

**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



## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME WORLD DAY OF THE SICK FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024



### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE LEPER

Today's Scripture lesson teaches us that the sick and the maimed are not to be objects of scorn, but potential reservoirs of God's mercy for us. St. Francis of Assisi, for instance, understood this. At one time in his life, he had a terrible fear of lepers. Then one day when he was out for a ride, he heard the warning bell that lepers were required to ring in the Middle Ages. When a leper emerged from a clump of trees, St. Francis saw that he was horribly disfigured. Half of his nose had been eaten away; his hands were stumps without fingers and his lips were oozing white pus. Instead of giving in to his fears, Francis slid down from his horse, ran forward, embraced the leper and kissed him. Francis' life was never the same after that episode. He had found a new relationship with others and a new energy for his ministry.

### READINGS AND LITURGY

*Leviticus 13.1-2, 45-46; Psalm 32.1-2, 5, 11;*

*1 Corinthians 10.31-11.1; Gospel: Mark 1.40-45.*

The first reading regulates procedures for dealing with people with skin disease. They are denounced unclean and must live alone. Paul calls the Corinthians to give glory to God in everything they do. In the Gospel, Jesus is moved with pity for a man with leprosy. Jesus touches the man, and he is made clean.

*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!

### "GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN! I AM NOTHING!"

One evening, after a brilliant performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conductor Arturo Toscanini found himself facing a crowd gone wild. They applauded, whistled, stamped their feet and nearly deafened him with shouts of "Bravo! Bravo!" Toscanini bowed repeatedly and then turned to acknowledge the artistry of the orchestra. With a breathlessness in his hushed voice, he leaned in close and said, "Gentlemen! Gentlemen! I am nothing!" This was an extraordinary admission, given his enormous ego. Then the great conductor added, "Gentlemen, you are nothing." they had heard that same message countless times during rehearsal. "But Beethoven", said Toscanini with a tone of adoration in his voice, "Beethoven is everything, everything, everything!" - Centuries before Beethoven and Toscanini, Paul had come to the same realization as regards Jesus. Christ was "everything, everything, everything" for the great apostle to the Gentiles and he, for his part wished to share his experience of and relationship with Christ with everyone he met. In today's second reading, Paul was trying to convince this Corinthian converts of the supreme importance of Christ in their lives. For Paul, Christ was everything, everything, everything. (Sanchez Files).



## MASS INTENTIONS

|     |                            |          |                               |
|-----|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Sat | Feb 10                     | 7:00 pm  | RIP Jose Manuel Resendes      |
| Sun | Feb 11                     | 9:00 am  | Int for all our Parishioners  |
|     |                            | 11:00 am | RIP Wolfgang Betz             |
| Tue | Feb 13                     | 9:00 am  | RIP Jose Foares               |
| Wed | Feb 14<br>Ash<br>Wednesday | 9:00 am  | RIP Kathleen Walsh            |
|     |                            | 7:00 pm  | Int for all our Parishioners  |
| Thu | Feb 15                     | 9:00 am  | RIP Aline Pighin              |
| Fri | Feb 16                     | 7:00 pm  | Int for a Parishioner         |
| Sat | Feb 17                     | 7:00 pm  | Int for all our Parishioners  |
| Sun | Feb 18                     | 9:00 am  | RIP John and Serafina Furtado |
|     |                            | 11:00 am | RIP Denise Work               |

### 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.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent is fast approaching! On **Wednesday, February 14th**, we will be having a 9am Mass with St. Mary's School and a 7pm evening Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of our 2024 Lenten journey!

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Starting this Friday, February 16th, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm followed by the celebration of Mass at 7pm. The Stations of the Cross is a traditional 14-step Catholic prayer meditating on the last hours of Jesus' life, His passion, crucifixion, death and burial. It invites worshippers of all ages into deeper reflection on the great sacrifice of love undertaken by the Son of God. Consider making the Stations of the Cross and the Celebration of a weekday Mass on a Friday evening a part of your weekly practice for Lent.

### PALLOTTINE MISSION APPEAL

On the weekend of February 24th and 25th we will have a Special Collection for the Pallottine Mission Appeal. Fr. Arulldhas belongs to the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (The Pallottines) and we are sharing with all of you some more information on the back of this bulletin.

#### Ways to donate:

- Use the Pallottine Mission offering envelopes.
- Donate online by mentioning Pallottine Mission appeal.
- Use the blank Pallottine mission envelopes available at the back of church.
- Give an offering during the second collection taken during the Masses on February 24th and 25th, 2024.

### ST. MARY'S PARISH POTLUCK

On the occasion of the Pallottine Mission Appeal, St. Mary's will be having a Parish Potluck on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the school gym.

If your last name starts with A to L, please bring a salad, appetizer or dessert, and if your last name starts with M to Z, please bring a main dish. If you are gluten free, please bring a gluten free dish. Please join your St. Mary's family for a delicious meal and learn more about the inspiring life and work of St. Vincent Pallotti!

*"I will try to free myself from everything that prevents me from obtaining this treasure that God is." -*  
St. Vincent Pallotti

### MUSIC MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Please mark your calendars! We will be having our Music Ministry Workshop on Saturday, **February 24th from 10am-12pm**. This workshop is for all current choir members and for those who are interested in joining the Music Ministry at St. Mary's. Fr. Arulldhas will be back from his holidays and would love to see all choir members at the workshop.

