



# The Parish Bulletin.

FOR ALL NEWS AT ST.MARY'S PARISH VANCOUVER

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

### ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Second Sunday of Advent, the emphasis begins to shift from the Lord's final coming in glory to his coming in human flesh. Every year, on this day, as preparation for Christmas, the Church leads us on pilgrimage to the Jordan River, so that we might enroll in the school of John the Baptist, hear his message, and put it into action in our lives. The Gospel Reading of today from St. Mark presents John the Baptist as our model for Advent preparation; he is the precursor who announced the Lord's coming and who prepared the people by preaching them "the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

The Scripture Readings of today tell us about the concern God has for His people and at the same time admonish the people to prepare the way spiritually for the coming of the Lord. In the First Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the Prophet consoles the people of Israel in exile and assures them of the fulfillment of the promise of the Messiah. In this passage normally known as 'the poem of consolation', God shows how he cares for each person individually. In the Second Reading from his 2nd Letter, St. Peter speaks strongly against those who denied the Second Coming of Christ and says that 'the Day of the Lord' will come like a thief and the

Lord will establish his Kingdom of truth, justice and peace in a new heaven and new earth. The Gospel Reading of today from St. Mark presents John the Baptist as the precursor of the birth of the Messiah. John the Baptist called all to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths". He proclaimed the Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and announced the coming of Jesus who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. The preparatory work announced by John is the way we're called to get ourselves ready to receive the Lord who is coming.

The catch word is 'repent'. We are invited to change the direction of our minds. Isaiah and John the Baptist call us to prepare the way for the Lord. We are to retreat, go back to our initial love and initial calling. We are to rethink our faith and commitment. Hey, wait, turn around, change, turn left, turn right, you need to change...are these words familiar? To do these, use whatever you need, google map, compass, asking others for the direction.

John the Baptist is the pointer, trouble shooter for us. Let us heed the call of John and be the voices of God in this world.

*Fr. Joseph*

**ST. MARY'S PARISH VANCOUVER**  
IN CHRIST WITH MARY  
TOGETHER IN HOPE

**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 10TH, 2023**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Dec 16-24**  
**9 day Simbang Gabi**

**Dec 19 - TUES**  
**Penitential Service**

**Jan 13 2024 - SAT**  
**Feast of St Joseph Vaz**  
**St. Matthew's Parish**

**Jan 20 2024 - FRI**  
**Mass Wedding Info**  
**Session**

### SUNDAY MASS READINGS YEAR B

FIRST READING  
ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
PS 85:8AB+9, 10-11, 12-13  
(R.7)

SECOND READING  
2 PETER 3:8-14

GOSPEL  
MARK 1:1-8

### SCAM WARNING | E-MAIL FRAUD

Scam e-mails impersonating Fr. Joseph have been circulating. **DO NOT ENGAGE** with unverified e-mails. If unsure contact the parish office. Stay safe.



[pastordiocesan@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiocesan@gmail.com)



[jdsouza@rcav.org](mailto:jdsouza@rcav.org)



Follow us on social media for all updates and new content!



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### SUNDAY MASSES (AND SATURDAY)

SAT 05:00 pm (*anticipated mass*)  
SUN 08:00 am | 09:30 am | 11:15 am | 01:00 pm  
03:00 pm (*Tagalog*) | 05:00 pm | 07:00 pm

### DAILY MASSES

MON - FRI 08:00 am | SAT 08:30 am | WED-FRI 07:00 pm

### CONFESSION

**SUNDAY** before & after mass | **WEEKDAY** after mass

### DEVOTIONS

MON - FRI 07:15 am Rosary & Lauds  
WED 06:00 pm Novena: Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
THU 06:00 pm Rosary & Prayer for Vocations  
FRI 03:00 pm Divine Mercy  
06:00 pm Novena: Two Hearts of Jesus & Mary  
07:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
09:00 pm Benediction  
SAT 07:45 am Rosary & Lauds

**\*\*John Tvergyak\*\***

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, may he rest in peace, Amen*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATES | NEWS | EVENTS

## SCAM WARNING | E-MAIL FRAUD

Scam e-mails impersonating Fr. Joseph have been circulating. **DO NOT ENGAGE** with unverified e-mails. If unsure contact the parish office. Stay safe.

