



The Parish Bulletin.

FOR ALL NEWS AT ST.MARY'S PARISH VANCOUVER

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PASTOR'S CORNER

DESIRING TO SEE JESUS: A PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Many times, we hear people saying I want to see Jesus, or I have seen Jesus. It is natural for those who know and love Jesus, to have this deep longing to SEE Jesus. Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

In the gospel of John, seeing and hearing are the ways people come to know Jesus, to believe or trust in him, and to recognize his unity and singleness of purpose with the Father. The opening verse of the gospel reading of this Sunday speaks to us about the desire of some Greeks "to see Jesus."

Zacchaeus also had the desire to see Jesus.

The encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, the tax collector, is one of the most loved stories in the Bible.

We seek Jesus only to find out that He is the one looking for us. As the Good Shepherd, He is willing to leave behind the ninety-nine in order to look for the one who is lost. That is how much He loves us who are lost through our sinfulness.

An encounter with Jesus is transformative. Zacchaeus wanted only to have a glimpse of the man who was always the talk of the town. Yet when he met Him, his life made a 180-degree turn around. He is now a changed person.

What prompts the desire to see Jesus?

The answer would be, spiritual impulse. Man is so made that he desires "to see good," and that, if his soul be really awakened to newness of life, he desires to see the highest and the purest good. As St. Augustine in his confessions said: "our souls are restless until they rest in you, O Lord." The Greeks had heard something, perhaps much, of Jesus of Nazareth; in any case they had heard enough to induce

them to seek a personal interview and acquaintance with the great Prophet. Basically, the Greeks were the seekers of wisdom and naturally, they must have found something interesting and attractive in Jesus.

What is involved in the desire to see Jesus?

- 1.A longing for acquaintance with the personal, historical, Divine Savior.
- 2.A readiness of faith to find in Jesus all that he declares himself to be. The desire in question is not merely for speculative satisfaction; it is for spiritual enrichment. The soul hopes to see in him a mighty Savior and a gracious Friend.
- 3.An earnestness, candor, and teachableness of spirit, such as become those who have nothing when they draw near to One who has all.

How does Jesus regard the desire to see him?

1. He is willing to be sought. Never during his ministry did he hide himself from those who really wished to have an encounter with him. He was ever accessible to the needy, to the suffering and sorrowful, to the sinful and penitent.

2. He is ready to befriend and bless and save. Do people ask to see Jesus? His answer is, "Look unto me, and be ye saved."

The Greeks came to Philip, and Philip introduced the strangers to the Lord. He himself could give no satisfaction to the inquirers, but he could lead them to Jesus in whom such satisfaction was to be found. Thus, those who themselves have seen Jesus, and who know him, may point to him whom they know and love, and that is the mission of every Christian believer.

Fr. Joseph



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

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17TH, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19
Parish Penitential Service

March 29
LIVE Way of the Cross

Oct.19
Mass Wedding - Project Cana

SUNDAY MASS READINGS YEAR B

FIRST READING
JEREMIAH 31: 31-34

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
51: 1-2, 10-11, 12-13 (R.10)

SECOND READING
HEBREWS 5: 7-9

GOSPEL
JOHN 12: 20-33

@stmarysvancouver





2024 YEAR OF PRAYER AS DECLARED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

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

MAREK GRZESIAK

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace, Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS


UPDATES | NEWS | EVENTS

 **Mental Health and Illness in Canadian Congregations Survey** | Sanctuary Mental Health & Flourishing

We are inviting you to take up to ten to fifteen minutes this week to fill out an anonymous online survey, to participate in a national study of mental health and illness in Canadian churches developed by Flourishing Congregations Institute and Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries.




