

**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 Aruldas 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



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023



### WHY DID YOU PRETEND TO LIKE IT?

According to legend, a young man while roaming the desert came across a spring of delicious crystal-clear water. The water was so sweet he filled his leather canteen so he could bring some back to a tribal elder who had been his teacher. After a four-day journey he presented the water to the old man who took a deep drink, smiled warmly and thanked his student lavishly for the sweet water. The young man returned to his village with a happy heart. Later, the teacher let another student taste the water. He spat it out, saying it was awful. It apparently had become stale because of the old leather container. The student challenged his teacher: "Master, the water was foul. Why did you pretend to like it?" The teacher replied, "You only tasted the water. I tasted the gift. The water was simply the container for an act of loving-kindness, and nothing could be sweeter." I think we understand this lesson best when we receive innocent gifts of love from young children. Whether it's a ceramic tray or a macaroni bracelet, the natural and proper response is appreciation and expressed thankfulness because we love the idea within the gift.

## 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!

### NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

A son called his parents to wish them 'A Happy New Year' and when his Dad answered the phone, he asked his dad, "Well Dad, what's your New Year's resolution?" His dad replied, "To make your mother as happy as I can all year," When his mom got on the phone, he asked her the same question and she replied, "To see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution."

### READINGS AND LITURGY

*Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128.1-5;  
Colossians 3.12-21; Gospel: Luke 2.22-40.*

In the first reading, Abram puts his faith in God's promise of a child despite his and Sarah's old age. In the second reading the author emphasizes that Abraham did as was by faith. In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary present Jesus at the temple, and meet Simeon and Anna who prophesy about the child.

*Faith Catholic*



# MASS

## INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 30	7:00 pm	Int for Vukovic Family
Sun	Dec 31	10:00 am	RIP Lucy Ritchie and Claudette Gauthier.
		6:30 pm	Adoration of the Holy Eucharist
		7:00 pm	New Year Vigil Mass
Mon	Jan 1	10:00 am	New Years Mass
Tue	Jan 2	9:00 am	
Wed	Jan 3	9:00 am	
Thu	Jan 4	9:00 am	
Fri	Jan 5	7:00 pm	First Friday of Adoration
Sat	Jan 6	7:00 pm	RIP Alfredo & Rui Alexander du Couto
Sun	Jan 7	9:00 am	Int. for all our Parishioners
		11:00 am	RIP Ivan Udovicic

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the intentions of: Brigitta Betz, 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, Ruth, Wark family, and Heriberto Estrada.

### FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND ADORATION

Join us to our First Friday Mass and Adoration from this year at 7:00 PM. Please note there will be no morning Mass on this day.



### THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Are you looking for a great New Year's Resolution that will change your life? Have you heard of "The Bible in a Year" and the "Catechism in a Year" by Ascension Press? Starting on January 1st kick off 2024 by listening to either or both of these transformational podcasts. "The Bible in a Year" and "The Catechism in a Year" are each 365 day podcasts with daily episodes around 15-20 minutes long, making it easy to listen for your own personal listening, with your family, or with a small group. You can listen while driving to work, going on your daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, or however you like! The Bible in a Year is hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz and features Jeff Cavins as they guide you through the entire Bible with special introductions for each period of Salvation History, to help you connect with Scripture and listen for God's Word acting in your life.

The Catechism in a Year explains all the teachings of the Catholic Church, in a prayerful, engaging, and approachable way with Fr. Mike Schmitz. Find it on any podcast app, on YouTube, or by visiting this link for the Bible in a Year:

[www.ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration-parish](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration-parish)

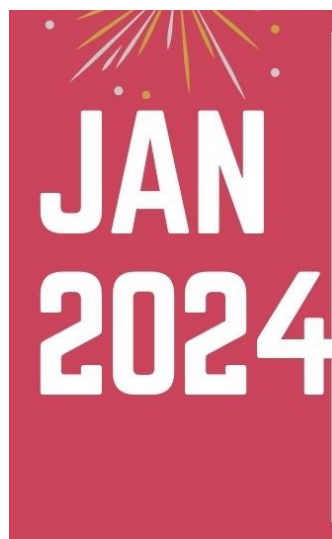
Or this link for the Catechism in a Year:

[www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish)

Or download the free Ascension App to receive both the Bible in a Year and the Catechism in a Year with extra helpful resources including questions, answers, and commentary to help you navigate through this exciting journey:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app>

### NEW YEAR EVE AND NEW YEAR DAY MASSES



SUNDAY

31

10:00 AM  
Holy Family Mass  
6:30 PM  
Adoration of the  
Holy Eucharist  
7:00 PM  
Mary, Mother of God  
New Year's Vigil Mass

MONDAY

1

10:00 AM  
Mary, Mother of God  
New Year's Mass

Happy  
2024!



