

**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



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 28TH, 2024



### WHO WOULD EXAMINE ME?

One scholar who was a real authority in his subject was the famous George Lyman Kittredge, for years a professor of English literature at Harvard University. Having received his bachelor's degree at Harvard, he showed such talent that the University engaged him as a teacher. This was long before the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was demanded of university faculty members or, indeed, was even a popular degree in America. Professor Kittredge, A.B. soon became one of the world's most learned men in English literature. For decades, his courses on Shakespeare were the most popular courses taught at Harvard. Every now and then, in his later years, some of his students would ask him, "Why don't you study for doctorate of philosophy?" - Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus had a completely new teaching in a spirit of authority! (Mark, 1-27. today's Gospel). (Father Robert F. McNamara).

### READINGS AND LITURGY

*Deuteronomy 18.15-20; Psalm 95.1-2, 6-9;*

*1 Corinthians 7.32-35; Gospel: Mark 1.21-28.*

In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to be quiet and come out of a man in the synagogue.

*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!

### JESUS TAUGHT AND ACTED WITH AUTHORITY

Kenneth L. Woodward, writing in Newsweek magazine, gives us a glimpse of what Christ's coming meant to the world. He writes, "Whether we like it or not, Christ's life radically changed human culture throughout the world... Before Jesus came, the world was ruled by the 'might makes right' theory. But Jesus' teaching about humility and turning the other cheek redefined our views of human character, of war, of masculinity. Jesus' commitment to the poor, to women and children opened the way for civil rights and equality for women. Marriages became more equitable. Also, it was a common practice in Roman families to kill female babies. Sociologist Rodney Stark notes that evidence exists that among at least 600 ancient Roman families, less than a dozen had more than one daughter. But Christians valued the life of all people, whether male or female, and prohibited the killing of any children." ("2000 Years of Jesus," March 29, 1999, p.55.) But the revolution is not complete. We still live in a pre-Christian world. There is still too much hatred, too much violence, too much debasement of human dignity. If you are comfortable in Jesus' presence, you simply do not see him as he really is.



# MASS INTENTIONS

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
Tue	Jan 30	9:00 am	RIP Wolfgang Betz
Wed	Jan 31	9:00 am	
Thu	Feb 1	9:00 am	
Fri	Feb 2	7:00 pm	1st Friday Mass and Adoration
Sat	Feb 3	7:00 pm	RIP Jose Resendes
Sun	Feb 4	9:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners
		11:00 am	RIP Sister Viammey

## 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, Joanne Rebogaliata, Manae Peters, Ruth, Wark family, Jose Ferreira, Peter Dasilva, and Minnie Peterson.

## FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND ADORATION

Join us to our First Friday Mass and Adoration this February 2nd at 7:00 PM. Please note there will be no morning Mass on this day.



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for the Pancake Breakfast this 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 is enjoying his vacation in India. He was able to attend the Pallottine Fathers Celebration. He sends warm greetings to all of us.



## PALMS FOR ASHES

Please bring your old palms and leave them in the Parish Office or bring them to the Church on the Weekend and place them in the basket by the front door, to be used for Ash Wednesday.

## GALA 2024 TICKETS GO ON SALE NOW!

Our 2024 Gala is set for Saturday **February 24, 2024** at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre. Tickets are \$75 each. If you would like to purchase a table of 10, the table will cost \$750.00. Tickets can be purchased in the office or online via the school website. This is the first year that you can buy tickets in person or online. If you are purchasing tickets online, you need to make sure that you select "Gala Tickets" under the payment options and you must contact Jackie Boyes at the office at 250-563-7502 or via email at [jboyes@cispg.ca](mailto:jboyes@cispg.ca) so that she can organize the tables for the event. You can also let Jackie know if you are planning on sitting with someone who has already purchased tickets. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jackie at 250-563-7502.

## 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: A Bible Study on the Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation.** What is the importance of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple? Join Dr. James Protho and Dr. Ben Akers as they unpack this great mystery and how it can apply to your spiritual life.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/a-bible-study-on-the-joyful-mysteries-the-presentation>





Since the invasion of Ukraine began in Feb 2022, Prince George Share Hope has helped to settle 301 displaced Ukrainians within 118 families, across our diocese. Financial support is one of many settlement supports offered by Prince George Share Hope.

We are approaching the third year of violence across Ukraine and we are currently experiencing a surge in applications from people looking to travel and settle here.

We are pleading to our supporters for more funds to help continue our efforts. If you would like to donate funds to Share Hope, there are many options for giving. Cheques can be made payable to RCEC-Share Hope and can be dropped off at any office of a Catholic Parish in Prince George, or mailed to: Share Hope, C/O Diocesan Pastoral Centre 6500 Southridge Avenue, Prince George, BC, V2N 5P9.

Donate online by Credit Card via CanadaHelps: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70838>

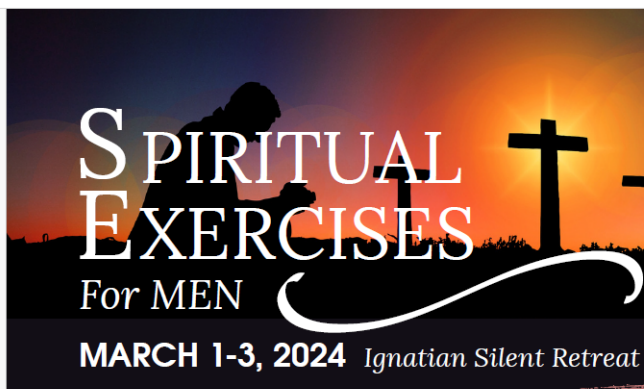
E-transfer to: [sharehope@pgdio.ca](mailto:sharehope@pgdio.ca) (In the memo field add your name and address.)

Donations to Share Hope will receive a charitable tax receipt.

For more information regarding Prince George Share Hope please contact Eva Gillis at Immaculate Conception parish or Dick Mynen at St Mary's parish via email to [pg.sharehope@gmail.com](mailto:pg.sharehope@gmail.com)

### GRIEF TO GRACE RETREAT

Through a retreat program facilitated by mental health professionals and centered on Jesus Christ, Grief to Grace helps those who have endured neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and/or spiritual abuse in their family of origin, their community, from spouses/partners, and/or coworkers or supervisors, find healing and journey to wholeness. The next retreat in Canada is **May 14 - 18, 2024 in Kelowna**. For more information please email [griegtograckelowna@gmail.com](mailto:griegtograckelowna@gmail.com) or make a confidential call to 250-808-6403.



### 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](mailto: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.

### THE RIGHT TO LIFE SOCIETY

The Right to Life Society of Prince George invites you to our upcoming Prayer Vigil which will be held on **Sunday, February 4**, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on the footpath at the intersection of Ferry Avenue and Highway 16W.



### 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.



### 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.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)

# 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)**

