



# The Parish Bulletin.

FOR ALL NEWS AT ST.MARY'S PARISH VANCOUVER

5251 JOYCE ST VANCOUVER, BC V5R 4G8 | 604-435-9611 | PARISH.SMARV@RCAV.ORG  
FB: @STMARYSVANCOUVER | IG: @STMARYSVANCOUVER | STMARYSVANCOUVER.CA

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### REJOICING IN PREPARATION

The third Sunday of Advent is called **Gaudete Sunday**, and holds a significant place in the liturgical calendar, marking a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The term "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always."

The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the church recognized the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more somber aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

The liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday is rose or pink, symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. This distinctive color choice is a visual cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway.

In the gospel of this Sunday once again John the Baptist is presented as the one who came to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. John was largely successful in preparing others to receive Christ because he was well prepared himself.

#### ***His birth was well planned and prepared by God.***

John's conception and birth were to be so special that his mother's womb remained barren until God decided to bring John into the world. He was destined to carry out a special mission, John was conceived when his parents (Zechariah and Elizabeth) least expected it (Luke 1:5-25). Another point indicating that God prepared the Baptist is the fact that it was the angel Gabriel who announced the name 'John' - a name unusual in his family - even before he was born (Luke 1:13, 60-61).

#### ***His birth was well prepared by his parents.***

John went to the desert to prepare himself through prayer, fasting, and other forms of asceticism. By so doing he submitted himself to the Spirit of God (Luke 1:80). Secondly, he led a simple life, dressing and the type of food he ate. Thirdly, no strong drink ever touched his lips and no razor touched his hair, in accordance with the angelic message.

We can sum up how Zechariah and Elizabeth prepared John as follows:

- They ensured that the name given by the angel was given to their child.
- They nurtured John to appreciate the unique circumstances of his birth as well as the divine mission entrusted to him.
- They trained him to know the scriptures, to be submissive to the Spirit of God, and to be committed to his mission.

Like Zechariah and Elizabeth who prepared John for his mission, all parents have the duty to prepare their children for their missions. Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, parents have to bring up their children to know, love and serve God. Secondly, through ensuring that their children have a sound education, paying close attention to their well-being and interests, and helping them identify their talents, parents play their due role in preparing their children for their future mission of contributing to society, to the glory of God.

#### ***John prepared himself personally.***

John went to the desert to prepare himself through prayer, fasting, and other forms of asceticism. By so doing he submitted himself to the Spirit of God (Luke 1:80). Secondly, he led a simple life, dressing and the type of food he ate. Thirdly, no strong drink ever touched his lips and no razor touched his hair, in accordance with the angelic message.

#### ***Conclusion***

Through the intercession of John the Baptist,

- May we appreciate ever more God's investment in us;
- May every parent be more responsible for his/her child's good upbringing and solid preparation for the future; and
- May we be constantly committed to fulfilling our general and specific missions.

*Fr. Joseph*

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

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 17TH, 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 61:1-2A, 10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
LUKE 1:47-48, 49-50, 53-54  
(R. ISA 61:10B)

SECOND READING  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

GOSPEL  
JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

### SCAM WARNING | E-MAIL FRAUD

Scam e-mails impersonating Fr. Joseph have been circulating. **DO NOT ENGAGE** with unverified e-mails.



**pastordiocesan@gmail.com**



**jdsouza@rcav.org**

### 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

**\*\*Zenaida Ocol\*\***

*Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon her, may she 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 DSouza, 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

### SECOND COLLECTION: PROJECT ADVANCE

PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 Empowering our Parish Vision



Thank you for your support, we are now at **\$114,546 - 95%** of our parish goal of \$120,000



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

### Project Advance 2023 - Dec 16/17 Update

We are now at **\$114,546/95%** 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.

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 (live-streamed)

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!!

## Christmas Mass Times

**December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent**  
8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm Tagalog

**December 24 - Christmas Eve** !  
5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm

**December 25 - Christmas Day** !  
8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm Tagalog, 5pm

**December 31 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm Tagalog

**December 31 - New Year's Eve** !  
5pm, 7pm, 9pm - Exposition & Adoration

**January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** !  
8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm Tagalog, 5pm

! **No confessions before or after mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and Solemnity of Mary.**

### 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**

Looking to advertise? If your business is looking to promote, we still have spaces the bulletin! For more info Teresa: [tky.lung@telus.net](mailto:tky.lung@telus.net)




# PARISH MINISTRIES

**PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP** & Fr. David Bellusci 

**NEXT MEETING | FEB 3 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** Discipleship | aNd | Accountability 

**NEXT MEETING | January 13 - SAT  
NO MEETING December 23**

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** 

**NEXT MEETING | January 9, 2024**

**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: [missionablazesm@gmail.com](mailto:missionablazesm@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

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."*  
1Thessalonians 5:16-18

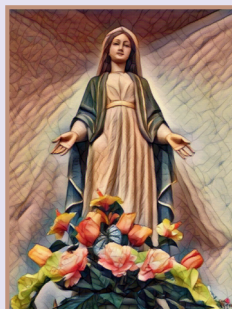
*This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.*

Copyright © 2023 Archdiocese of St. Louis

### 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:jsouza@rcav.org">jsouza@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>  |



REMEMBER ST. MARY'S PARISH IN YOUR WILL





**MULTIPLE REALTY LTD.**  
RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL

**Max Astrero**  
778-994-2945



Bus: 604-434-1431  
Fax: 604-563-3078  
max.astrero@gmail.com  
www.maxells.com

2298 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC, V5N 5M9



**Amherst**  
Funeral & Cremation Services



The Best is  
*Simply*  
Affordable



- Catholic Funeral Services from \$2,898.88. Church Funeral (w/ Rental Casket, Cremation & Urn) \$4,145.88
- Serving Vancouver & the entire BC Lower Mainland
- Award-winning services, the most trusted brand.

