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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;
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 - welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca

Elementary School: 604-589-7545 - www.stmatthewselementary.ca
Preschool: 604-589-1222 - preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca

Sunday, March 10, 2024



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

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

Mon.-Wed.	Mar. 11-13	Parish Lenten Mission
Thu.	Mar. 14	2000 Hail Mary's
Fri.	Mar. 15	Sacred Music and Art
Sun.	Mar. 17	Share Lent by K of C
Tue.	Mar. 19	Mary's Way of the Cross
Sat.	Mar. 23	Altar Server Training for Holy Week

(see details inside)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Fridays of Lent at 6PM
 Please note on **March 15, 2024**, there will be **no Stations of the Cross**. VN Mass is at 6pm, and everyone is invited to join the Sacred Music and Art at 7pm.

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.

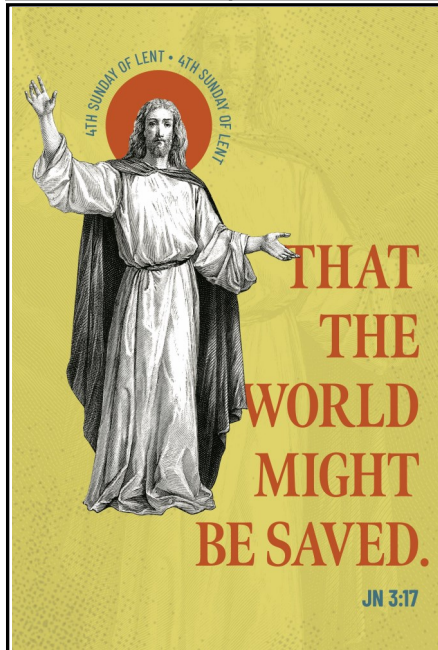
APPEAL TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

- ⇒ 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.



Our national pastime isn't baseball. It's what the Bible calls "condemning the world." We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don't believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: "We all agree that if *they* are eradicated, things will be great." Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That's why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.

What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: "**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him**" (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but He will accomplish it *without an act of condemnation*. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus' endless mercy and love, this is the *least* godlike thing we can do.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.

- Father John Muir
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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Uncomfortable Life in The Light

If you have ever been a woman over the age of 30 who stayed in a budget motel, you know the horror of awakening in a dark room, switching on the bathroom lights and screaming at the shriveled-up she-witch you find hiding there.

And you know the feeling of disappointment that blooms in the pit of your stomach as you realize the shriveled-up she-witch is your own reflection staring back at you beneath the merciless glare of overhead fluorescent lighting.

You may also know the relief of visiting a nice restaurant after dark and catching sight of yourself in the mirror. You lean forward, mesmerized by how different — how matte! How smooth! — the contours of your face look in what we call "forgiving light." But this turn of phrase is simply not correct. It is not light, and it does not forgive. It is darkness, and it merely conceals.

But it feels so much better, doesn't it? Salvation can feel like condemnation, when being lost is all you know. Sometimes it is so much more comfortable to live lost in the shadows.

It is possible to yearn for darkness. Darkness gives cover to so many things. The light has a harshness that can almost seem demanding, exposing. Light can bleach. Light can burn.

"Is this really me?" you think in that budget hotel bathroom, examining acne scars you never saw before and crow's feet that seem to have developed overnight. The answer is yes. Yes, that is really you, all of it, every inch. There's nothing to be afraid of, just step into the light and own it.

"And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil." — John 3:19

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LIVE THE LITURGY

Out of love for us, God sent His son into the world, to illuminate the truth that brings salvation. But light can be blinding to eyes that have only seen darkness. Pray that God will teach us to walk bravely in the light.

