

Mass Times: Saturday: 7:00pm, Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am— Tuesday to Friday at 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturdays 6:15pm, Sundays 8:15 am or by Appointment.

Pastor: Father Aruldhass Lucas, SAC.

Mailing address: 1088 Gillett Street, V2M 2V3—Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Website: stmaryspg.ca—E-mail: stmarys.parish@shawcable.com

We acknowledge that St. Mary's Parish rests on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh



THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PRINCE GEORGE



Bishop: Most Rev.
Stephen Jensen

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023



READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

When you were a child, did you play the game, Hide and Seek? If you did, you would remember that the person who was “it” closed his eyes while the rest went to hide. To give them time to hide, the child started counting: 5, 10, 15, 20 and up to 100. Then he would say, “Ready or not, here I come!” The point of the game was to hide oneself so well that the leader could not find you, for if he found you, and beat you back to the goal, you had to be “it” the next go-around. The secret of the game was preparing oneself against being found and caught. With excitement we heard the words, “Ready or not — here I come!” In today’s Gospel lesson Jesus is saying to the world, “Ready or not — here I come.” In chapter 13 of Mark, Jesus tells us that he will be returning to the earth “with great power and glory.” As in the game, only this is not a game, there is a counting and an accounting going on right now. It is a countdown before the blast of his appearance on earth a second time to judge the world and to gather his faithful to himself.

READINGS AND LITURGY

Isaiah 63.16b-17; 64.1, 3-8; Ps 80.1-2, 14-15, 17-18;

1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Gospel: Mark 13.33-37.

Isaiah laments that the people have wandered from the ways of the Lord and pleads that God rend the heavens and come down. Paul gives thanks for the gifts Christ has bestowed while the Corinthians wait for the revelation of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples to be watchful like servants waiting for the return of the lord of the house.

Faith Catholic

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the intentions of: Brigitta Betz, Elmer Braun, Eldon Gauthier, Maria Levar, Beverly Stuart, Rizal Advincula, Grace Noblette, Minnie, Blair, and Korena Peters and family, Garry Kaulbach's daughter, Birdie Froment, Mia Savic and family, Pam Meyer, Joanne Rebogaliata, Manae Peters.

Welcome to Our Church!

*To all who mourn or need comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in
Relationship with God,
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour,
And who ever will worship,
This Church of St. Mary's
opens wide its doors,
And in the name of
Christ our Lord, says:*

WELCOME!

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Well known preacher and writer Norman Vincent Peale tells us of his life experience. When he was young, he was walking down the street with his father who himself was a pastor, they confronted a beggar who was dirty and smelly. He came to Norman and touched his hand and asked for some money for food. Norman, seeing the man dirty and poorly dressed in tattered clothes, recoiled and brushed him aside. His father told him that he must respect the man and not behave in this way. The boy replied that after all he was worthless and dirty, and he could do nothing more. His father told him that in this world there is no one worthless for all are the children of God. Then he took out one dollar, all he could afford and gave to the boy and said give it to that man and tell him that it is in the name of Jesus he is giving this gift. Norman refused at first but on his father's insistence he ran after the man and gave him saying this amount he is giving in the name of Jesus. The man looked at him and gave him a big smile and said: I thank you my son in the name of Jesus. Norman says that in this genuine smile of the man he found the real face of Jesus which he never forgot in his life.



SAVE THE DATES!

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<div> <div>DEC 2023</div> <div>  </div> <div>JAN 2024</div> </div>	<div> <div>SATURDAY</div> <div>23</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00PM</div> <div>4th week of Advent</div> <div>Mass</div> <div>  </div> </div>
	<div> <div>SUNDAY</div> <div>24</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 AM</div> <div>4th Sunday of Advent</div> <div>4:00 PM</div> <div>Children's Mass -</div> <div>Christmas Vigil</div> <div>9:00 PM</div> <div>Christmas Vigil Mass</div> <div>  </div> </div>
	<div> <div>MONDAY</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 AM</div> <div>Christmas Day Mass</div> <div>  </div> </div>
	<div> <div>SATURDAY</div> <div>30</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 PM</div> <div>Holy Family Mass</div> <div>  </div> </div>
	<div> <div>SUNDAY</div> <div>31</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 AM</div> <div>Holy Family Mass</div> <div>6:30 PM</div> <div>Adoration of the</div> <div>Holy Eucharist</div> <div>7:00 PM</div> <div>Mary, Mother of God</div> <div>New Year's Vigil Mass</div> </div>
	<div> <div>MONDAY</div> <div>1</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 AM</div> <div>Mary, Mother of God</div> <div>New Year's Mass</div> <div>  </div> <div> <div>glappy</div> <div>2024!</div> </div> </div>



