

PASTOR'S CORNER

Nice to be back in the parish, after a gap of one month. I must confess that as much as I enjoyed my quality time with my family and friends in India, I dearly missed being in St. Mary's. The positive vibes that each one of you spread so 'contagiously' in the community are never to be missed. As I was on my way back, and as I saw the impressive and majestic building of St. Mary's church, the first thought that came to my mind is: "thank God for bringing me back". It is the life inside the building more than the building itself, that attracts one back to St. Mary's.

Among many things that I missed during my absence were the Gala Dinner and the Ministries Retreat. I know for sure that both these events were a huge success due to the dedication and hard work of those wonderful people who were working behind the screen for so many months, holding meetings after meetings and listening to the suggestions of everyone and trying their best to accommodate them. A big thank you to all of you who organised and participated in these both events.

We have entered into an important phase of liturgical year: Lent. Traditionally Lent was the time of extreme atonement for the sins, to find one's way back to God, a time of inward journey. To embark on an inward journey is not easy. It's a big challenge. None of us like to face a "bad Me" inside us. It takes a lot of efforts to accept and say that 'I need to change'. It needs a lot of courage to "let go and let in"; let go of our sinfulness and let God into our lives. May we strive hard to be closer to God and come out victorious from all struggles and sinfulness as Jesus was victorious from the tempters' evil designs in the desert (Matt 4:1-11).

In his message for Lent 2023, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to listen to what Jesus wants to tell them through the Scriptures and through others.

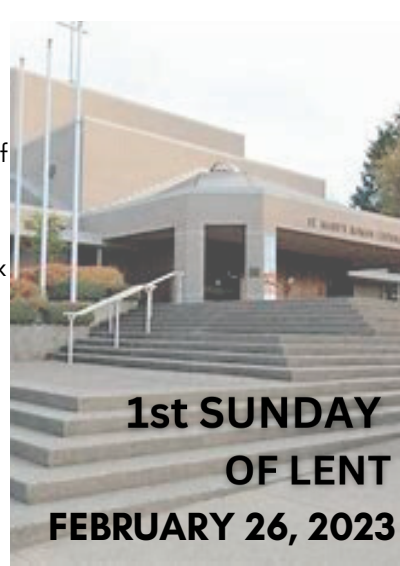
Using the story of Jesus' Transfiguration as a launching point, Pope Francis addressed both the journey of Lent and the Catholic Church's ongoing Synod on Synodality in the message released Feb. 17.

The pope recalled "the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: 'Listen to him.'"

"The first proposal, then, is very clear: We need to listen to Jesus," he said. "Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us."

Let us remember that God speaks to us in the silence of our hearts, and we respond from the fullness of our hearts.

Fr. Joseph



**1st SUNDAY
OF LENT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

AT A GLANCE

Sleep Out 2023

Integritas

Padre Pio Prayer Group

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

YFC Camp - Camp Hope

Lenten Mission - Fr. David

Development & Peace

Sunday Mass Readings Year A

First Reading
Genesis 2:7-9, 16-18, 25;
3:1-7++

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 51:1-2, 3-4a, 10-11, 12+15
(R.1a+4a)

Second Reading
Romans 5:12, 17-19

Gospel
4:1-11

SLEEP OUT 2023

Let's #SleepOutTogether
for those on the streets

FRI MARCH 24 6PM - SAT MARCH 25 9AM
ST. MARY'S PARISH
ARCHBISHOP MILLER WILL CELEBRATE MASS
[HTTP://SLEEPOUT2023.EVENTBRITE.CA](http://sleepout2023.eventbrite.ca)



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Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Vancouver | Instagram: stmarysvancouver

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

Padre Pio Prayer Group Catechesis Meeting

Join us for breakfast on March 4 at 9:30am in the Church basement and learn the spirituality of St. Padre Pio as we observe Lent with guidance and catechism directly from San Giovanni, Rotando Italy. Fr. David will lead us in the prayer group.



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.

The **5pm Youth Mass** seeks youth and young adults to assist as ushers. Contact Samuel for more info at: 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**

CFC-YFC West 2: Camp Hope

The chapter of West 2 is hosting a 3-day overnight camp at Camp Capilano March 10-12, where the youth will have the opportunity to experience fellowship with other young Catholics in the community and develop a deeper understanding of their relationship with God. Camp Hope will consist of talks and testimonies from leaders in the community, and participants will be able to participate in small, close knit group discussions where they are free to reflect and discuss their faith with fellow youth.

Contact leahchiu.canete@gmail.com for more info.

Lenten Mission with Fr. David Bellusci, OP

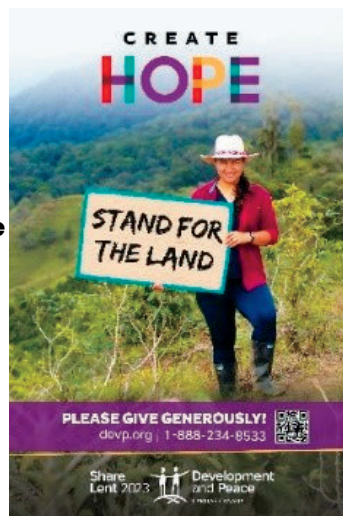
St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver invites you to their Lenten Mission, taking place from Mon March 27 - Wed. March 29, from 7-8pm at St. Pat's Parish 2881 Main St. Vancouver. The theme of the mission is 'Mary at the Foot of the Cross: Jesus Gives Us His Mother.' Each evening will start with Mass at 7pm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

This Lent, Let's stand for the Land

Support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their land and territory. Do this by:

- Donate online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday on March 26.

- Learn more by reading the Mini-magazine and other resources at devp.org/lent/resources



Stewardship Reflection

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve'"

Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things, and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

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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

jdsouzaercav.org
gabrielmariedominique@gmail.com
gsimardercav.org
davidbellusci@yahoo.ca
parish.smarvercav.org
prep.smarvercav.org
rcia.smarvercav.org
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reception.smarvercav.org



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 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.

FORMED

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- Go to formed.org/signup
- Search by postal code: V5R 4G8
- Select "St. Marys Vancouver 5251 Joyce Street"
- 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.



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
stmmary.bc.ca | office.smarvercav.org



**PROJECT
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2022**



GOAL: \$116,000

ACT: \$158,958

127 %

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.

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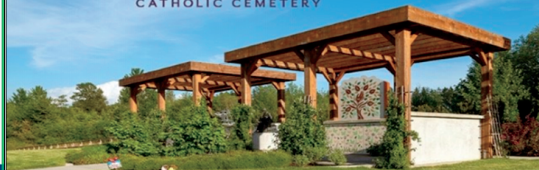
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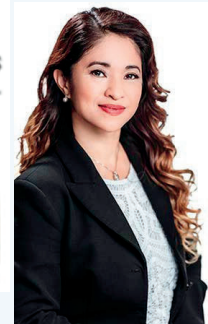
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