

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 OF LENT MARCH 10TH, 2024



CREATE HIM NOT

Jewish legend has it that when God was about to create man, He consulted the angels about His throne: "Create him not," said the Angel of Justice. "For he will commit all kinds of wickedness against his fellowmen; he will be bad and cruel and dishonest and unrighteous." The Angel of Truth said, "Create him not, for he will be false and deceitful to his brothers and sisters, and even to You." "Create him not," said the Angel of Holiness. "He will follow that which is impure in Your sight and dishonor You to Your face." Then stepped forward the Angel of Mercy said, "Our Heavenly Father, create him, for when he sins and turns from the path of right and truth and holiness, I'll take him tenderly by the hand, speak loving words to him, and then lead him back to You." And God indeed created man, following the counsel of the Angel of Mercy. — This story shows to us the message of Christ in today's Gospel of Fourth Sunday of Lent in the B Cycle. And the verse John 3:16 has been called a summary of the Bible, and a summary the entire Gospel as well. Maybe because we can find the acronym, GOSPEL. Let us listen very carefully: "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-begotten Son, so that whoever who believes in Him should not Perish but have Eternal Life." (3:16). (Fr. Benitez)

READINGS AND LITURGY

*2 Chronicles 36.14-17, 19-23; Psalm 137:1-6;
Ephesians 2.4-10; Gospel: John 3.14-21.*

The first reading chronicles the fall of Jerusalem because of the people's unfaithfulness, and the fulfillment of the prophecies through Cyrus, king of Persia. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of the richness of God's mercy and *the immeasurable riches of his grace*. The Gospel tells of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and the immense love God has for us.

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!

RELEASE THIS GUILTY MAN

King Frederick II, an Eighteenth-Century king of Prussia, visited a prison in Berlin one day. The inmates jumped at the opportunity to plead their innocence directly to the king. All except one. One prisoner sat quietly in the corner. This aroused the king's curiosity. The king quieted the other inmates and approached the man in the corner. "What are you in for?" he asked. "Armed robbery, your honor." The king asked, "Are you guilty?" "Yes sir," he answered. "I entirely deserve my punishment." The king then gave an order to the guard: "Release this guilty man. I don't want him corrupting all these innocent people!" — How ironic! Only when we see and admit our guilt to ourselves, can we repent and return to God to receive the forgiveness and so wash that guilt away. One of the greatest promises of Scripture is this one: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins." Recognition of our sin and Repentance for it are the first steps toward the new birth mentioned in today's Gospel. Think for a moment. Is there some failing in your life that you have never admitted to yourself or to God?



MASS

INTENTIONS

Sat	Mar 9	7:00 pm	RIP Maria Pereira
Sun	Mar 10	9:00 am 11:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners RIP Maria Isabel and Joaquim Luis D'Santos
Tue	Mar 12	9:00 am	RIP Davie Turcotte
Wed	Mar 13	9:00 am	Int for James and Maria Chambers
Thu	Mar 14	9:00 am	RIP Aline Pighin
Fri	Mar 15	7:00 pm	RIP Ivan Udovicic
Sat	Mar 16	7:00 pm	RIP Joaquim Ramos Pereira
Sun	Mar 17	9:00 am 11:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners RIP Maria Am

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, Stella Wiktor, and Ruth Henwood.



STATIONS of the CROSS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We are praying the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm followed by the celebration of Mass at 7pm during all Fridays of the Lenten Season. 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.

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

The St. Mary's Pastoral Council meeting is this Tuesday, March 12th.

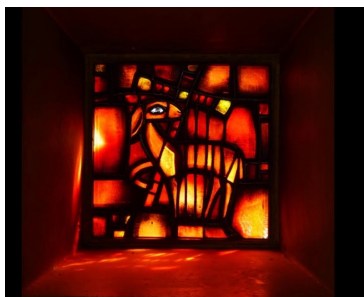
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for the next Pancake Breakfast on March 17th at 10am, all are invited to join!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Date	Celebration	Time
Sat, March 23 Sun, March 24	Saturday Mass Palm Sunday	7:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
Holy Thursday March 28th	Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration at the Altar of Repose	7:00 PM 8:00 PM
Good Friday March 29th	Station of the Cross Passion of the Lord	2:00 PM 3:00 PM
Holy Sat March 30th	Easter Vigil	8:00 PM
Easter Sun March 31st	The Resurrection of the Lord	9:00 AM 11:00 AM

TAIZE PRAYER



We will be having a Taizé Prayer Evening at St. Mary's during Holy Week on Tuesday, March 26th at 7pm. Taizé is a prayerful form of music that takes the structure of a simple melody that repeats and provides a space where prayer can move from the

mind to the heart. If you would like to join the choir for the Taizé Prayer Evening, there will be a practice on Tuesday, March 19th at 5pm. For information on the Ecumenical community of Taizé, please visit: www.taize.fr.