## ST. MARY'S FREE FORMED SUBSCRIPTION

Sign up for your free FORMED subscription courtesy of St. Mary's Parish & School: <https://formed.org/signup>  
Enter St. Mary's Parish Postal Code: V2M 2V3.

**Formed recommendation this week: The Holy Family.** We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season! <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-holy-family>

## U. S. BISHOPS: VATICAN DECLARATION DOES NOT CHANGE CHURCH TEACHING ON MARRIAGE

On Monday, December 18, 2023, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith issued a declaration titled *Fiducia Supplicans*, addressing the topic of blessing same-sex couples and others in relationships that do not follow Church teaching. Out of context reporting on the new document in secular media has led to some confusion about whether this is a shift in the Church's teaching on marriage. The Catholic News Agency released an article on Monday covering the topic, drawing from a statement from the U.S. Bishops which affirms Church teaching has not been changed by the new document. The article offers more context and insight into the purpose and details of *Fiducia Supplicans*, including the difference between the purpose of a liturgical and pastoral blessing, and circumstances in which a blessing cannot be given, such as at civil union ceremonies where a pastoral blessing may give an appearance of legitimacy which does not exist.

Please read the article here: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256314/us-bishops-vatican-declaration-does-not-change-church-teaching-on-marriage>

## STATEMENT OF CCCB ON VATICAN'S DOCUMENT ADDRESSING PASTORAL BLESSINGS

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, the CCCB released a statement regarding the recent publishing of *Fiducia Supplicans* from the Vatican. In the statement, Bishop William McGrattan, president of the CCCB, says: "While explicitly affirming the Church's traditional understanding of marriage, *Fiducia Supplicans* allows pastors to bless people who freely request a blessing, seeking divine help to live in fidelity to God's will. The Declaration makes clear that such blessings must be directed to the persons themselves rather than their situation and that they must be spontaneously requested and are not ritual or liturgical actions."

For the full statement, please visit the CCCB website here: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/statement-of-ccb-on-vaticans-document-addressing-pastoral-blessings/>

## DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL CARE TRAINING SESSIONS – WINTER 2024

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on January 20 and running until March 23, 2024 (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. Please register through your local parish by January 12. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

## MONTHLY DAY OF EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to a Personal Date with Jesus on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024**, at the Domano Chapel, 6500 Southridge Ave. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 AM and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for a day of silent prayer and adoration. We will pray for the universal Church and the world, and for the people and needs of our Diocese. In particular we will pray for the protection of all human life, for all the sick, for vocations, for Peace in our world, and for the intentions of those participating in the day. Please mark your calendar on the second Tuesday of each month for Personal Date with Jesus days.



**Accounting Clerk:** The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking a full-time Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk with a strong financial background and excellent organizational skills. The deadline for application is January 5, 2024. Please for details visit: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

**Financial Officer:** The Diocese of Victoria, located in beautiful British Columbia, is recruiting for the position of Financial Officer. The Financial Officer serves as the financial administrator of the Diocese and reports directly to the Bishop. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual who wants to be part of the Diocese's senior management team and to oversee the stewardship of the organization's fiscal resources in support of the mission of the Diocese. The position of Financial Officer is an ecclesiastical office which is open to lay persons, and is governed by the provisions of the Code of Canon Law. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please for details visit: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

**UVic Camosun Chaplain:** The Diocese of Victoria, located in beautiful British Columbia, is accepting applications for the position of Roman Catholic Campus Chaplain. The Catholic Chaplain reports directly to the Bishop of Victoria, or his delegate. We seek a Chaplain who is committed to helping students grow and flourish within the Catholic faith tradition while living and learning in a secular campus environment. The Chaplain will work in collaboration with the Catholic Christian Outreach team, and a *Multifaith Chaplaincy* team at the University of Victoria. The successful Chaplain will be committed to meeting a stranger on the road, envisaging and engendering an open world, and nurturing connections across many religious and secular communities. The deadline for application is January 5, 2024. Please for details visit: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

# PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a community of disciples called together: To share the life and mission of Jesus, to proclaim the word, to celebrate liturgy, to educate and to serve, to seek justice and reconciliation.*