**A special visitor will have a treat
for all children.**

If your last name starts with A to L please bring a main dish, and if your last name starts with M to Z please bring a salad, appetizer or a dessert. If you are gluten free please bring a gluten free dish. Please bring an unwrapped gift for baby Jesus. The gifts will be for the Saint Vincent de Paul Gift Hampers.

ST. MARY'S DAYCARE IS READY!

St. Mary's School is pleased to announce the opening of our new daycare: Little Huskies Learning Center. The daycare has 8 spots open right now and 17 more opening in January for a total of 25 daycare spaces for children 3-5 years old. Little Huskies Learning Centre is the beginning of your child's unlimited opportunity to engage in meaningful learning through play and exploration. Our mission is to support families in raising their children by providing high quality care and education for each child in an environment that is safe, nurturing, exciting, and fun! Applications and more information can be found on the school website at www.stmaryspg.org.

ADVENT COFFEEHOUSE WITHIN THY SANCTUARY

Everyone is welcome to attend the 8th Annual Advent Coffeehouse: 'Within Thy Sanctuary.' This evening is organized by young adults and families, and serves as an evening of fellowship, live music, and a silent auction fundraiser for a local charity in Prince George - all infused with spirit of Advent.

This year's Advent Coffeehouse's theme is Within Thy Sanctuary, an ode to and focus on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. And in line with our theme, the silent auction fundraiser's proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul and Hope for Women here in Prince George! We're excited to raise money for them this Christmas.

Advent Coffeehouse: Within Thy Sanctuary:

Date: Sunday, December 17 ~ Doors Open at 6pm, and the Evening Begins at 6:30pm

Location: The Diocesan Pastoral Centre ~ 6500 Southridge Ave

Cost to Attend: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

Who can come: This evening is for people of all ages! Young and old alike will enjoy this evening

What to expect: MC'd by Prince George Catholic young adults, this night is full of local musical talent, baked goods and hot beverages, fellowship, a silent auction, and the spirit of Advent: the waiting and anticipation for Christmas.

See Poster for more information! And feel free to pass along the invitation to your loved ones.

Contact: Lisa Findlay for more information at lfindlay@pgdiocese.bc.ca

SAVE ON GIFT CARDS AND SUPPORT TO ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Buy a Save On gift card from any customer service desk and mention you are supporting St. Mary's School. The school receives 4% of your purchase back! Thank you for supporting our school!

DIOCESAN APPEAL UPDATE

I am pleased to report that St. Patrick's Parish in McBride had a tremendous jump of 32% to reach their total combined goal, surpassing 108%. Very well done!

Christ Our Savior Parish in Prince George had a significant increase of more than 15%, reaching 57% of their total combined goal. Immaculate Conception Parish in Prince George added 6% to their total, getting to more than 63% of their goal. St. Andrew's in Fraser Lake added 4% to reach nearly 39% of their goal.

I want to encourage you to remember our smaller parishes, missions and ministries throughout the diocese—especially during this Advent season. Many rely on the funds provided through the appeal to help support their regular operations throughout the year. I would ask for your continued support—both financially and in prayer—for their many needs.

Donations received prior to January 1st will be issued a tax receipt for 2023 in late January or early February. Those received after December 31st will be issued a tax receipt in early 2025.

James Fowlie, Business Manager

O ANTIPHONS AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

To help us prayerfully prepare for Christmas, Fr. Matthew will be conducting a series of evening prayer services in the final week of Advent. It is in these days that the official Evening Prayer of the Church uses the "O Antiphons" which we know well from the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Starting at 5:30PM, and finishing by 6:00PM, a brief reflection will be given on the O Antiphon of the day, an explanation of Evening Prayer, then praying Evening Prayer with those in attendance.

So, come all ye faithful, to Immaculate Conception Church, Monday, December 18, through Friday, December 22 - each weeknight of the 3rd week of Advent - for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer as we journey through the last week of preparation for Christmas!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY APPEAL

Funds raised from the Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal are donated back to the dioceses throughout BC.

