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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 - wels@stmatthewselementary.ca

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

Sunday, March 31, 2024



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

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

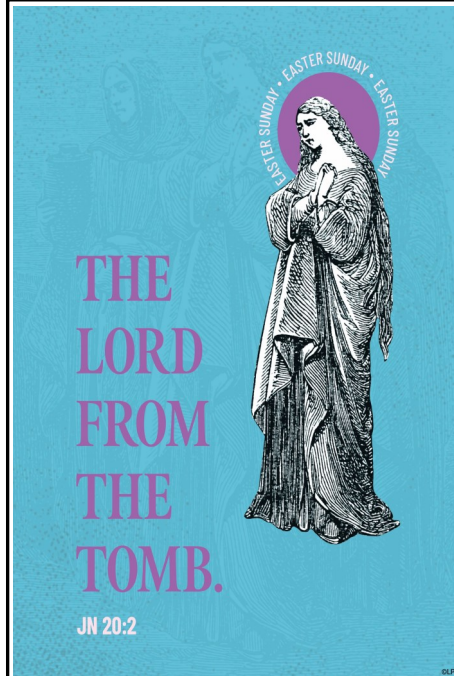
After the 8 AM Mass -
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 12:00 noon Benediction
 6:25 PM—Holy Rosary



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.



Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seven-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that He was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

- Father John Muir
©LPI

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

What Would Mary Do?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss His hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon His skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to Him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find Him, but He will always find you.

"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him.'" — John 20:2

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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	cwlstmatthewssurrey@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
(last Sunday)	Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes	sluongo@telus.net
	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	vien4odsurrey@gmail.com
	Mrs. Maureen Fadum	nannette1g@gmail.com
Community Outreach Ministry	M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reyes	mgfadum@gmail.com
Couples for Christ	Mrs. Daisy Chan	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
Discover Discipleship	Ms. Angela Drouillard	daisy_my_chan@hotmail.com
	Mrs. Ann Amsing	angemike14@gmail.com
	Mrs. Deborah Joel	annamsing@yahoo.com
	Mrs. Deidre Stone	djoel@positech.com
	Mr. Shane Gogo	deidrestone69@gmail.com
	Mr. Jon Javier	shanegogo@gmail.com
	Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
	M/M Mike & Cathy Lomanski	morilabala@yahoo.com
	Ms. Alexandra Jose	m1omanski@gmail.com
	M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon	ajose.smp@hotmail.com
	Mrs. Germana Brotto	doreenmck@shaw.ca
	Mrs. Teresa Gares	grbrotto@gmail.com
	Mr. Peter Tang	tgares@live.com
	Mr. Tim McKinnon	peter_tang@me.com
	Mrs. Katrina Amurao	tjm3499@gmail.com
	Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye	katrina.amurao@gmail.com
	Dcn. Steven Potusek	bolingo1@mac.com
	Ms. Christie Castro	spotusek@rcav.org
	Mr. Paul Stevens	SMPGPrayerline@hotmail.com
	Mr. Eric Andres	604-589-2448
	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	604-589-2448
	Mr. Tot Phan	marlowe25@hotmail.com
	Mr. Gerry Petines	totphan@gmail.com
	Mr. Minh Nguyen	glpetines@gmail.com
	Ms. Van Nguyen	minhnguyen725@shaw.ca
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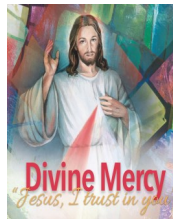
View our portfolio: raphweb.net
Reach out to us: info@raphweb.net

LIVE THE LITURGY

Even as the disciples saw the empty tomb and the discarded burial cloths, they did not understand what had happened. But they kept faith, trusting that the Lord was at work. Let us keep that same faith when we do not find God where we expect Him to be.

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DIVINE MERCY



In Between 1931-1938, Jesus transmitted His message of Divine Mercy to a young uneducated nun in Poland, the now St. Faustina. The most important aspect of His message was that a Feast of Divine Mercy be established on the first Sunday after Easter. Pope St. John Paul II on April 29, 2000 canonized St. Maria Faustina Kowalska as the first saint of the new millennium and proclaimed this day as a universal feast for the Church.

Our Lord revealed to St. Faustina "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners" (Diary 699).

Next Sunday, April 7th, we will celebrate from 3-4pm (the hour of Mercy) with Eucharistic Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers and veneration of the Mercy of God.

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



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.

Set aside your sacred space

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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

April Calendar

April	3	Welcome back students!
April	3	6:35PM Level 6 & Grade 6 Parent Meeting at the Elementary School Gym
April	6&7	Level 7 Retreat
April	10	6:35PM Grade2, Level2 &CIC2 Parent Meeting
April	17	6:35PM Level 7 Parent Meeting - Theology of the Body & Confirmation info Session (PREP only)
April	20	3:00-5:00PM First Holy Communion Retreat
		5:10 FHC Class—Level2, CIC2 & Grade 2
April	24	Early Dismissal at 7:30PM (Staff Meeting)

Announcement

Mite boxes and men's hygiene donations are due on April 3rd.