## PARISH INFORMATION

The Pastor is Father Aruldas Lucas, SAC. Resident Priest: Father Prabhakar. The Pastoral Assistant is Claudia Betz and the parish secretary is Vanessa Estrada. The Mailing address is: 1088 Gillett Street, V2M 2V3 Regular Office hours are Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Office telephone: 250-564-4097 for after hours Emergency: 250-562-4921, Email—[stmarys.parish@shawcable.com](mailto:stmarys.parish@shawcable.com). St. Mary's Parish is governed by a **Pastoral Council** made up of Parishioners, the chair is Ron Polillo. The Finances of the Parish are overseen by a **Finance committee**, the chair is Irene Meeuwissen.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Principal is Jenny Schroeder, the School Secretary is Jackie Boyes. The phone number for the School is 250-563-7502. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.stmaryspg.org/>

## SACRAMENTS

### BAPTISM FOR INFANTS

Parents are to be registered parishioners and participate in a preparation session. Sessions are held as needed in the parish office. Contact the parish office at 250-564-4097.

### BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Parents who wish to have their child baptized (age 5 to 12) are asked to register their child in the Family Faith Formation program. During the school year there will be special sessions that will prepare them for baptism. Children in Grade 2 and up will also receive preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please contact the parish office for more information. 250-564-4097.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

In the Diocese of Prince George, First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in Grade 2, and Confirmation in Grade 6. Our sacramental preparation program begins in the fall for children in St. Mary's School and for those attending Family Faith Formation classes. For more information, please phone Jenny at the school or Claudia the parish office. 250-564-4097.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION ADULTS—RCIA

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or in learning more about the Catholic faith? Please contact the parish office for more information. 250-564-4097.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Various options for marriage preparation are available. Please make an appointment with the pastor, at least 6 months before the intended wedding date.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Communal celebrations of the sacrament are generally held during Lent and Advent.

### PASTORAL CARE TO THE SICK, ELDERLY & DYING

If you or anyone in your family is sick, elderly or home bound, and would like to receive communion, anointing of the sick or a pastoral visit, please give us a call. If there is an emergency visit in the hospital or Hospice, ask the nursing station to contact the Catholic pastor on call.

### FUNERALS

Please contact the pastor before making final arrangements with the funeral directors.

## GIVING AT ST. MARY'S

We have a few ways to conveniently contribute to your parish. We have the old fashioned drop your envelope in the collection or locked Mailbox. You can mail us your envelope at 1088 Gillett St. V2M 2V3. We also have online options. E-transfer has been set up with our bank, please e-transfer to: [SMPaccounting@stmaryspg.ca](mailto:SMPaccounting@stmaryspg.ca) When you use this option you will be prompted with the following statement "I understand that St. Mary's Parish (The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Prince Rupert) has registered for Auto deposit and will not need to answer a security question to deposit funds" Our website [stmaryspg.ca](http://stmaryspg.ca) has been set up to accept donations from credit Cards.

## HEARING SUPPORT DURING MASS

For those with hearing impairment, we have portable receivers that broadcast the Mass via earbuds or headphones. Please contact Claudia at the parish office if you would like to use one. To use the receivers with hearing aids, please bring your own headphones.

## PARISH / COMMUNITY GROUPS

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL is open to all ladies of the parish. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the St. Eugene Room at 7:00 pm. Please phone Cortnie Weir 250-967-4849 for more information.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (COUNCIL 5246)



The Knights of Columbus is open to all men of the parish. General Meeting are on the third Tuesday of each month in the St. Eugene Room at 7:00 pm. For information, please phone Grand Knight, Darrin Huzar at 250-614-3161.

### ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP

Meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings during the School year for all Youth in Grades 7 to 12. Please contact Claudia at the parish office for more details.

### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



**Drop-In Centre** is located at 1220—2nd Ave. Mon-Fri: 8:30 to 9:30 am, 12:30-1:30 pm, 7:30-8:00 pm; Sat-Sun: 9:00-10:00 am and 2:30-3:00 pm. Hampers are available to families and seniors. Call 250-564-7871 weekday mornings.

**Thrift Store:** is located at 1645—3rd Ave. Hours are Mon-Fri, 9:30- noon and 12:30-4:30 pm. Donations are being accepted at the back entrance. Call 250-562-5136

### SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Shepherd's Corner is located next to the SVDP Drop-in Centre. (1220—2nd Ave) This is a place where people who are experiencing challenges can gather, share their stories and be heard. Volunteers provide a listening ear and a compassionate heart.

### RAINBOWS

Rainbows is a peer support group for children, adolescents and adults who are grieving a death, divorce or any other painful transition in their family. Sessions run for 12 weeks each Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm, beginning in both September and February at St. Mary's School. There is no cost to participants. Contact: 250-562-3477 or e-mail: [rainbowspg@shawcable.com](mailto:rainbowspg@shawcable.com) **[www.rainbowspg.com](http://www.rainbowspg.com)**

