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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;
 - ftrientran9@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

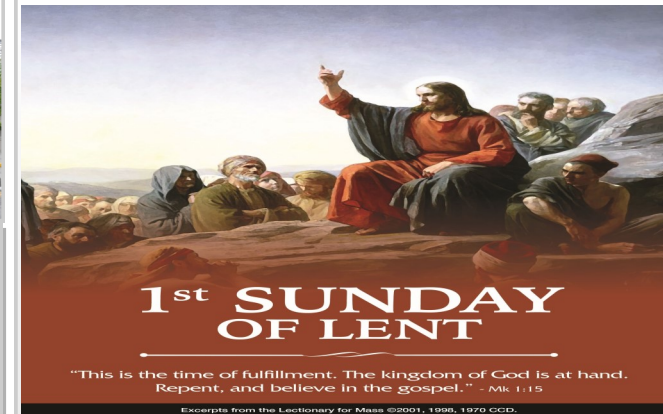
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
 Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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, February 18, 2024



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

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.	Feb. 18	Lenten Food Drive Begins
Thu.	Feb. 22	Anointing of the Sick Mass
Sat.-Sun.	Feb. 24-25	Meet & Greet/Name Tag Sunday
Thu.	Feb. 29	The Rescue Project Begins (for Young Adults)
Fri.	Mar. 1	World Day of Prayer
Fri.	Mar. 15	Sacred Music and Art

(see details inside)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Fridays of Lent at 6PM

2023 TAX RECEIPTS

2023 Tax receipts are available for pick-up in the Welcome Centre after Sunday masses, or in the Parish Office on weekdays.

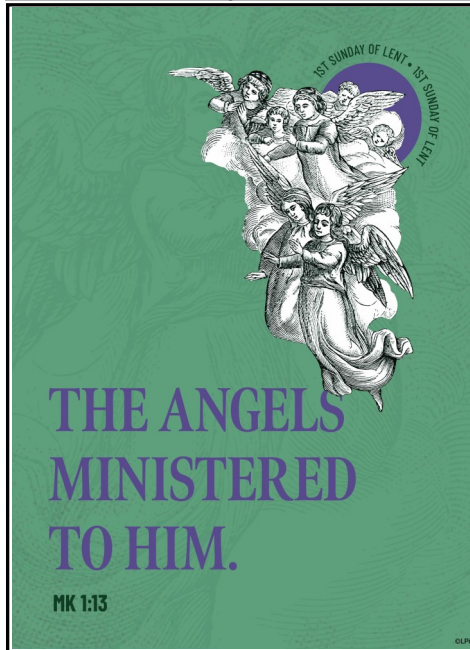
APPEAL TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

- ⇒ 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 feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it *mean*?" Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What *does* it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in His glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

- Father John Muir
©LPI

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Lent and the Flood

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché — or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent is the desert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood?

It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide.

Unless...it is.

Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

"Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit." — 1 Peter 3:18

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LIVE THE LITURGY

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation. But He did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to Him," the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

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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
Catholic Women's League	Mrs. Louise Klaponski	neriehombre@gmail.com
Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS)	Mr. Johan Rego	cwlsmatthewssurrey@gmail.com
Choirs: Fri 7 PM	Ms. Hoang Nguyen	cyasurrey@gmail.com
Sat 5:30 PM	Mrs. Letty Regis	hoangn.nguyen93@gmail.com
Sun	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	letic@telus.net
	Mr. Peter Luongo	grosjean@shaw.ca
	Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes	sluongo@telus.net
(last Sunday)	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	vien4odsurrey@gmail.com
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	Ms. Angela Drouillard	daisy_my_chan@hotmail.com
Elizabeth Ministry	Mrs. Ann Amsing	angemike14@gmail.com
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mrs. Deborah Joel	annamsing@yahoo.com
Fifty Plus Group	Mr. Andre Maris	djoel@positec.com
Knights of Columbus	Mr. Shane Gogo	anne_andre_maris@telus.net
Lectors	Mr. Jon Javier	shanegogo@gmail.com
Legion of Mary	Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
Liturgy of the Word for Children	M/M Mike & Cathy Lomanski	morilabalala@yahoo.com
	Ms. Alexandra Jose	mlomanski@gmail.com
Marriage Prep-Witness to Love	M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon	ajose.smp@hotmail.com
Our Lady of Fatima	Mrs. Germana Brotto	doreenmck@shaw.ca
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Parish Council	Mr. Tim McKinnon	peter_tang@me.com
Pastoral Council	Mrs. Katrina Amurao	tjm3499@gmail.com
Project Advance	Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye	katrina.amurao@gmail.com
R.C.I.A.	Dcn. Steven Potusek	bolingo1@mac.com
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St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Mr. Paul Stevens	SMPGPrayerline@hotmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Mr. Eric Andres	604-5892448
Sports Ministry (Basketball)	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	604-589-2448
Sports Ministry (Volleyball)	Mr. Tot Phan	marlowe25@hotmail.com
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Vietnamese Community	Mr. Minh Nguyen	glpetines@gmail.com
	Ms. Van Nguyen	minhnguyen725@shaw.ca
	Ms. Eleanor Wong	kathynguyen027@gmail.com
Youth Ministry		eleanorwong@aol.com