Sacramental Registration Level 2/CIC2

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

Archdiocese of Vancouver

MASS ANNIVERSARY

FOR CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES

REGISTRATION DEADLINE **JULY 21, 2024**

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 at 1:30pm
SAINT PAUL PARISH, RICHMOND
8251 St Albans Rd, Richmond, BC V6Y 2L2

For more information or to register, please contact parish office or call Deacon Raul Abella (778-512-9163) or email filipinoministry@rcav.bc.ca

Archdiocese of Vancouver

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS



Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

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 next getaway is on the weekend of **April 5-7, 2024 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort**. The fee is usually \$299. Use promo code RCAV-PEN to register for \$199. Accommodations at Penticton Lakeside Resort for conference participants should be booked separately. Rates may vary.

Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 3. For more information, please call Joyce at 604-683-0281 ext. 223 or visit <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/marriage-conference-weekend-getaway>.

Save 20% on Sacred Burial Space - Spring Open House

Gardens of Gethsemani Catholic Cemetery is hosting its Spring Open House:

- **Friday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Ends with 4:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller, and Blessing of the new Way of Light section
- **Saturday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Take advantage of the 20% off burial space before our modest price increase takes place. Now is the perfect time to make pre-need burial arrangements for yourself or your parents at our local Catholic cemetery! Learn more at <https://rccav.org/event/fall-open-house/>.

Job Opportunities—Gardens of Gethsemani

We're Hiring and looking for engaging and inspiring Catholics!

Outreach & Events Coordinator position - builds ministerial relationships with parishes, parish groups, CISVA schools, and Pastoral Centre ministry offices. The Outreach and Events Coordinator will plan/execute our community events and programs.

Groundskeeper and summer student positions - performs grounds operations and maintenance functions for the orderly burial of the dead. Key work includes grave preparations, burial functions, planting, and providing general care of property, while serving families in a caring and compassionate spirit.

Visit the Archdiocese of Vancouver's website for more information at <https://rcav.org/about/employment>.



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers
 †Mary Grace Licas
 who has gone home to the Lord.
 May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Funeral mass for †Victor Miller is on April 10, 2024 at 10am, with prayers on April 9, 2028 at 8pm.

Pray For Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Liz Da Costa; Tommy Contreras; 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 Buan-Torres & Joseph De La Cruz.; Mitch Montero; Talah Bautista; Mauricio Engada; Martha Doyle; Luz Eugenio; Pam & Carol Barthelette; Alanna Mckinley; Regina Diolata; Lawrence & Susan Odubajo; Theresa Fagbamiye; Naty Parinas; Mary Ann Cabading; Jurest Pe Perion; Concepcion Lacanienta; Lawrence Icarangal Jr.; Denver Gomez; 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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) CORNER



Easter reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice and to give thanks for what He brought to our world. May the resurrection of Christ inspire our faith and renew our hope. On this Easter Sunday, let us embrace His unwavering love, and learn to forgive like Christ, and spread joy in our world. Wishing all our members and parishioners, a Blessed Holy Easter filled with Happiness, Love, Peace and Faith.

Save the Date: Wellness Day tickets will be on sale starting the weekend of **April 6 & 7** at the end of each Mass. Massage session cost: \$30. A great gift for mums for Mother's Day and to yourself and your better half. All are welcome. Proceeds will be donated to Covenant House.

Lenten Food Drive for the Surrey Food Bank was very successful. We donated 35 boxes of non-perishable food with everyone's effort. Thank you to all parishioners who donated food or volunteered their time.

BURSARIES

St. Matthew's CWL Bursary

Are you going on to further studies in September? Is your mother or grandmother a member of St. Matthew's CWL?

CWL awards 2 bursaries for students who will graduate this year. Application forms are available at the counter of the Religious Articles Room. Submission deadline is **May 31, 2024**.

CWL Diocesan Bursary

CWL diocesan bursary information and application forms are available at <https://vancouvercwl.ca>. Deadline for application is **April 5, 2024**.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CARE



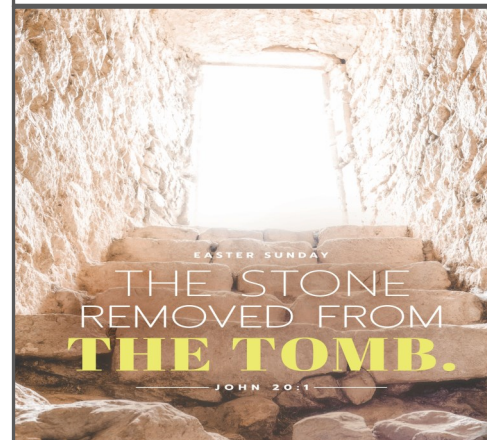
Preschool application for **September 2024** is still open for children aged 3-4 years old. Forms are available for pick up at the preschool classroom or from St. Matthew's Parish Office. For more details, please call 604-589-1222 or email, preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca. If you know families who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

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FROM HOLY LAND

Please have a look at the religious olive wood carvings displayed outside the Church on **April 13-14**. These articles are hand crafted by the Christians of the Holy land who are seeking your support today to assist them in staying rooted in the land of Christ. **70 years ago, the Christian population was 20 % of the whole population, now they are only 1.0%.**

It is also a way of preserving a local cultural heritage which is in danger of being lost as a more Christians feel pressured to leave their homeland for economic and political reasons. These religious articles can be used as gifts for first communions, Christmas and other occasions. In addition, some of these articles can be used as a means of praying and providing comfort, strength, and even hope for people who are suffering.

Please note that that ONLY CASH, E-TRANSFER, OR CHEQUES ARE accepted as payment at this time.



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GOSPEL

It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead!

PRAYER
 God, I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life.

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