Scan the QR or search: ca1se.voxco.com/SE/90/


 **Line Dancing | Thursdays - 2pm - 4pm**
Catholic Women's League
CWL is hosting weekly line dancing sessions every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm at the church basement. Don't miss out on a great opportunity of friendship, fun, and exercise.
Suggested donation of \$2 | Enter through Euclid Ave basement entrance

 **Upcoming events from CSM!**
Catholic Street Missionaries **Deadline | April.30**
Don't miss out!

Hope on the Horizon | Summer Outreach Program | Aug 6-21
Calling all young adults, a summer full of spiritual enrichment is waiting! CSM is hosting a summer outreach program empowering those to live like Christ and help the homeless.

Financial support offered | Special bursaries are available!
Visit our website and contact us for more info
catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon

 **Seniors Gatherings | Save the dates!**
Next dates: Apr 19th, May 17th, Jun 21st
To Register contact the parish office:
604-435-9611 ext.200


 **Kindergarten 2024-2025 | Accepting Applications**
St.Mary's Elementary School - stmarys.bc.ca
Now accepting applications for the kindergarten 2024 - 2025 school year.
Child must be born in 2019 and turn 5 by Dec 31st.
Apply/ info contact **604 437-1312 | office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca**


 **Volunteer Opportunities | Let's make an impact!**


 **Catholic Steeple Missionaries wants you!**
Are you looking to improve your skills in project management, event planning, marketing, designing, and have a heart to serve the home homeless? We want you!
778-885-9611 or email mmoy_ca@yahoo.com

 **Sancta Maria House** a Healing/Recovery Home for women is inviting female volunteers to consider joining our team. We need assistance with household management, arts and crafts, social activities and gardening. Please consider sharing your gifts and talents.
santamariahouse@agapestreetministry.org


 **Agape Street Ministry** is calling on compassionate individuals like you to join our dedicated team of volunteers! Together, let's make a difference in the lives of the working women on the streets by telling them "Jesus loves them". **info@agapestreetministry.org**


Live Stations of the Cross | **March 29 Good Friday**
We will be hosting a live reenactment of Jesus' journey, live in front of the Church 10:00 am onwards. Join us as we commemorate Jesus' crucifixion as we prepare for Easter.
 **Stations of the Cross** | *Every Friday of Lent till Good Friday*
6:30pm followed by 7:00pm Mass | *St. Mary's Parish*


 **SMS Parent Support Group Raffle | Mar.25 - June.19**
Saint Mary's School | Raffle license # 148639
Starting next week, help support the SMS Parent Support group by joining the upcoming raffle! **1 Ticket is \$2.50**
Raffle starts March.25 and ends June.19th.
Draw Date is June 21st - 2:00pm at the school.
1st Prize \$5,000 | 2nd \$2,000 | 3d \$1,000 | 4th and 5th \$500

 **Christian Life Program | Feb 4 - Mar 24 (On Sundays)**
CFC - Handmaids of the Lord Ministry | @St.Mary's Parish
Free to attend, every Sunday.
Listen to talks and allow Jesus to reveal His call to you.
Every Sunday till Mar.24
@10 am - 12 pm

 **Flora - 778-388-1938 | leetconstantino@gmail.com**
Leonora - 604-728-4424 | nora.ramos@gmail.com

 **Mass Wedding | Join us Oct 19, 2024**
St.Mary's Project Cana
Married outside the Catholic Church? Desire to regularize your union for sacramental access? Join Fr. Joseph D'Souza, OP, in celebrating the Mass Wedding for civilly married couples. A cost-effective, communal celebration awaits!
For more info **rcia.smarv@rcav.org or 604-435-9611 ext. 205**

 **Donations | Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**

 **Development & Peace | Solidarity Sunday**
This Lent, please give generously
"[D&P] - Caritas Canada accompanies, supports, and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!" — *Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia*

Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at **devp.org/give**. Thank you for your solidarity!

 **Knights of Columbus Food Drive | Now till - June 30**
Canned goods, packaged noodles/ramen, and other non-perishable food items until in specially marked boxes located in the Church foyer. *St.Mary's Council 13072*
All collected food items will be delivered to The Door Is Open at the end of June 2024.