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CRUSADER SPRING BREAK BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP 2024



Who and When:

Session 1: Boys and Girls currently in Gr. 3 and 4
March 11th-15th Everyday 9am-11:00am
Session 2: Boys and Girls currently in Gr 5-7
March 11th-15th Everyday 11:30am-2:30pm

Where: Holy Cross High School Gymnasium

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

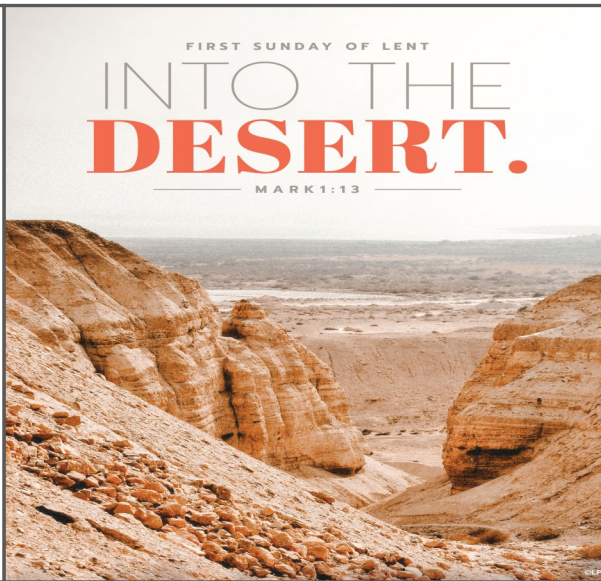
How to register:

1. Email Head Coach/Teacher Matthew LeChasseur hcboysbasketball@gmail.com

to **confirm your child's spot** in the camp. It is limited space and first come first serve. We cap the number of participants for quality coaching.

2. Download and fill out a registration form at www.hcboysbasketball.com

3. Bring completed registration form and \$140.00 to the first day of camp. Cash or Cheque. Make cheques payable to **Crusader Basketball Club**.



YOUNG AT HEART CLUB ...50 +



Join our active, friendly group for a social and games. Coffee, tea and goodies available. **Every Tuesday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm** (or stay as long as you want) in the Jubilee Hall. We have card and board games – Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Mexican Train, Crib and bean bag toss. We are also open to new games and activities. Bring your ideas. New members are always welcome. Membership is \$10.00 per member annually.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRAYER GROUP



We invite everyone to come and join us for an hour and a half of praise and worship on **Mondays from 7:30PM to 9:00PM in the Jubilee Hall.**

Let us pray together, sing together and give glory to our God.

Set aside your sacred space

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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

February –March Calendar

February	21	6:35PM Level 7 & Grade 7 Parent, Sponsor & Student Mtg. PREP & SMES meet at the Gym
February	28	6:35PM Level1, CIC1, Grade1 Parent Meeting PREP & SMES meet at Gym
March	6	6:35 pm Class Confession Level 6:35 pm Level 7 Confirmation Interview
March	13	6:35 pm Lent Mass—Students and Family meet at the Church
March	20&27	No Class – Spring Break

Announcement

Please incorporate some of the following almsgiving examples into your Lenten practice . This is a great way to teach our children the importance of almsgiving. Help your children choose the items they wish to give to our brothers and sisters in need. Kindly bring donated items to your class starting on Wednesday February 21st, or at the PREP office.

