

PASTOR'S CORNER

Feast of the Epiphany is an invitation to live a God-focused life

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Epiphany of the Lord is an important feast that comes shortly after Christmas, in the early days of January. The word Epiphany comes from Greek verb *epiphainesthai*, to appear and *epiphaneia*, which means manifestation (usually associated with a divine being). Thus, Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus to the outside world.

Epiphany also means a wonderful discovery or a great revelation. It is a remembrance of the coming of the Magi or the three Wise Men to the infant Jesus at Bethlehem. Generally, Epiphany is the manifestation of the infant Jesus to the gentile world, or to all non-Jews.

Epiphany is also known as the feast of light to reflect the coming of the infant Jesus, light of the world. The prophet Isaiah asked his people to take advantage of this light by rising and shining. He says, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). Similarly, Jesus instructs his disciples, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven" (Mat. 5:16). To Arise and Shine means you are to bloom wherever you are planted. To arise and shine also means that you can be better than who you are today and you can go further than where you are today.

We are called to arise from our weakness, to arise from our negative thoughts, to arise from our sin, to arise from darkness into the wonderful light that has come, to arise from our fears, to arise from our mediocrity and soar higher like eagles. To arise and take the place where God has prepared for us and to be in the position where God has placed us. There is a need to take the dust out of the gold to enable it shine more brightly.

This year is going to be a huge milestone for St. Mary's. We are in the threshold of crossing over to another century. And this journey is in many ways similar to the journey of the Magi. We need to keep our eyes focused on the STAR and walk ahead with a purpose.

We have wonderful Ministry groups operating directly as well as indirectly in our parish. Their contribution to the growth of the parish is commendable and praiseworthy. But imagine the beauty of our parish when all of us do the same service with a focused vision and purposeful goal! I urge all the members of the parish to contribute towards the growth of the parish by your active involvement.

Fr. Joseph

I will be away from the parish (Home leave) from 16 January 2023 to 20 February 2023. In my absence Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Gilles will take care of the parish needs.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023



AT A GLANCE

St. Mary's Silent Auction
Gala

2023 Sunday Envelopes

PPPG Catechesis
Meeting

Pier Giorgio Frassati

Bishop Lobsinger Bursary

Encountering Jesus
Sunday Gospel
Meditations for families

Sunday Mass Readings Year A

First Reading
Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
(R *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*)

Second Reading
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel
Matthew 2:1-12



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
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TOGETHER IN HOPE

5251 Joyce Street Vancouver, BC V5R 4G8

604-435-9611 | parish.smarv@rcav.org | stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Vancouver | Instagram: [stmarysvancouver](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysvancouver)

ANNOUNCEMENTS News EVENTS

St. Mary's Silent Auction Gala Dinner

The Fundraising Team is very excited to announce the St. Mary's Parish Gala Dinner is back again, the event is on February 10, 2023 at the Italian Cultural Center. This time the event is even more special as we are also celebrating the parish's Centennial Anniversary. Ticket sales begin this weekend after all masses. please call Lorna at the parish office 604-435-9611 x6 if you have any other inquiries. God Bless us all, see you at the GALA!

2023 Sunday Envelopes

Sunday Envelopes for 2023 are now available in the church basement. You can pick up your box on Saturdays from 4:30-6:15pm or Sundays from 8am-8pm. To request a box please contact Lorna at the parish office.

Padre Pio Prayer Group Catechesis Meeting

So you think you know the Bible! Have you ever wondered about the 1st Book of Kings? Who are these Kings? Do you know who the good Kings are? What makes the Kings wicked? What divides Judah and Israel again into two kingdoms? Join us and find out at the PPPG Bible Study January 19, Thursday on Zoom at 7pm with Fr. David Bellusci, OP

Pier Giorgio Frassati - What does "holiness" look like?

You have heard of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati but how well do you know him? this series will explore Pier Giorgio's life from his birth in Turin, Italy, in 1901, his relationship with his parents, his studies and spiritual life, his personal life, his charitable activities with the poor, to his vision of a Christian society. Father David Bellusci, OP will give a 10-part series of talks this January 9 (every 2nd Monday of the month) until June 12, at 7pm in the Church Basement. The talks based on Fr. David's book Pier Giorgio Frassati: Truth, Love, & Sacrifice.

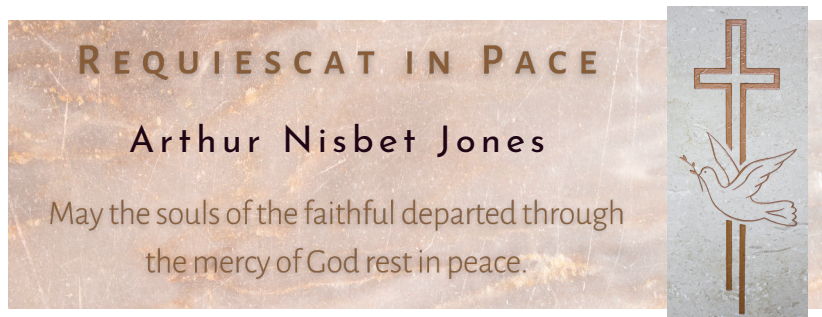
Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary

The annual BC and Yukon Bursary program known as the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program is underway. The 2023 program is now receiving applications. We are privileged to offer fourteen bursaries of \$1000 to Catholic students across the Province of BC. These bursaries are made available on a one-time only basis to young practicing Catholic students who are in a post secondary education at a recognized institute of higher learning within the Province of BC. Applications are accepted from Jan 1 - June 23, 2023 with the bursaries being awarded in the fall. The terms reference may be found on our website (kofcbc.org) For application requests and any inquiries please email herbykofc@gmail.com

Encountering Jesus - Sunday Gospel Meditations

is family prayer time a struggle? Are your children having difficulty paying attention during Mass? Take part in a family-friendly Mass reading preparation and/or review through a simple Lection Divina based on the Sunday Gospel readings. This ready-made, on-demand AUDIO program is easy to follow and engages all ages K-7 and teens/adults to "Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest and make Resolutions" in their lives to live out God's word. The short, yet effective sessions are designed for kids in mind. Guided prayer meditations included.

