

**3rd SUNDAY  
OF LENT  
MARCH 12th, 2023**

**AT A GLANCE**

Sleep Out 2023

Integritas

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Seniors Gathering

Lenten Mission – Fr. David

Development & Peace

**Sunday Mass Readings  
Year A**

First Reading  
Exodus 17:3-7

Responsorial Psalm  
Ps 95:1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9  
(R.7c+8a)

Second Reading  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel  
John 4:5-42

The Gospel for this Sunday is John 4:5-42, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. This passage is so rich in meaning. Many commentators and writers have commented and written extensively about this beautiful encounter. St. Augustine likens the woman with the Church that is 'not yet made righteous'. The woman came to the well in ignorance and found Christ who enters into a conversation with her. It is worth noting that she came to the well at an odd time (noon), maybe she always did so, to avoid encounter with other neighbours who would have derided her for her sinful life. The result of sin is the sense of shame and thus avoiding the company of God and others (see Gen 3:7-8). But Jesus came to seek and save the lost (see Lk 19:10), He goes after the lost sheep (see Matt 18:10-14). When Jesus asks her for water, His actual thirst was not for water but rather for her soul. Jesus thirsts for every sinner.

As the woman looks at Jesus and he at her, four invisible walls stand between them. There is a religious wall, a gender wall, a racial wall, and a moral wall. Yet our Lord found a way through all of them. He found her ... and then she found him!

We see five stages or steps in the conversion of the Samaritan woman.

## I. Contact 4:1-8

Luke 19:10 tells us that the Lord Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. This story tells us what that means. John 4 is all about sovereign grace. He found her. She didn't find him. The same is true for all of us. You will never come to Christ until Christ first comes to you. What happens in this chapter looks like a chance encounter but it was nothing of the kind. The time and place and all the circumstances had been arranged by God well in time.

## II. Challenge 4:9-15

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

## III. Confrontation 4:16-18

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true" (John 4:16-18).

On one level it appears that Jesus is being insensitive. Why bring up anything about her past? Is Jesus trying to embarrass her? The answer is no. But his instruction to call her husband made her very uncomfortable. She doesn't want to go into detail so she simply replies, "I have no husband." Now that was true but it wasn't the whole story. She knew she was hiding the truth but what she doesn't know is that Jesus knows it, too. And so he proceeds to reveal the rest of the story. This woman has had five husbands and the man she is living with currently is not her husband. In a sense this is the ultimate reality check.

The words of Jesus are a verbal slap in the face, and yet it was the most loving thing he could have done for her. She is almost but not quite saved. She is near the kingdom but not in the door yet. Jesus laid bare what she thought she could keep hidden. That always makes sinners uncomfortable. She wants to change the subject, which is what she does.

## IV. Conversion 4:19-26

One of the great truths to come out of this story is that God is greater than geography, race, class, sex, and religious tradition. True worship is not about where or how or even when. It's about who you are and who God is. God wants worship that is based on truth and a wholehearted personal commitment to him. Salvation is not about going to the right mountain. It's about going to Jesus for salvation. And anyone can do that anywhere at any time!

## V. Changed Life 4:27-30

The woman is converted between verses 26 and 27. How do we know? Because she leaves her water pot and goes to tell the others in town. But God uses those who are willing to be used. Notice her invitation to the people of Sychar. She doesn't say, "You must be born again," but a much gentler, "Come and see." That's what Philip said to Nathanael in John 1:46. No threats, no promises, just come and see for yourself. Her invitation is sincere, non-threatening, and open to everyone. When Jesus gives you living water, you want to share it with someone else.

Let me summarize some of the things we learn from this wonderful story:

- No one is too sinful to be saved.
- No one is so lost that the Lord cannot find him.
- No one can be saved without facing his sinful past.
- No one who faces his sinful past will be turned away by Jesus.
- No one who meets Jesus will ever be the same again.

Jesus is ready to give us Living Water. It's free for the asking. Are we ready to receive it?

*Fr. Joseph*



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS News EVENTS

## Integritas: A Dialogue on Faith and Mental Health

Join us for a dialogue about topics of mental health through a Catholic lens, facilitated by a mental health professional equipped to answer your questions.

### March 22 - Session 3: Mental illness PJ Lewis

April 26 - Session 4: Self Care - Dennis Boyd

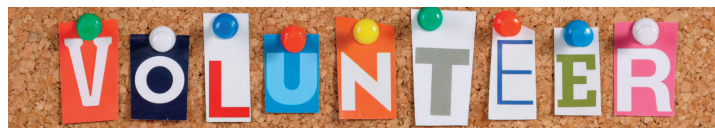
Time: 7:30-8:30pm

Locations: Online or in-person at **St. Mary's**, St. Patrick's (Maple Ridge), Christ the Redeemer, Good Shepherd.

Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

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

As we observe Lent, let us examine how we can imitate Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati's life. Fr. David Bellusci, OP will give the 7th chapter (of the 10 part series of talks) on March 13, on Pier Giorgio's spiritual and personal life, his charitable activities with the poor, his vision of a Christian society. The talk is based on Fr. David's book Pier Giorgio Frassati: Truth, Love & Sacrifice. Monday March 13 7pm, St. Mary's Church Hall. Please use Euclid entrance.



The **1pm choir** welcomes parishioners who love to praise and worship God in singing and chanting joyfully. Choir experience an asset, but not required. [onechoiratstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:onechoiratstmarys@gmail.com).

The **5pm Youth Mass** seeks youth and young adults to assist as ushers. Contact Samuel for more info at: [youthusher.smarv@gmail.com](mailto:youthusher.smarv@gmail.com)

**Street Ministry** is seeking volunteers for outreach and to sort donations. Contact Mildred 778-885-9611

### Why not consecrate yourself to God?

As a Brother or Priest of the Dominican Order?

Contact Fr. David Bellusci, OP to discover Dominican life: [davidbellusci@yahoo.ca](mailto:davidbellusci@yahoo.ca)

## St Mary's Seniors (65 and older) - Thursday March

23rd - 11 to 1 pm in church basement.

You are welcome to bring cards and games to play. Lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by Tuesday March 21st by email to [smvanseniors@gmail.com](mailto:smvanseniors@gmail.com) or call the office at 604 435-9611 Ext 0.

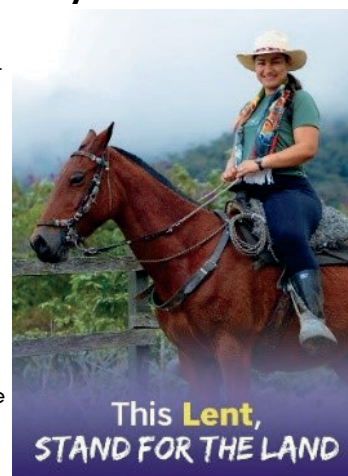
## Lenten Mission with Fr. David Bellusci, OP

St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver invites you to their Lenten Mission, taking place from Mon March 27 - Wed. March 29, from 7-8pm at St. Pat's Parish 2881 Main St. Vancouver. The theme of the mission is 'Mary at the Foot of the Cross: Jesus Gives Us His Mother.' Each evening will start with Mass at 7pm followed by the mission talk at 7:30pm [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

## Colombia: defence of land and territory

Colombia is home to nearly 10 per cent of the planet's biodiversity, and is also one of the most dangerous countries for people defending their land and territory against exploitation.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner, the Asociación Campesina de Antioquia (ACA, Peasant Association of Antioquia) supports peasant communities affected by armed conflict in defending their lives and territories and build a culture of peace through filmmaking and art. Meet Raquel Soto, a participant in ACA's documentary filmmaking school at [devp.org/lent](http://devp.org/lent).



## Stewardship Reflection

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again" - John 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True Joy and peace only comes when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered and less "self-centered." Copyright © 2023 Archdiocese of St. Louis

## Save the Date

### St. Mary's Penitential Service

Tuesday March 28

7:00 - 9:00 pm

We will have 8 priests available to hear confessions

## 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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## BOOKS, MOVIES, VIDEOS, AUDIO... *Grow in Faith*

### PARISH LIBRARY

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

- go to [stmarysvancouver.ca](http://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](mailto:wwwmurphy@hotmail.com) to borrow books and other materials.

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- Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
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- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

### 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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
[stmmary.bc.ca](http://stmmary.bc.ca) | [office.smarvercav.org](mailto:office.smarvercav.org)



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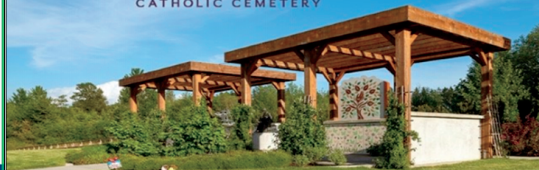
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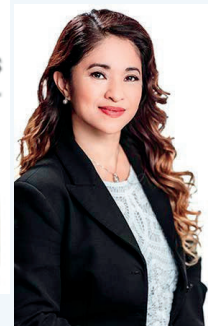
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