PASTOR'S CORNER

In the first reading of this Sunday (Genesis 12:1-4), Abram is commanded by the Lord to "Go (leave) from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." And this command is followed by a huge promise to make him a great nation and abundant blessings on him. As we continue to read the passage, we find that Abram did obey the Lord and leave behind a secure life and rich possessions to the "unknown and unsure" country that the Lord had promised to give him. His unquestioning faith in God did not disappoint him. This entire incident can be likened to our journey of faith in this Lenten season.

God asks us to leave behind all that we hold dear and embark upon a journey to the unknown, trusting in God. All those who set out on this journey may face many hardships and difficulties, trials, and temptations to give up. Abram was not spared either. But if you do take up this journey in strong faith in God and dare to venture into a new path, a path that God has prepared for us, then He will bless us, as he did to Abram.

Through the gospel of this Sunday (Transfiguration of the Lord), God is reminding us of and warning us against seeking easy ways to glory. The path to salvation passes through the cross and Calvary. The best thing we can do to accept the call of God is to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved Son of God the Father. This is the central message of the gospel today. I wish to quote a couple of thoughts by Pope Francis, on listening.

"What are the duties of the Christian? Perhaps you will say to me: to go to Mass on Sundays; to fast and abstain during Holy Week; to do this.... Yet the first duty of the Christian is to listen to the Word of God, to listen to Jesus, because he speaks to us, and he saves us by his word. And by this word he makes our faith even stronger and more robust. Listen to Jesus! "But, Father, I do listen to Jesus, I listen a lot!". "Yes? What do you listen to?". "I listen to the radio, I listen to the television, I listen to people gossip".

We listen to so many things throughout the day, so many things.... But I ask you a question: 'Do we take a little time each day to listen to Jesus, to listen to Jesus' word?' Do we have the Gospels at home? And do we listen to Jesus each day in the Gospel, do we read a passage from the Gospel? Or are we afraid of this, or unaccustomed to reading it? To listen to Jesus' word in order to nourish ourselves! This means that Jesus' word is the most nourishing food for the soul: it nourishes our souls, it nourishes our faith! I suggest that each day you take a few minutes and read a nice passage of the Gospel and hear what happens there." (Pope Francis 16.03.2014, Holy Mass, Santa Maria Dell'Orazione)

Fr. Joseph





AT A GLANCE

Sleep Out 2023

Integritas

CWL Lent Retreat

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

YFC Camp - Camp Hope

Lenten Mission - Fr. David

Development & Peace

Sunday Mass Readings Year A

> First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:4–5, 18–19, 20+22 (R.22)

> Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

> > Gospel Matthew 17:1-9





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

CWL Lent Retreat at Queen of Peace Mar 25

CWL is hosting a Lent Retreat at Queen of Peace in Squamish on Mar 25 and we have 9 spaces left. The fee for transportation & registration is \$30 We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am and depart at 9am sharp and return by 4pm. To minimize costs, please pack a lunch. Please contact Cynthia at y.cean@yahoo.ca or Teresa at tky.lung@telus.net for reservation or info.

Fr. Pierre, OP will facilitate the retreat.



The **lpm 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 Mininstry 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.caneteagmail.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 followed by the mission talk beholdvancouver.org/events

The courage to Create Hope

Pope Francis Said, "... you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion." These are words that inspired the choice of "Create Hope" as a 5 year guiding theme at D&P -Caritas Canada. The courage to Create Hope is rooted in actions big and small. Join our campaign at







GERONIMO INARDA



May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Stewardship Reflection

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that i will show you"

Genesis 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful. God calls us to be faithful."

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EXT. 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.

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6	Assistant Pastor
_	Resident Pastor
6	Assistant
5	PREP & RCIA Director
_	Vanspec

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Fr. Joseph D'Souza, OP Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP Fr. Gilles Simard, OP Fr. David Bellusci, OP Lorna Acosta

Christina Reyes Ocampo

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

Edwin Cruz

Jordan Nidua

Priya Menezes

PARISH LIBRARY

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

7

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- 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 wwmmurphy@hotmail.com to borrow books and other materials.

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

- Go to formed.org/signup
- Search by postal code: V5R 4G8
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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

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 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.



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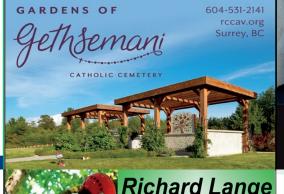
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