**604.831.3023 (24 Hours/7 Days)**

1209-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7

[www.amherstcremation.com](http://www.amherstcremation.com)



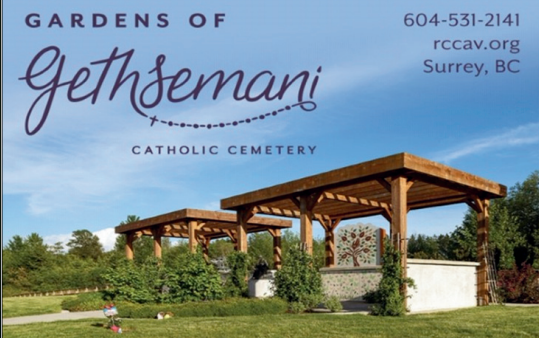
**Faley Law Corporation**  
Lawyers  
1233 - 3779 Sexsmith Road  
Richmond, BC, V6X 3Z9  
T: 604-295-9396  
F: 604-295-9392  
adenal@faley.com  
www.faley.com



**A. Adena Lee**  
Associate Lawyer

How can I help you? Let's talk.

Concentrating on Family Law and Wills & Estates



GARDENS OF  
*Gethsemani*  
CATHOLIC CEMETERY

604-531-2141  
rccav.org  
Surrey, BC



**Richard Lange**  
Tree MD® Consulting

778-995-2010

- ISA Certified
- Tree Appraisals
- Tree Assessments
- Tree Cutting Permits
- Development Reports



"SAINT MARY'S FRIENDLY REALTOR"

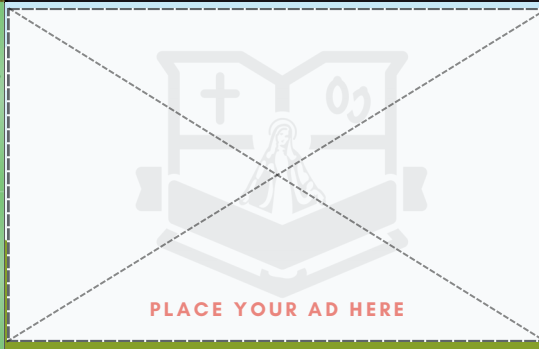
**ABNER BERNARDINO**

c: 778.918.3624 | o: 604.632.3300  
abernardino@sothebysrealty.ca

sohoproperties.ca

**soho**  
properties.ca

**Sotheby's** | Canada  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



PLACE YOUR AD HERE



**GREATER VANCOUVER ROOFING**

**604 783 8553**



Mike Crean



Ryan Crean



Steven Colón

*We are Here to Help*



Family Owned and Serving Our Catholic Community Since 1908

*We care for your loved one and your family, as if they were our own family.*

New Westminister Burnaby

604 521 4881 • 604 299 6889  
219 Sixth St. 4715 Hastings St.

[www.KearneyFS.com](http://www.KearneyFS.com)

We offer translation and services in various languages.



DBA Crean Family Holdings Ltd.

**Efren Immigration Consulting Co.**  
**Efren A. Velos. RCIC**  
Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant  
Licenced Foreign Worker Recruiter  
200-5050 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4H2  
(778) 859-7307  
efrenimmigration@gmail.com

**Services Offered:**

- Sponsorship Application
- Permanent Residency Application
- Citizenship Application
- Express Entry/PNP Application
- Caregiver (HCCP/HSWP) Application
- LMIA Application
- Work & Study Permit
- Super Visa & Visitors Visa
- OE/CDOS Processing
- IRB Representation



**HearingLife**  
Formerly NEXGEN HEARING

**Raymond Belmonte**  
RHP

Hearing Instrument Practitioner / Owner Operator

E: rbelmonte@nexgenhearing.com  
T: 604.434.6446 F: 604.434.6443

**Burnaby Metrotown**  
1698-4500 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, BC V5H 2A9  
hearinglife.ca



**MELISSA REMULLA BRIONES** LLB,CHPR  
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

- Business Law & Incorporation
- Real Estate & Conveyancing
- Employment Termination
- Will & Power of Attorney
- Family Law and Divorce
- Contract Review
- Business Purchase and Sale
- Property Purchase and Sale

Filipino lawyer,  
Tagalog speaking.

**Book an appointment today.**  
**(604)630-2350**  
melissa@northam-law.com



PLACE YOUR AD HERE

**PLACE YOUR AD HERE**

604-435-9611 ext. 0

PROCEEDS GO TO THE



PLACE YOUR AD HERE



PLACE YOUR AD HERE