### 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 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: Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent.** Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith. . <https://watch.formed.org/videos/whole-40-making-a-spiritual-plan-for-lent>

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

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to a Personal Date with Jesus on **Tuesday, February 13th, 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.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are universal days of Fasting and Abstinence in the Church. Fasting is binding on all those who are 18 to 59 years of age and in reasonable health, and abstinence from meat is binding on those 14 and older. Parents and educators are the greatest influence in modelling these practices of penance to children too young to participate, and they have a duty to introduce children to these practices and help them understand their importance. Fasting is one of the three pillars of Lent, along with prayer and almsgiving. It is a practice of self-discipline with a focus on penance intended to purify our faith and serve as a witness to the depth of our faith. It allows us to share in the suffering of those who are starving. Abstinence from meat is done in remembrance of the Lord's Passion, how he gave up his flesh for us, and as another act of communal penance. Traditionally, money saved from fasting and abstinence has also been given to the poor.

## **CCCB RELEASES PASTORAL TOOLKIT**

This Sunday, February 11th is the 32nd World Day of the Sick. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has released a pastoral toolkit of resources to help promote a commitment to prayer and accompaniment of the sick. The resources can be found on Google Drive here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yDVR1M1ZYa3Tb7YcwLOlToaBQRPYWshV> Visit the CCCB website for the full press release regarding the World Day of the Sick here: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/pope-francis-message-for-the-32nd-world-day-of-the-sick-february-11-2024/>

## **RIGHT TO LIFE SOCIETY OF PRINCE GEORGE**

The Right to Life Society of Prince George invites you to participate in the upcoming 40 Days for Life Lenten Campaign. This year's campaign will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**, and will end on Sunday, **March 24**. Each day, we will gather along the footpath at the intersection of Ferry Avenue and Hwy 16 W from 1:00-2:00 PM. Since 2007, 40 Days for Life has played a pivotal role in saving the lives of 24,239 unborn children and in the closing of 148 abortion clinics. Your prayerful presence will be a visible witness to the sanctity of the lives of the unborn and help to save many more lives. Please come and join us whenever possible.

## **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.

## **DIOCESAN APPEAL TAX RECEIPTS**

We are in the process of producing the appeal tax receipts for all of 2023. These will be sent out over the next week and will include donations received between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. If you have moved and have not updated your address on file with us, please email us at [appeal@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:appeal@pgdiocese.bc.ca) with your new mailing address.

## **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 [griegtograncelowna@gmail.com](mailto:griegtograncelowna@gmail.com) or make a confidential call to 250-808-6403.

## **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](https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/show_job.jsp?REC_ID=1516)



## Pallottine Mission Appeal 2024

*“Every Catholic, whether priest, religious or lay faithful, should rejoice because all of their talents, knowledge, studies, power, nobility, profession, art, earthly goods, service, prayers used for the propagation of faith and rekindling of charity in the world can acquire the merit of the apostolate.”- St. Vincent Pallotti*

We, the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, are a community embedded in a large international network called the Union of the Catholic Apostolate (UAC – from the Latin “Unio Apostolatus Catholici”). Our members are called Pallottines, taken from the name of our founder, Vincent Pallotti. Our roles are as diverse as the talents of our confreres. Everyone brings his abilities to bear, which are complemented and completed in the others. We gladly work together with all people. All Christian concerns are significant to us. We try to respond to the concerns and needs of our contemporaries through the inspiration of the Christian faith.

The mission of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (SAC) is in line with the mission of Jesus Christ and of the Church - “to revive faith and re-enkindle charity of the entire People of God and to spread the faith and charity in the world, so that soon there may be but one flock and one shepherd” (John 10,16).



When Pallotti died on January 22, 1850, the Society was in its infancy stage. By the year 1869 there were only ten priests and four Brothers. Today, by the grace of God, the society has nearly 39 entities with the total membership around 2400. It first began in Italy 1835 by Pallotti along with some diocesan priests who willingly came forward to work with our founder.

The Pallottines are pioneers in the field of the lay apostolate and in re-awakening among the people of God a sense of their Christian vocation.

The Pallottines by virtue of their charism engage themselves in all apostolic works, but in a special way in those areas where most others would be reluctant to tread. The Pallottine Province in Tamil Nadu, India, is called “Our Lady of Good Health” (OLGH) and this name has a history of Catholicism behind it, as it has its roots in the apparitions of Mother Mary in Velankanni in the 16th century. Our Province is blessed with 96 Priests, and 49 students in various levels of formation. In Tamil Nadu, we are involved mainly in the pastoral care of the people in the parishes, in education ministry for the poor children, in social empowerment of women, and in healing ministry. We are also working in Indian and foreign missions.

Father Aruldas Lucas, the Pastor of St. Mary’s Parish, belongs to the OLGH Province. The Diocese of Prince George supports the society by allowing a mission collection once a year in the parishes where the Pallottines are working. And it is with this financial support that we run the institutions, seminaries, mission parishes, and apostolic works.



Dear brothers and sisters, I request you to support financially the mission of the church which our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, has shown and lived. I wholeheartedly thank you for your support that you have given last year. And for this year, I appeal to you to be generous and contribute financially for the missionary work of the Pallottines. Kindly Remember it is the second collection which will be taken and sent for the Pallottine Missionary works. I will be looking forward to your generous hearts, during the Masses for the Pallottine Mission Appeal on the 24th- 25th of February, 2024. God bless you all.

Father Aruldas Lucas SAC