

**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



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 14TH, 2024



### GONE WITH THE WIND

I imagine most of you have seen the film, *Gone with the Wind*. If not, you have a treat waiting for you. It is interesting how Director David O. Selznick chose the leading lady. Everyone knew that no one but Clark Gable could be Rhett Butler, but who should play Scarlett O'Hara? David Selznick considered a few dozen actresses for the role of the Southern belle. Finally, he made a surprising selection: not a girl born in the South or even in America, she had been born in India of British parents. Her name was Vivien Leigh. Almost everyone agrees that she played a superb, unforgettable Scarlett O'Hara. David Selznick took great care in picking just the right person for that famous role. – Similarly, but with infinitely greater care, God selects us for a part in the Divine drama. We see it today in the call of the prophet, Samuel. Bottom line: Like a great director, selecting exactly the right person for a part, God chooses you or me! (Fr. Phil Bloom)

### READINGS AND LITURGY

*1 Samuel 3.3-10, 19; Psalm 40.1-3, 6-9;*

*1 Corinthians 6.13-15, 17-20; Gospel: John 1.35-42.*

The Lord calls Samuel for the first time, but Samuel does not know him. Eli recognizes what is happening and tells Samuel how to answer: Speak, for your servant is listening. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to avoid immorality, reminding them that they are united to Christ and their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, John the Baptist directs two of his disciples toward Jesus, who invites them to stay with him. Andrew, one of the two, seeks his brother Simon and bring him to Jesus.

*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!

### THE BE ALL AND END ALL OF A DOG'S LIFE

In the book, *No Bad Dogs*, British dog trainer Barbara Woodhouse says dogs understand love better than we do. She writes, "In a dog's mind, a master or a mistress to love, honor, and obey is an absolute necessity. Love is dormant in the dog until brought into full bloom by an understanding owner. Thousands of dogs appear to love their owners, they welcome them home with enthusiastic wagging of the tail and jumping up, they follow them about their houses happily and, to the normal person seeing the dog, the affection is true and deep. But to the experienced dog trainer this outward show is not enough. The true test of love takes place when the dog has got the opportunity to go out on its own as soon as the door is left open by mistake, and it goes off and often doesn't return home for hours. That shows that the dog loves only its home comforts and the attention it gets from its family; it doesn't truly love the master or mistress as they fondly think. True love in dogs is apparent when a door is left open, and the dog still stays happily within earshot of its owner. For the owner must be the be-all and end-all of a dog's life." — The real meaning of our Divine call and the test of our walk of Faith is not to be seen in our work or activity, or even in our theological purity. It is found in our desire to remain with God. This is the essence of our call to Christian discipleship as shown by Andrew and the other disciples described in today's Gospel. It means that when we have an opportunity to wander away, to disobey, to leave His presence, we choose instead to stay close to Him, to abide in Christ, and to obey Him.



# MASS

## INTENTIONS

Sat	Jan 13	10:30 am	Mass at Simon Fraser Senior 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
Tue	Jan 16	9:00 am	RIP Aline Pighin
Wed	Jan 17	9:00 am	RIP Vilim and Nada Mesic
Thu	Jan 18	9:00 am	RIP Isabelle Thomas
Fri	Jan 19	9:00 am	RIP Wolfgang Betz
Sat	Jan 20	7:00 pm	RIP Edward Bird
Sun	Jan 21	9:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners
		11:00 am	Int John and Serafina Furtado

### 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

We would like to extend our gratitude to the CWL for their support and generous donation of \$300 towards our Youth Group. The donation will help us with the cost of supplies to run our Youth Group Nights. Our next Youth Group will be on Wednesday, January 24th from 6pm-8pm. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We will resume our Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday, January 14th, at the 11:00 am Mass. All children ages 4-8 are welcome to attend!



### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for the next Pancake Breakfast on January 28th at 10am, all are invited to join! In the month of February, there will be no pancake breakfast, but instead we will have a parish potluck on the occasion of the Pallottine Mission Appeal on February 25th at 5pm. So please make sure not to miss your pancake breakfast this month!



### 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.

### ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL UPDATE

Our last update was in December. I'm very pleased to report that we've now reached just over 83% of our diocesan goal – up from 78% in December – with 82% already received. We've also gone from just under \$26,000 to more than \$32,000 in our Healing and Reconciliation appeal with all pledged funds received. Thank you to everyone who helped us get this far. We still have about \$50,000 to go to ensure that we can meet the needs of our smaller parishes, missions and ministries throughout the diocese.

Both of our St. Mary's Parishes hit important milestones over Christmas. St. Mary's in Prince George hit nearly 103% of their total combined goal, while St. Mary's in New Hazelton jumped 30%, quadrupling their progress this year. Sacred Heart Cathedral increased by more than 17% to reach nearly 85%. St. Joseph's in Vanderhoof was right behind them with just a little less than 17% added to their total, reaching 69% of their total combined goal. Notre Dame in Dawson Creek added almost 14% and reached almost 58%, while Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace added 12% to reach almost 70% of their goal. Many other parishes made good progress, as well.

We are doing well, but we still have some way to go. I would like to encourage those who have not yet participated in the appeal – or those who might be able to contribute more – to help us in supporting the many, many needs throughout the diocese. We cannot do it without your help.

As always, I would ask everyone to please continue to pray for all the needs of our diocese. Your prayerful support is so important to all of us.

-James Fowlie, Business Manager

### 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 Bible Collection—Genesis.** Experience the epic tale of creation in this Christian anthology that details the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah and the Ark. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-bible-collection-genesis>



## **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. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

### **Testimonies from St. Mary's Participants in the last Pastoral Care Training of Fall 2023**

"It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with our Faith Community all over BC for a couple of hours every Saturday morning, it is truly a weekly retreat experience."-Moir Perrins

"The Pastoral Care Training was so powerful and moving, it helped me to share about my own grief of losing my Father to cancer last year, and helped me learn different skills and tools to be present to others during their suffering as well. It is very much centred on the healing ministry of Christ and how we are able to be the presence of Christ for others."-Claudia Betz

## **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).

## **Search Youth Nights Grades 9-12**

**COME JOIN US FOR  
WEEKLY NIGHTS OF  
FORMATION AND FUN**

EMAIL [CAMILEHEBERT22@PROTONMAIL.COM](mailto:CAMILEHEBERT22@PROTONMAIL.COM)  
FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION

FIRST NIGHT IS JANUARY 19TH

### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**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>

**Financial Administrator:** The Diocese of Nelson, which encompasses the Okanagan and Kootenays of beautiful British Columbia, is recruiting for the position of Diocesan Financial Administrator. The office is located in Kelowna at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. The Financial Administrator is responsible for oversight of all financial operations of the Diocese and provides strategic financial guidance and effective advisory support to the Bishop. This position oversees 35+ parishes and the 7 Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese (CISND). This Financial Administrator ensures compliance with regulatory requirements and fosters long-term financial sustainability of the Diocese. Please for more details visit: [https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/show\\_job.jsp?REC\\_ID=1516](https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/show_job.jsp?REC_ID=1516)

## 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*