Men's Hygiene:

Small or hotel-size soap bars, razors, small shaving cream, and deodorant

Mite-Box & Adopt-a-Seminarian program along with "Seminarian Collectible Cards" with name and photo. We invite that each student pray for the particular seminarian he or she receives. Please encourage your children to put any amount of money they earn through chores, allowance or present. Please return mite boxes on or before **March 13.**

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

SACRED MUSIC AND ART



Save The Date... Lenten Reflection Friday March 15th, 7pm at St. Matthew's Church

This event promises to provide inspiring scripture paired with beautifully presented hymns, sacred art, and opportunity for meditation. All members of our St. Matthew's parish community are encouraged to set aside this date and plan to join us. May God grace you with a transformative Lent and Easter this year, all centered on Jesus Christ our Savior!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Meet and Greet/Name Tag Sunday Mass is on **Feb 24-25**. We ask all our parishioners to wear a name tag to Sunday Mass next weekend and reach out in hospitality and goodwill to your fellow parishioners, calling them by name. Please join us after mass in the Fireside Room for coffee and conversation. We urge you to reach out to people you do not necessarily already know and make them feel welcome. In 2023, we welcomed 247 new families to our parish and in January alone we welcomed another 44 families! Please help us make them feel welcome.

LEGION OF MARY



Celebrate and pray for intercession with the Legion of Mary, happy and willing to bring the image of Mother Mary into your residence and enjoy her presence for a week or two. Kindly write your information on the sheet provided by the wall next to the Parish Office and one of the legionaries will contact you.



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The Rescue Project is a multi-week series that tells the story of the gospel. It offers an opportunity for a Spirit-filled response to what is proclaimed, and catapults us out into the world on mission to go and rescue others.

Join the **Catholic Young Adults of Surrey** as we seek to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over eight weeks in a small group format.

What: Dinner + Discussions + Fellowship

Where: St. Matthew's Parish

When: Every Thursday 6:00-8:15 PM starting February 29th

Cost: \$40

Space is limited. Reserve your spot here:
<https://tally.so/r/3lrLj6>



Join us as we uncover:

Week 1: The Importance of Stories

Week 2: Why is There Something Rather than Nothing?

Week 3: The Enemy is the Enemy

Week 4: It Gets Worse

Week 5: Why Did Jesus Come?

Week 6: What Difference Does it Make?

Week 7: What Does He Want from Me?

Week 8: Getting Clarity on the Mission



WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT

St. Matthew's Marriage Ministry

We are actively seeking for married couples to support our parish's engaged couples through their marriage preparations. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Doreen McKinnon** at (604) 582-4323 or doreenmck@shaw.ca



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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; David Keenan; Alberto Ordenez; 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; 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; Concepcion Lacanienta; Lawrence Icarangal Jr.; Denver Gomez

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



LENTEN FOOD DRIVE FOR SURREY FOOD BANK: An opportunity to Share in Lent. All parishioners! Please drop off canned and boxed goods (protein (fish & meat), fruit, vegetables, meal-in-a-tin, whole-grain rice or legumes, pasta & sauce, healthy canned soup, baby formula (large cans)) in the bins provided in the foyer from **February 18 to March 18**. CWL will box and deliver to Surrey Food Bank!

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING on Tuesday February 20th. The meeting will start with a guest speaker from Covenant House. Mark Savard has worked with Covenant House for 18 years. Come and hear the Covenant House Story and be inspired. All parishioners welcome! Business meeting will follow.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS AND LUNCHEON on Thursday February 22 at 11am. All parishioners welcome!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER March 1 at 1pm here at St. Matthew's Church. This annual day of prayer is featuring a prayer program created by Christian women in Palestine. A timely way to pray for peace in the Middle East. Everyone! Come and join us.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are now due! If you have lost your renewal form there are extras at the RAR counter.



Archdiocese of Vancouver

MASS WEDDING

FOR CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES



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Archdiocese of Vancouver

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GOSPEL

Every day turn back to God. If your bedroom is messy, straighten it up. If you push your sister off her bike, help her get up and ride again. If you tear down your brother's blocks, help him build something new. If you disobey your parents, go and do the right thing right now. Ask God to help you stay close to him today. Then you will be close to him in heaven forever.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, help me remember to obey you every day.



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