✘ [pastordiocesan@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiocesan@gmail.com)

✔ [jdsouza@rcav.org](mailto:jdsouza@rcav.org)

### Kindergarten 2024-2025 | Accepting Applications

St. Mary's Elementary School - [stmary.bc.ca](http://stmary.bc.ca)

We are now accepting applications for the kindergarten 2024-2025 school year. *Child must be born in 2019 and turn 5 by Dec 31st.* To apply or for more info contact

**604 437-1312 | [office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca](mailto:office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca)**

### Mass Wedding | 2nd Info Session Jan 20 Fri 6-8pm

St. Mary's Project Cana

Are you married outside the Catholic Church? Would you like to get your union regularized so you can receive the sacraments once again?

Now, you have this great opportunity to have your dreams come true, as Fr. Joseph D'Souza, OP celebrates the Mass Wedding of civilly married couples on **Oct 19, 2024**

It will be a beautiful community celebration that will cost very little to the individual couples. You can be part of it!

**Second Info session Jan 20, 2024 - SAT | 6-8 PM**

For more info [rcia.smarv@rcav.org](mailto:rcia.smarv@rcav.org) or **604-435-9611 ext. 205**

### Catholic Street Missionaries + St. Mary's Street Min

#### Donations for the homeless

Individually wrapped bite-size chocolates, new men's socks, blankets, sleeping bags, and adult clothing for winter camping use. Label donations as "Street Ministries" and drop off to one of the ushers or the parish office during regular hours.

#### Volunteer Opportunity | Street Ministries

We are looking for volunteers who are good at organizing events, communications, and/or would like to reach out to the homeless. If interested, contact Mildred at:

**778-885-9611 or email [mmoy\\_ca@yahoo.com](mailto:mmoy_ca@yahoo.com)**

### Alpha for Men - Starting Jan 2024

Holy Cross Parish - 1450 Delta Ave, Burnaby

Explore life's purpose and faith with Alpha for Men at Holy Cross! Join us for weekly evening gatherings starting January 12 at 6:30 pm. Open to men aged 30 to 55 and anyone seeking to deepen their faith journey. Enjoy dinner, videos, and discussions.



SCAN TO SIGN UP

PROJECT ADVANCE Empowering our Parish Vision  
2023

Thank you for your support, we are now at **\$106,157 - 88%** of our parish goal of \$120,000

Pledge now at [projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca)

### Project Advance 2023 - Dec 9/10 Update

We are now at **\$106,157/88%** of our parish goal of \$120,000. We're almost there!! Pledge via [projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca) or place your donation or pledges through the weekly Sunday collection, please indicate your name, address, and contact number by the end of December to get your tax receipt for tax remittance for 2023 for tax receipt purposes. Secondly, there is a special collection **next weekend - Dec 16th & 17th** for the campaign, we thank you in advance for your generous and continuous support!

Excess proceeds go towards parish building fund  
For more details contact [tky.lung@telus.net](mailto:tky.lung@telus.net)

### Simbang Gabi Masses | Dec 16 - Dec 24

St. Mary's Parish

Simbang Gabi is A devotional, nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas. This begins on **Saturday, Dec 16 at 6am and will continue till Dec 24.** Archbishop Miller will **celebrate mass on Dec 21st.** If you and your family would like to sponsor a mass, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer. Maraming Salamat Po!!

### Feast of St. Joseph Vaz | Jan 13, 2024 - Sat

St. Matthew's Parish | 16079 88 Ave, Surrey

A special mass celebrated by our own Fr. Joseph D'Souza, organized by the Sri Lankan Catholic Community and the Vancouver Goan Association.

**Holy Rosary at 6:40 pm**

**Holy Mass at 7:00 pm**

Followed by fellowship after mass.

We appreciate food contributions for the fellowship

Contact us for more info:

**John Braganza - 604-446-2510**

**Ajith Seneviratne - 604-290-6344**

### Raffle | BC/Yukon State Council Charity Appeal

*Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council 13072*

**Tickets available after all masses until Dec. 10**

**Final Draw Prize draw - Dec. 16**

Prizes: \$1K, \$5K \$10K, \$30K and 2023 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid

LAUDATE SINGERS SOCIETY  
LAUDATE SINGERS, PARAGON SINGERS, BAROQUE ORCHESTRA  
LARS KAARIO, CONDUCTOR

# Handel's Messiah

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 • 3PM  
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**Adults \$45 | Seniors \$40 | Under 35 \$15**

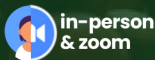
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# PARISH MINISTRIES



& Fr. David Bellusci



**NEXT MEET | Dec.2 SAT @ 9:30 am after 8:30am mass**

Join us **Dec.2nd for breakfast** and a prayer group meeting and learn the spirituality of St. Padre Pio with catechism lead by Fr. David  
Email: [pppgvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:pppgvancouver@gmail.com)



