, and to raise us to the dignity of being children of God.

With Jesus' Incarnation and Birth, time was, so to speak, forever "touched" by the Eternal God. The time we are now living is the definitive time of salvation and grace. That's why we can truthfully proclaim that 2024 will be yet another "Year of the Lord."

While we take our leave of the year that has just come to a close and set out for the new one, we once again entrust to the Lord His little flock, His Church in Vancouver, which is ever striving to be faithful to Him. And let us implore Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, to intercede for us before the throne of mercy. With her, we are invited to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, the Sun rising on the horizon of humanity, who is the hope and Saviour of the world.

May the new year bring you and your families many blessings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS



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 behind 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>.

Spiritual Care Training Program

Pope Francis has challenged everyone to think about their brothers and sisters in a new way as many are experiencing profound loneliness and isolation. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is offering the Spiritual Care Training Program as one way to answer this call.

The eight-week course teaches how to make yourself more available to seniors and others who can benefit from your genuine concern and presence in their lives. Some topics covered include aging, communication, boundaries and self-care. The training is offered online **via Zoom every Thursday, from February 1 to March 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.** Learn more and register at <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/spiritual-care-training-program-2028>.

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>.



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers

†Emilia Sayson, †Maria Fatima Danzil, †Maria Mazzarolo, †Gualberto Canete and †Kenneth Black 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; 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



A New Year has begun... but much remains the same! The need for each of us to "grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service" continues...(Mission Statement of the CWL of Canada). And so we begin 2024 dedicated to this mission. We need and are grateful for all of your prayers and willing helping hands.

January is membership month! Please return your renewed membership forms to the RAR or office. Join us for membership weekend, next week!

January General Meeting: Tuesday, Jan 16 after the 7pm mass - Potluck Membership Meeting.

Share the Word:



35. **POWER** : Power is the ability to influence the course of events. Catholic Women's League resolutions have changed lives. By joining us, you will be part of the power of resolutions.

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.

2024 CATHOLIC EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

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

Be a part of something truly special and grand. Register as a vendor at our **2024 Catholic Educators' Conference.**

Here's four reasons why you won't want to miss this opportunity:

- 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.
- 4. INNOVATION**
Showcase your latest products and innovations to a captivated audience.

SCAN ME

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 eCISVA2

Your presence at our conference will be a highlight, and we can't wait to have you on board. **Scan the QR code to register!**

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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GOSPEL
 Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

PRAYER
 God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.