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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	cwlmstmatthewssurrey@gmail.com
Choirs: Fri 7 PM	Ms. Hoang Nguyen	hoangn.nguyen93@gmail.com
Sat 5:30 PM	Mrs. Letty Regis	letic@telus.net
Sun 8:30 AM	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	grosjean@shaw.ca
10:30 AM	Mr. Peter Luongo	sluongo@telus.net
12:30 PM	Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
(last Sunday) 12:30 PM	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
5 PM	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	vien4odsurrey@gmail.com
7:30 PM	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	nannettelg@gmail.com
Community Outreach Ministry	Mrs. Maureen Fadum	mgfadum@gmail.com
Couples for Christ	M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
Discover Discipleship	Mrs. Daisy Chan	daisy_my_chan@hotmail.com
Elizabeth Ministry	Ms. Angela Drouillard	angemike14@gmail.com
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mrs. Ann Amsing	annamsing@yahoo.com
Fifty Plus Group	Mrs. Deborah Joel	djoel@positec.com
Knights of Columbus	Mr. Andre Maris	anne_andre_maris@telus.net
Lectors	Mr. Shane Gogo	shanegogo@gmail.com
Legion of Mary	Mr. Jon Javier	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
Liturgy of the Word for Children	Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham	morilabala@yahoo.com
10:30AM	M/M Mike & Cathy Lomanski	mmlomanski@gmail.com
12:30PM	Ms. Alexandra Jose	ajose.smp@hotmail.com
Marriage Prep-Witness to Love	M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon	doreenmck@shaw.ca
Our Lady of Fatima	Mrs. Germana Brotto	grbrotto@gmail.com
Pro Life Ministry	Mrs. Teresa Gares	tgares@live.com
Parish Education Committee	Mr. Peter Tang	peter_tang@me.com
Parish Council	Mr. Tim McKinnon	tjm3499@gmail.com
Pastoral Council	Mrs. Katrina Amurao	katrina.amurao@gmail.com
Project Advance	Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye	bolingo1@mac.com
R.C.I.A.	Dcn. Steven Potusek	spotusek@rcav.org
St. Matthew's Prayer Group	Ms. Christie Castro	SMPGPrayerline@hotmail.com
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Mr. Paul Stevens	604-5892448
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Mr. Eric Andres	604-589-2448
Sports Ministry (Basketball)	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	marlowe25@hotmail.com
Sports Ministry (Volleyball)	Mr. Tot Phan	totphan@gmail.com
Ushers	Mr. Gerry Petines	glpetines@gmail.com
Vietnamese Community	Mr. Minh Nguyen	minhnguyen725@shaw.ca
Youth Ministry	Ms. Van Nguyen	kathynguyen027@gmail.com
	Ms. Eleanor Wong	eleanorwong@aol.com

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JUNIOR CRUSADER VOLLEYBALL—GRADES 4 & 5



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Registration form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tHGMYBJWCWqegZPKkQ1kZEoKNYokWzC1nS7kPw0RP-M/viewform?edit_requested=true

The Junior Crusader Volleyball program is geared for **girls** in grades 4 & 5 who want to learn the game and gain skills. For most, this will be their first introduction to the sport, so there will be a great focus on fun while learning new skills. The play will be adapted to their age level with a focus on multiple touches of the ball. This is a great opportunity to make new friends while having fun playing volleyball! Any questions, please contact Bree Grandia (Program director/teacher) bgrandia@holycross.bc.ca or jrcrusadervolleyball@gmail.com

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.



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

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.

LEGION OF MARY



On **March 14 (Thursday)**, the Legion of Mary is hosting the **2000 Hail Mary's** which will start at 9AM and will continue on until 6pm at St. Matthew's Parish. Everyone is invited to attend and participate, or lead a part of the petitions. Light refreshments will be served. See you there!

Set aside your sacred space

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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

March Calendar

March 13	7:00pm 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 **April 3rd**.

Parents of Level 7 and Level 2/CIC2

Level 7 Loon Lake Retreat :

Deadline: March 22

Sacramental Registration Level 2/CIC2

Deadline: April 17

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

PARISH LENTEN EVENTS

Parish Lenten Mission - March 11 to 13
It will begin with the celebration of mass at 7pm, followed by the Mission led by Fr. Patrick Le. The theme is "The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell".

Sacred Music and Art: 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!

PROLIFE

Feb 14 to March 24: Forty Days for Life Lenten Campaign – Help save lives through prayer & fasting Website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/vancouver-bc>

Saturday, March 16th, our St. Matthew's Parish will be at the 40 Days Vigil site, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. We gather on Willow St. at 32nd Ave, in front of the St. Joseph Residence for Retired Priests. Look for the 'Sign up sheets' in the Church foyer. If you are not able to make the journey into Vancouver, please join the campaign by signing up to pray in the Church between 9am & 12pm.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY – MARCH 28

NO MORNING MASS

5:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper-Vietnamese
 7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper-English
 - followed by Solemn Exposition & Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 29

9:00AM-12:00NN Confessions
 10:00 AM Stations of the Cross - Vietnamese
 11:00 AM Stations of the Cross - English
 12:00 Noon Solemn Liturgy - English
 3:00 PM Solemn Liturgy - English
 6:00 PM Solemn Liturgy – Vietnamese

HOLY SATURDAY – MARCH 30

9:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31

8:30 AM Mass – English
 10:30 AM Mass – English
 12:30 PM Mass – English
 5:00 PM Mass – Vietnamese
 7:30 PM Mass – English



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers

†Petro Laykeo

who has gone home to the Lord.

May his 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; 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; Scott Strobel; Don Barber; Jorge Papa; Lynn Hagglund; Juliet Buana-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; Cecilia Famularcano; Chuck Samaniego

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.