Learn more and register inspiredwithgrace.com/families.



PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
604-435-9611 (phone)
604-439-9413 (fax)

Located in the Rectory which is the red brick house next to the church on Joyce Street. Buzz Reception.

EXT.	4	Parish Priest	Fr. Joseph D'Souza, OP
	3	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP
	6	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gilles Simard, OP
	-	Resident Pastor	Fr. David Bellusci, OP
	6	Assistant	Lorna Acosta
	5	PREP & RCIA Director	Edwin Cruz
	-	Vanspec	Christina Reyes Ocampo
	7	Finance and Property	Jordan Nidua
	0	Reception	Priya Menezes

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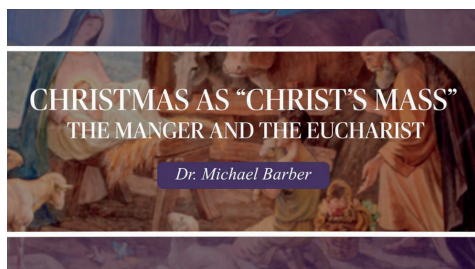
Have you checked out the collection of books, CDs and DVDs in our parish library?
To view our online catalogue:

- go to stmarysvancouver.ca and on the menu click on "Ministries"
- scroll down and click on "Library"
- click button to view the catalogue

Send an email to our librarian, Bill Murphy, at wwwmurphy@hotmail.com to borrow books and other materials.



- Go to formed.org/signup
- Search by postal code: V5R 4G8
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Christmas as "Christ's Mass": The Manger and the Eucharist by Dr. Michael Barber

Dr. Michael Barber explains the extraordinary connection between Christmas and the Eucharist, coining the great solemnity as "Christ's Mass."

REGULAR CHURCH SCHEDULE

CONFESSION	Weekdays	After mass
	Sundays	Before and after mass
DAILY MASS	Monday to Friday	8:00 am
	Wednesday to Friday	7:00 pm
	Saturday	8:30 am 5:00 pm (anticipated mass)
	Sunday	8:00 am 9:30 am 11:15 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm (Tagalog) 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
DEVOTIONS	Monday to Friday	7:15 am Rosary and Lauds
	Wednesday	6:00 pm Novena: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
	Thursday	6:00 pm Rosary and Prayer for Vocations
	Friday	3:00 pm Divine Mercy 6:00 pm Novena: Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary
		7:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9:00 pm Benediction
	Saturday	7:45 am Rosary and Lauds

CATECHISM & Sacraments

MARRIAGE

One of the couple must be Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish. Contact us at least six months prior to the wedding. Make no wedding arrangement until you have met with the priest. For details, call Lorna ext. 6



INFANT BAPTISM (under 5 yrs. old)

The family must be registered parishioners or must reside within parish boundaries. Non-parishioners must obtain permission from the pastor of their parish. For more information, call ext. 0 or email reception.smarvercav.org.



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For adults in need of Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation, or who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Contact rcia.smarvercav.org or call ext. 5.



PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Catechism for children who are attending public schools. Registration opens in the summer of 2023 for SY 2023/24.



VANSPEC (one-on-one special needs catechism)

Vanspec classes are led by volunteer catechists and aides who, with the assistance of the Program Director, adapt the content of each lesson and learning materials to the needs of the individual student. For more information, email vanspec.smarvercav.org.



ANointing OF THE SICK & FUNERALS

Please contact the parish office to schedule a visit, to speak to a priest or to arrange a service.



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff
Phone: 604-437-1312 Fax: 604-437-1193
stmary.bc.ca | office.smarvercav.org



PROJECT
ADVANCE
2022



GOAL: \$116,000
ACTUAL: \$148,386
100%

Donate online at projectadvance.ca or drop your pledge forms in the Sunday collection or at the parish office. Name, address and contact information are essential for tax receipts. For questions, please contact Teresa Lung at tky.lung@telus.net.

REMEMBER ST. MARY'S PARISH IN YOUR WILL



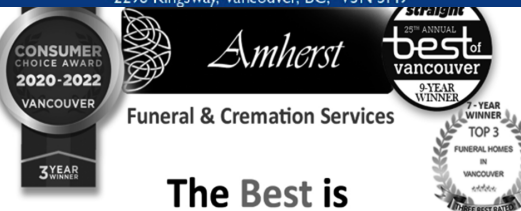
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Pre-Planning Advisor -

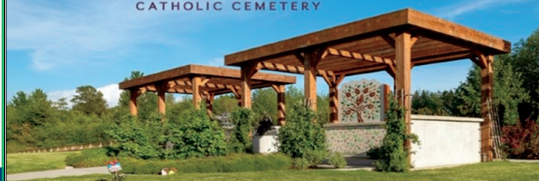
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