

**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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7TH, 2024



### HOW CAN WE DETERMINE THE HOUR OF DAWN?

The true epiphany: A rabbi put the following question to his disciples, "How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?" One student replied, "When from a distance you can distinguish between a sheep and a dog." "No," said the rabbi. Another student quickly offered, "When you can tell a fig tree from a grapevine." "No," repeated the rabbi. "Then tell us, please," asked the students. Replied the rabbi, "Darkness ends and day begins when you can look into the faces of all other human beings, and you have enough light in you to recognize them as your brothers and sisters."

### READINGS AND LITURGY

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-13;

Ephesians 3.2-3, 5-6; Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah promises that Jerusalem will be a light for all nations. In the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul explains the revelation that the Gentiles are members of the same body of Christ. In the Gospel, magi from the east look for the newborn king, finally finding the child with his mother, Mary.

*Faith Catholic*

## 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!

### WHICH RELIGION IS THE RIGHT ONE?

On a cold harmattan morning three palm fruit farmers were warming themselves by the fireside. Soon two of them were engaged in a heated debate comparing their religions to decide which one was the true religion. Okoro, the oldest among them, sat quietly listening to the debate. Suddenly the two turned to him and asked, "Decide for us, Okoro. Which religion is the right one?" Okoro rubbed his white beards and said thoughtfully, "Well, you know there are three ways to get from here to the oil mill. You can go right over the hill. It is shorter but it is a steep climb. You can go around the hill on the right side. That is not too far, but the road is rough and full of potholes. Or you can go around the hill on the left side. That is the longest way, but it is also the easiest." He paused and then added, "But you know, when you get there, the mill man doesn't ask you how you came. All he asks is, 'Man, how good is your fruit?'"



# MASS INTENTIONS

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
Tue	Jan 9	9:00 am	RIP Taylor Hughson
Wed	Jan 10	9:00 am	RIP Irene Robison
Thu	Jan 11	9:00 am	RIP Hugh Norman
Fri	Jan 12	9:00 am	Int for a Parishioner
Sat	Jan 13	10:30 am	Mass at Simon Fraser Lodge, Seniors Home
		7:00 pm	RIP Jose Manuel Resendes
Sun	Jan 14	9:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners
		11:00 am	Int Vukovic Family

## 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, and Wark family.

## ST. MARY'S CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH GROUP

Our first group for 2024 is this Wednesday, January 10th from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm at the St. Mary's School Gym. All youths in grades 7 – 12 are welcome to attend!

## MASS AT SIMON FRASER LODGE

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the Mass at Simon Fraser Lodge, Seniors Home on Saturday, January 13th at 10:30 AM.



## ST. MARY'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Our next Family Movie Night will be this Friday, January 12th at 6:30pm in the St. Eugene Room! All families are welcome to attend as we will watch 2 Episodes of the Chosen: Shabbat and Jesus Loves the Little Children! Popcorn & Refreshments will be provided!



## PASTOR'S VACATION

Father Aruldas will be away for his annual holidays from January 16th to February 16th. During this time the replacement priest will be Father Prabhakar.

## 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>

## 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: Who Are the Magi?** In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/formed-now-the-magi>



## 2024 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of our Leadership Program, scheduled to begin in June 2024 at the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa.

The program is open to all Canadian Catholic women, from all walks of life who have a genuine interest in making a difference in their communities and places of work.

A candidate must be a Catholic woman, at least 21 years of age, demonstrate oral and written English language competencies, have a genuine desire to cultivate her gifts of leadership, and have made a previous contribution to her community in some capacity.

The Program is a 11-month Certificate program with an ongoing mentorship once the course work is completed. Throughout the Program, participants will be guided by professional facilitators from Saint Paul University. The Program is specifically designed to integrate faith and life, personal and professional leadership development. Spirituality and a Catholic faith perspective are the foundation of all activities; prayer and reflective practice are core elements integrated throughout the program.

At present the plan for 2024 of the Program will have an introductory get-to-know-you online module in June 2024; and a five-day intensive component in June 2024. This is scheduled to be through ZOOM, and you will be expected to be present. All other modules are online and consist of videos, readings, personal reflections, and discussion forums. The final face-to-face residency component is scheduled for June 2025 in Ottawa.

Details of the content of the different components and timelines can be found on the website at [www.cwlfcanada.ca](http://www.cwlfcanada.ca).

If you are, or know of, a Catholic woman who wishes to be a transformational and influential leader, we invite you to complete the application process by January 15th, 2024 which can be found at [www.cwlfcanada.ca/participate](http://www.cwlfcanada.ca/participate).

## MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Men's Spiritual Exercises Retreat

Date: Mar 1-3, 2024

There will be more details provided in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact Norman Hebert  
[norman.hebert@protonmail.com](mailto:norman.hebert@protonmail.com)

778-890-0540

## 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>

## What does it mean to have a Mass “offered” for someone?

Any individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

In his encyclical “*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*,” our beloved late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, taught, “In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church prays that God, the Father of mercies, will grant His children the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they may become one body and one spirit in Christ. In raising this prayer to the Father of lights, from whom comes every good endowment and every perfect gift, the Church believes that she will be heard, for she prays in union with Christ her Head and Spouse, who takes up this plea of His Bride and joins it to His own redemptive sacrifice” (No. 43).



When a priest offers Holy Mass, he has three aims in mind: First, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church. Second, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. Third, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Therefore, the effects of the Mass bring certain benefits or fruits. The general fruits of the Mass are the effects upon the whole Church — to the living faithful as well as the poor souls in purgatory. For this reason, in the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer), a special mention is made for both the living and the dead. The special ministerial fruits of the Mass are applied to the particular intention of the Mass, i.e. “for whom this Mass is offered.” The intention of the Mass is also determined by various factors: The Church may stipulate the particular intention; for example, all pastors are required to offer one Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of a parish. A priest may also have his own particular intention in offering a Mass, such as the repose of the soul of his parents. Finally, a person may ask a priest to offer a Mass for a particular intention. In this case, it is customary to give an offering to the priest who is celebrating the Mass. In so doing, the Faithful have the privilege of joining their own sacrifice to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass thereby obtaining an even greater abundance of spiritual fruit.

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of a soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. To have a Mass offered on a birthday, anniversary or special need is appropriate, beneficial, and appreciated.

Contact the parish office to have a Mass offered for your chosen intention. (Please note the intention or name of the individual you would like a Mass said for, whether they are living or deceased, and a preferred date if you have one in mind.)

### Benefits of having a Mass said for the departed or living.

Considering the saving work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that when a person dies, he faces his judgment and must render an account of his life. If that person has died fundamentally believing in God and in a state of grace, but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven.

Though we often think of having a Mass said for those who have passed away, Masses can be offered for those who are still alive. The Council of Trent says that Mass may be said “for the living and the dead, for sins, punishments, satisfactions, and other necessities.” In other words, if you know someone who could benefit from the spiritual graces that come with having a Mass said on their behalf, there is no need to delay in doing so. Pope Benedict said, “The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death.”

So next time when you can't think of what to get Aunt or Grandpa for their birthday, or maybe you know a young couple about to embark on their journey together in Holy Matrimony or maybe it's someone's anniversary, how about having a Mass said for them?

## Mass Intentions

- \* “The Mass is a compendium of all God's love, of all His benefits to men, and each Mass bestows on the world a benefit not less than what was conferred on it by the Incarnation.” *St. Bonaventure*:
- \* The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass. *St. Augustine*
- \* When Mass is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar. *St. John Chrysostom*