Check out our Ministries!
St.Mary's offers a diverse range of faith groups, for all ages to get involved with and grow in Christ.



PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Mary's Youth Ministry

NEXT MEET
MAR 22 - FRI

March 22nd @ 5:30pm - 7:00pm | Stations of the cross.
April 19 @ 6:00pm - 8:30pm | Movie Night | Elemental
A space where youth can make memories, ask deep questions, and learn how to grow in the faith with the fellowship of your friends!
Open to gr 7-12 | Catholics and non-Catholics are welcome!
Joyce | (604) 435-9611 ext. 209 | youth.smarv@rcav.org

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP & Fr. David Bellusci

NEXT MEET
MAR 21 - THU

Next Zoom Meet: March 21, Thu | 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Who wrote the Book of Proverbs? What are the Book of Proverbs about? Proverbs falls under wisdom literature, what is the wisdom conveyed by the Book of Proverbs? Join us and find out!
Join us online via zoom, and learn the spirituality of St. Padre Pio.
For more info + zoom link: pppgvancouver@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S 1PM MASS CHOIR We need you! ST. MARY'S 5PM YOUTH CHOIR

1PM Mass needs singers and piano players, to share praise in song.
Every **FRI 7:30PM** - Parish choir area
Sam Law | samsgman@gmail.com
5PM Mass is looking young adults who want to offer their musical talents (singers, guitarists, bassists, cajon players). Weekly practice
THURS 7:30PM - Rectory basement | **SUN 4:15PM** - Parish choir area
*Except 3d week of the month
Wen | 604-780-2830 | seals.stmarys@gmail.com

DNA Discipleship | aNd | Accountability

NEXT MEET
MAR 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

MISSION ABLAZE

NEXT MEET
MAR 19 - TUE

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: missionablazesmv@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

*I will come to you in the Silence...
Be still and know that I am God...
Come and rest in Me*

EVERY
TUE & WED

Join us for meditation and prayers once a week either:
In-person: Wednesday 7:00 pm @ Rectory Basement.
Contact Cora Alcuitas - calcuitas@gmail.com
Online: Tuesday 7:00 pm
Contact Maeve Slein - mms3018@gmail.com

Our Lady of Fatima Junior Praesidium A Legion of Mary Youth Program

Inviting youths (and their parents/guardians) ages 6 - 18 years old to join the Our Lady of Fatima Junior Praesidium.
Guided by senior legionaries, learn about prayers, works of the Legion, and deepen your relationship to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
If interested, we have a sign-up sheet at the foyer!

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

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.



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - VANCOUVER BC
Principal: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff
604-437-1312 Fax: 604-437-1193
office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca
stmary.bc.ca



ANOINTING OF THE SICK & FUNERALS

Please contact the parish office to schedule a visit, to speak to a priest or to arrange a service.



INFANT BAPTISM

ext.200
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

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



VANSPEC
Christina | vanspec.smarv@rcav.org

1-on-1 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.

Stewardship Reflection

March 17, 2024 - 5th Sunday of Lent

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

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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
To borrow any resources Email our librarian,
Bill Murphy | wmmurphy@hotmail.com

FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND. 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!

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	jdsoza@rcav.org
202	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP	gabrielmariedominique@gmail.com
203	Assistant Pastor	Fr. Gilles Simard, OP	gsimard@rcav.org
-	Resident Pastor	Fr. David Bellusci, OP	davidbellusci@yahoo.ca
204	Pastoral Assistant	Lorna Acosta	parish.smarv@rcav.org
205	PREP & RCIA Director	Edwin Cruz	prep.smarv@rcav.org rcia.smarv@rcav.org
209	Youth ministry Coord	Joyce Villaverde	youth.smarv@rcav.org
-	Vanspec	Christina Reyes Ocampo	vanspec.smarv@rcav.org
207	Finance and Property	Michael Gabas	smpaccetelus.net
200	Reception	Priya Menezes	reception.smarv@rcav.org





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