**DNA**

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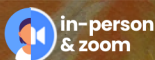


**NEXT MEETING | Dec.23 - SAT**

D.N.A. is a men's Group meeting on the **2nd and the 4th Saturday of every month**, at **9:30am**, in the Parish Rectory basement. For more info reach out to Fr. Gabriel at: **604-435-9611, ext. 202 | [fathergabriel1@outlook.com](mailto:fathergabriel1@outlook.com)**



**MISSION ABLAZE**



**Come join the Mission Ablaze Prayer Group**  
Meet and experience the power and love of the Holy Spirit  
**Every Tues @ 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM** at the church hall **IN-PERSON & ZOOM**  
Email: [missionablazesmvm@gmail.com](mailto:missionablazesmvm@gmail.com)

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**



**Every Weds @ 07:00 PM** - at the church rectory basement  
Contact Cora: [calcuittas@gmail.com](mailto:calcuittas@gmail.com) or **604-339-2904**.

## PARISH RESOURCES

**PARISH LIBRARY**

**Have you checked out** the collection of books, CDs, and DVDs in our library? View online catalogue at [stmarysvancouver.ca/ministries/library](http://stmarysvancouver.ca/ministries/library)  
To borrow any resources Email our librarian,  
**Bill Murphy | [wwmmurphy@hotmail.com](mailto:wwmmurphy@hotmail.com)**

**FORMED**

THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

[formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)

1. Go to the formed site and Search by postal code: V5R 4G8
2. Select "St. Marys Vancouver 5251 Joyce Street"
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check your emails for a link to begin using FORMED!



## CATECHISM & SACRAMENTS



**MARRIAGE**

Lorna | ext.204

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.



**RCIA**

Edwin | ext. 205

[rcia.smarv@rcav.org](mailto:rcia.smarv@rcav.org)

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** is for adults in need of Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation, or who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith.



**VANSPEC**

Christina | [vanspec.smarv@rcav.org](mailto:vanspec.smarv@rcav.org)

**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.



**INFANT BAPTISM**

ext.200

[reception.smarv@rcav.org](mailto:reception.smarv@rcav.org)

**For infants 5 years old and younger.** Family must be registered parishioners or must reside within parish boundaries. Non-parishioners must obtain permission from the pastor of their parish.



**PREP**

Edwin | ext.205

[prep.smarv@rcav.org](mailto:prep.smarv@rcav.org)

**Parish Religious Education Program.** Catechism for children who are attending public schools. Registration opens in the summer of 2023 for SY 2023/24.



**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 - VANCOUVER BC**

Principal: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff  
604-437-1312 Fax: 604-437-1193  
[office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca](mailto:office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca)

website: [stmary.bc.ca](http://stmary.bc.ca)

## Stewardship Reflection

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3*

*We are all called to live a holy life. We are called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?*

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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. 201	Parish Priest	Fr. Joseph D'Souza, OP	<a href="mailto:jdsouza@rcav.org">jdsouza@rcav.org</a>
202	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP	<a href="mailto:gabrielmariedominique@gmail.com">gabrielmariedominique@gmail.com</a>
203	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gilles Simard, OP	<a href="mailto:gsimard@rcav.org">gsimard@rcav.org</a>
-	Resident Pastor	Fr. David Bellusci, OP	<a href="mailto:davidbellusci@yahoo.ca">davidbellusci@yahoo.ca</a>
204	Pastoral Assistant	Lorna Acosta	<a href="mailto:parish.smarv@rcav.org">parish.smarv@rcav.org</a>
205	PREP & RCIA Director	Edwin Cruz	<a href="mailto:prep.smarv@rcav.org">prep.smarv@rcav.org</a>   <a href="mailto:rcia.smarv@rcav.org">rcia.smarv@rcav.org</a>
209	Youth ministry Coord	Joyce Villaverde	<a href="mailto:youth.smarv@rcav.org">youth.smarv@rcav.org</a>
-	Vanspec	Christina Reyes Ocampo	<a href="mailto:vanspec.smarv@rcav.org">vanspec.smarv@rcav.org</a>
207	Finance and Property	Jordan Nidua	<a href="mailto:smpacc@telus.net">smpacc@telus.net</a>
200	Reception	Priya Menezes	<a href="mailto:reception.smarv@rcav.org">reception.smarv@rcav.org</a>



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