LENTE PENITENTIAL SERVICE

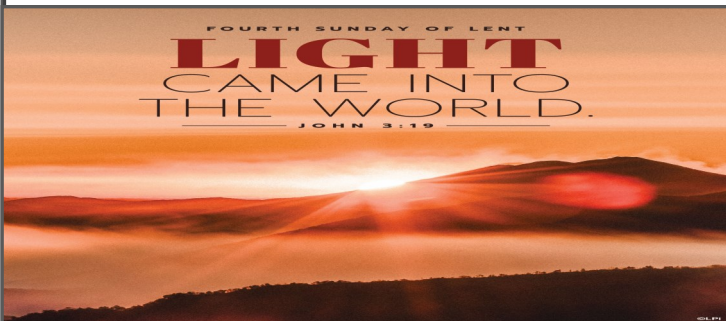
March 18	OLGC	7:00PM
March 19	Precious Blood	7:00PM
March 19	St. Matthew's	7:30PM
March 20	IC Delta	7:00PM
March 21	Star of the Sea	7:00PM
March 21	St. Bernadette	7:00PM

Days of Mercy Confession Times at St. Matthew's

March 23	10am-12nn
March 29	9am-12nn
March 30	10am-12nn

ALTAR SERVERS

There will be an altar server training for current and existing altar servers, on **March 23, 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Church**. This training is for masses that will be held during Holy Week. Pls. contact Teodora Suzuki at teodora.suzuki@gmail.com or the Parish Office to register.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) CORNER

All Parishioners are invited to share in "Mary's Way of the Cross" at **6:30pm on Tuesday March 19, 2024** before the evening Mass.



CWL General Meeting after the evening Mass on **Tuesday March 19 in the Jubilee Hall**. We have a guest speaker on Catholic Christian Outreach and budget decisions will be discussed.

BIG, BIG REMINDER to renew your membership ASAP! National office needs our numbers and YOU COUNT!

LENTE 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 until **March 18**. CWL will box and deliver to Surrey Food Bank!

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Preschool application for **September 2024** is still open for children aged 3-4 years old. Forms are available for pick up at the preschool classroom or from St. Matthew's Parish Office. For more details, please call 604-589-1222 or email, preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca. If you know families who are interested in registering their children to preschool, your referrals are highly appreciated!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Lightly used, clean men's pants needed. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for your help this Lenten Season. We are helping the residents currently housed in Temporary Shelters in the Surrey Centre Area as well as the Catholic Charities men's Shelter. They have asked us, if possible, to collect and donate to them men's pants. We need jeans and track pants. Please, **NO dress pants**. The SSVV will have two collection boxes available at the entrance to the Church for two weekends, **March 9/10 and March 16/17**. Thank you in advance for your continued support of two of our values which are: "to have personal contact with the poor" and "to help in all possible ways."



PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 UPDATE

693 donations received from 2677 registered parishioners (26%)

Goal	\$95,400.00
Total Collected	\$151,221.80
Portion of Expenses	\$8,516.62
Final Rebate Amount	\$38,338.38
Total Rebate Amount	\$47,305.18
Archdiocesan Goal for 2024	\$3.1 million (an increase of \$100,000 over last year's goal—\$2,050,000 for Secondary School Fund, \$950,000 for Archdiocesan Ministries, \$100,000 for Special Grants)
St. Matthew's Goal for 2024	\$165,000

COME ALL WHO ARE WEARY ADORATION NIGHT

A Lenten Adoration event to bring your burdens to the Lord and get filled up. You are invited to an evening of Candle-lit Adoration. Come, spend some quiet time before the Lord and prepare your heart for Holy Week so you can fully receive Jesus when Easter arrives. Stay for as little or as long as you like. Throughout the three hours, there will be times of gentle song and times of reverent silence, accompanied by the beautiful ambiance of candlelight. You will also have an opportunity to light a candle and bring it before Jesus. Jean-Paul and Mary-Rie de Fleuriot from www.faithroom.ca will be facilitating the event and music. Bring your loved ones and come find rest in the Lord.

Location: St. James Parish (2777 Townline Road, Abbotsford)

Date and Time: Saturday, March 23rd, from 7 - 9 pm

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GOSPEL

When the Hebrews sinned in the desert, snakes came to bite them. Moses lifted up a metal snake in the desert. If God's people looked at the metal snake, their painful snake bites would be healed. Instead of dying from their snake bites, they would live. Our sins are a lot like those snake bites. Sins turn us away from God, hurt us, and hurt other people. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he washed our sins away. Jesus gave us healing and forgiveness. We don't need to die from our sins. We can believe in Jesus, follow God with our whole hearts, and live forever.

PRAYER

God, thank you for sending Jesus to wash away my sins.

