

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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD JANUARY 21ST, 2024



FOUR REASONS WHY PEOPLE DO NOT CATCH FISH

I have come to the conclusion that there are basically four reasons why people do not catch fish: (1) Some people are using the wrong bait. (2) Some people are fishing in the wrong lake, that is, they don't know where the fish are. (3) Some people have got the right bait and they're in the right lake, but they don't know how to fish. (4) Then there are some people who have the right bait, and they're in the right lake, and they know how to fish but they're just not going fishing. The Lord Jesus came not only that we might put our Faith in Him, but that we might go fishing with Him. You see, our problem is not that we have the wrong lake. The water is full of fish. The problem is not that we have the wrong bait. We have the Gospel which can hook any fish. Our problem, I believe, is one of ignorance and apathy. There are many Christians who believe they do not know how to share the Lord Jesus, and then there are many who just don't want to go. (Rev. Maxie Dunnam).

READINGS AND LITURGY

Jonah 3.1-5, 10; Psalm 25.4-9;

1 Corinthians 7.29-31; Gospel: Mark 1.14-20.

In the first reading, Jonah answers God's call to preach in Nineveh and the city repents. In the second reading, Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act as if time is running out. The Gospel tells of the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as he calls the Galileans to repent and believe in the Gospel. We also hear of the call of James, John, Andrew, and Simon.

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!

"FOLLOW ME"

Billy Graham was in a certain town years ago, and he wanted to mail a letter, but he had no idea where the Post Office was. So, he stopped a little boy walking the street and asked him if he could direct him to the nearest Post Office. Well, the little boy said, "Yes sir, go down to the red light, turn right, go two blocks to the second red light, turn left, go one block, turn back to the right and you will be right there." Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "Son, if you will come to the Convention Center this evening, you can hear me telling everybody how to get to Heaven." The boy said, "Well, I don't think I'll be there, Mister; you don't even know your way to the Post Office." Well I want to tell you that Jesus not only knows the way to Heaven, He is the Way to Heaven. He not only knows how to live, He is Life more abundant. The very first command He ever gave to any disciple was: "Follow Me." For that is where discipleship begins and ends, in following Jesus.



MASS

INTENTIONS

Sat	Jan 20	7:00 pm	RIP Edward Bird
Sun	Jan 21	9:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners
		11:00 am	RIP John and Serafina Furtado
Tue	Jan 23	9:00 am	RIP Paul Laliberte
Wed	Jan 24	9:00 am	RIP Roy Fuller
Thu	Jan 25	9:00 am	RIP Eddie O'Connor
Fri	Jan 26	9:00 am	Int for a Parishioner
Sat	Jan 27	7:00 pm	RIP Edward Bird
Sun	Jan 28	9:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners.
		11:00 am	RIP Branko and Luka Brbot

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, Jose Ferreira, and Peter Dasilva.

ST. MARY'S CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH GROUP

Our next Youth Group is this Wednesday, January 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the St. Mary's School Gym. All youths in grades 7 – 12 are welcome to attend!

ST. MARY'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Our Family Movie Night has been rescheduled to Friday, January 26th 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!



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



VOTIVE CANDLES

Thank you to all parishioners for the extra care in lighting the votive candles at the back of the church.

As you can see, we have removed the small matches and replaced them with a lighter. If using the lighter is a problem for you, please ask for help from another parishioner, or from one of our hospitality volunteers. Another alternative to lighting your candle(s), is to take one of the long sticks in the sand receptacle and light it from a lit candle and then use it to light your own candles. If you use a stick, please be sure to put it out in the sand receptacle.

Thank you so much for your help.

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 Conversion of Saint Paul. Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss the conversion of one of the largest figures in Christianity, Saint Paul. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-conversion-of-saint-paul>

A PRIEST IS ALWAYS WRONG.

If he waits for people, they say he has never been punctual.

If he starts the Mass on time, they say his watch is wrong.

If he owns a car, people say he is luxurious.

If he does not have one, they say he is always late.

If he asks for donation, people say he is a money-grabber.