You can purchase tickets at their website:

<https://www.kofccharity.ca/>



DYING WITH CHRIST—LIVING WITH HOPE

The Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada has launched a program called *Dying with Christ - Living with Hope*, which presents a hope-filled perspective on a universal experience. The discussion, led by theologians and healthcare professionals, will give timeless perspectives on suffering, grief, dying, our duty to care, and how dying with Christ is attainable for everyone. This 3-part video series is designed for use in small group settings, large gatherings, by healthcare professionals and by Churches. To learn more, visit <https://cmdacanada.org/dying-with-christ-living-with-hope/>

Church and the Liturgy

Liturgy, or worship is not primarily something we do, but is rather the expression of a relationship. It is first and foremost the action of Christ who acts on behalf of God's people and a response by that people who, prompted by the Holy Spirit, praise God's action in their midst. Ultimately, liturgy is the principal means by which God's people, even here on earth, enter into the communion and life of the Trinity. Liturgy is a pre-eminent expression of faith, which, at the same time, strengthens faith. It is personal contact with the Father, through Christ in the Spirit by means of ritual and symbol. The mystery of the Father, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Church, Redemption, and Liturgy are all co-extensive and inseparable. When in liturgy we enter into mystery, we encounter the mystery of the triune God.

Liturgy is the public act of worship of the believing community. In the liturgy, we actively remember and participate in the offering of Christ's Body and Blood for the redemption of the world. When we attend Mass, salvation unfolds before our eyes through the words of Scripture we hear, the prayers we offer for the Church and the world, and the offering of the bread and wine by the priest on behalf of the community. In order to receive the graces of salvation that unfold before us in the liturgy, we must participate in the liturgy fully, actively, and consciously, ensuring that our "minds should be attuned to [our] voices, and that [we] should cooperate with divine grace lest [we] receive it in vain". norms". (Africae Munus, n. 153).

Singing and Music in Liturgy - In the liturgy we encounter God in Word, in Sacrament, and in the presider and assembly at prayer. In the liturgy – the great act of giving praise and glory to God – music is a most concrete and expressive way of announcing our belief and uniting our voices with one another.

"The Christian faithful who come together as one in expectation of the Lord's coming are instructed by the Apostle Paul to sing together Psalms, hymns, and spiritual canticles (cf. Col 3.16). Singing is the sign of the heart's joy (cf. Acts 2.46)."



Indeed, it arises from joy and, if we look closer at it, from love. Singing and making music belong to lovers. Convinced of our human need of praising God, the One we love, at all times, Saint Augustine states: "When the brethren are assembled in church, why should the time not be devoted to the singing of sacred songs, except of course during a reading or a sermon, or while the presiding minister is praying aloud, or the deacon is leading the joint prayer of the congregation? At other times not thus occupied, I do not see what could be a more excellent, useful, and holy exercise for a Christian congregation."

Music is a communication medium that gathers up the distinctive qualities of each individual and weaves them into a whole. A single voice expresses the faith and love of one person. Communal song is shaped by the accumulation of many voices expressing faith and love. Therefore, communal song is a corporate act of prayer and praise. Music is integral to the structure of all of our liturgical rites and therefore, integral to our worship of God.

Music selections always ought to support and enhance the prayers and ritual actions which are proper to a particular celebration of the Eucharist. In the selection of music for liturgical celebrations, the musician will necessarily make certain judgments: musical, liturgical, and pastoral. Such judgments are often best made in dialogue with the presider and other ministers, and perhaps with a liturgical committee.

Solo singing: Some ministers (priest, deacon, or cantor) sing alone, but only when the assembly is going to take part by singing a response or acclamation. Because of the nature of the liturgy as a communal and corporate act of the entire people of God, sung solos which do not permit the participation of the assembly are used only with discrimination in the Catholic liturgy.

"NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO ADD, REMOVE OR CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE MASS" (GIRM, n.24) It is referring here specifically to the, by now, widespread habit of changing especially the acclamations - which are precious and untouchable proclamations of faith. Let us treasure Pope Benedict's recommendation: "The Eucharist should be celebrated with dignity and beauty, in compliance with the established norms". (Africae Munus, n. 153).

Compiled by St. Mary's Parish

To be continued...