If he does not ask, they say he is proud and lazy.

If he is seen with women, people say he is a playboy.

If he goes with men, they say he is a sissy.

If he preaches too long, they say they get bored.

If his homily is too short, they say he is unprepared.

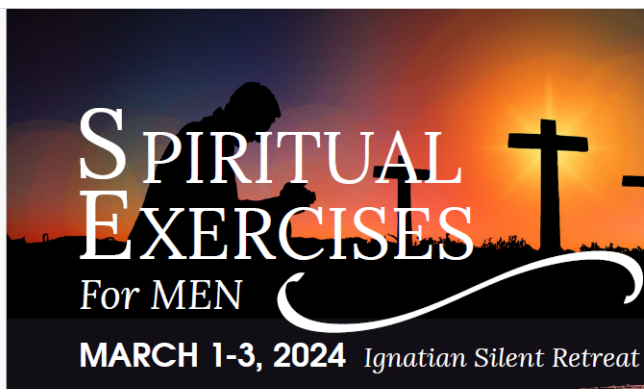
If he visits houses, people say he is always out.

If he stays in the rectory, they say he has no time for them.

If he is young, they say he has no experience.

If he is old, they say he should have retired.

But when a priest dies nobody takes his place. Perhaps, we should put this into our minds — that being God's priest does not abolish his humanity. When he is ordained as a priest, he does not become an angel. Pride, ambition, personal interest, greed for power and materials, and even sensuality are very much present in a priest, and they can blind him just as they can other people. But the Lord called and selected imperfect men — just like St. Peter who was so sensitive and denied Him three times, and yet he became the head of His universal church. These church leaders on their part have the obligation by virtue of their Divine calling, to strive constantly to overcome their human weaknesses and, so, to become better priests and servant-leaders. Concretely, they should continue to pray, and to strive to live as good shepherds, servants, and stewards of people whom God has entrusted to them, and always to seek help from Him Who can and will make them what they cannot make themselves.



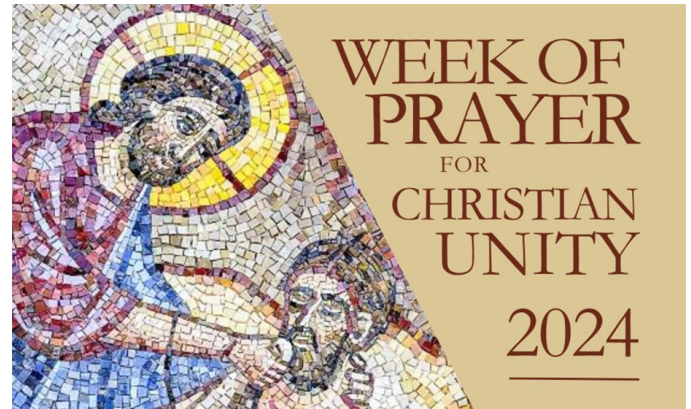
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FOR MEN

Following the Ignatian Spiritual Exercise, this retreat will provide an opportunity to discover the path God has for you moving forward in your spiritual life.

The retreat will be on March 1—3, 2024 at Pastoral Centre, Diocese of Prince George, by Fr. Kenneth LeBlanc, LC. To register, please email norman.hebert@shaw.ca. include info in the registration email: Name, address, Mobile Number, Emergency Contact Number, and Food Allergies/Requirements if Any, or call 778-890-0540.

FEAST: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD AND WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

On February 2, The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and World Day for Consecrated Life, Bishop Stephen Jensen will offer the 12:10 PM Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Following the Mass, the Catholic Women's League from the Cathedral will serve soup and bun luncheon. This is a special time in the calendar of the Church to recognize religious men and women especially those who are serving in our Diocese. You are invited to come and celebrate. Candles will be blessed at the beginning of the Mass. Those who will attend are welcome to bring candles for blessing.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be from **January 18-25, 2024**. The CCCB has presented an article about the week of prayer encouraging the faithful to learn more and participate during the week. The article can be found here: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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.redvictoria.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

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. 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 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 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 **www.rainbowspg.com**