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: Week Four—Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT. In week four of Restore, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reflects on almsgiving and how it heals your relationships with others. One of the most powerful ways to heal your brokenness is to give—not only money or clothing, but also your presence and love—to those whom God has placed in your life, even those who have wounded you. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/restore-week-four-the-healing-balm-of-almsgiving>

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Date	Church	Time
Tue, March 12th	Christ Our Saviour	Following the 5:30 PM Mass
Wed, March 13th	St. Mary's	7:00—8:00 PM
Thu, March 21st.	Immaculate Conception	7:00—8:00 PM
March 25th, 26th and 27th.	Sacred Heart Cathedral	6:00 PM—7:00 PM Following a Lenten Reflection

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER

St. Mary's and Hunniford Gardens have once again joined to bring you our annual Spring Flower Fundraiser. There is a beautiful selection of hanging baskets and planters available to order.

Looking to celebrate that special Mother figure in your life? Order will be delivered the week before Mother's Day on May 8th! ***Please note the deadline to order is March 11th.*** Share this with your family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE—LENTEN CAMPAIGN

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.

HOPE ON THE HORIZON

The [Hope on the Horizon Summer Outreach program](#) is an incredible opportunity for young Catholics aged 19 to 30 to answer the call of Christ and serve the homeless with compassion. Coordinated by the Archdiocese of Vancouver in collaboration with Catholic Street Missionaries, this transformative multi-week program will unfold from August 6 to August 21, 2024. Some of the benefits will include:

Authentic Christian living - During this time, participants will live an intensive communal life, praying, learning, serving the poor and enjoying recreational activities together.

Holistic formation - The program offers a holistic formation, nurturing their human, apostolic, spiritual, and intellectual development.

Inner healing - As young missionaries step out of their comfort zone to love those who are "hard-to-love", they are subconsciously embracing their own poverty (i.e. wounds, weaknesses, 'defects'); thus receiving inner healing.

Hearts set on fire - Like the two disciples walking alongside Jesus on the road to Emmaus, participants will return with hearts aflame to serve their local churches.

For more information, check out their website: <https://www.catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon>

CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

We ask for your prayers and help to find Catholic, certified teachers for our 8 Catholic Schools. All 8 schools have vacancies including the Principalship at Sacred Heart School in Prince George. CISPg hires non-Catholics with the expectation they understand and are respectful to Catholic values and lifestyle.

Teaching vacancies and the application forms can be found at <http://cispag.ca/careers/>

Please share this with anyone you may know that could be teaching in our vibrant Catholic Schools!

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERS

Even when a marriage is going smoothly, there are always opportunities to make it work better. The Marriage Encounter experience is a heart haven that helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply. There is no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be.

April 19 – 21, 2024

Virtual Experience

Edmonton based (Mtn Time)

Questions?

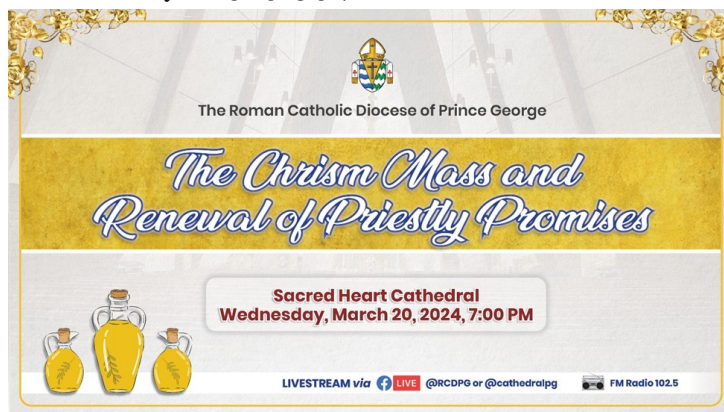
Doug & Candice Chappell

778-479-7900

Doug.candice.chappell@wwme.org

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHOIR FOR THE CHRISM MASS

All are welcome to join the City-wide Parish Choir for the Chrism Mass (**Wednesday March 20 at 7 pm**). Choir practices will take place on Monday March 11 from 7 - 8 pm, and Sunday March 17 from 7 - 9 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral in the choir loft. For more information, please contact Kathy at 250 563 5170.



RACHEL VINEYARD RETREATS

Spring retreats for the BC interior. For emotional and Spiritual Healing. Rachel Vineyard weekend retreats offer a supportive and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal & healing. Registering now. Confidentiality assured.

Kelowna retreat April 12–14. Contact Vicki at 250-762-2273 or www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com / Facebook: Rachels Vineyard Kelowna.

Meritt retreat April 30–May 2. Contact Nancy at 250-867-5081 phone or text rvkamloops@yahoo.ca.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING DONATION NEEDED

Our St Vincent's Thrift Store (1645 3rd Avenue, Prince George, 250-562-5136, store manager Colleen) requires clothing, all types, infants to adults. Our thrift store is open Mondays to Saturdays, see our Facebook Page, St Vincent De Paul Society PG as well. All our proceeds go to feed and clothe the needy.

Additionally, we are in need of volunteers to work alongside our staff, Mondays to Saturdays, with flexible schedules—especially suitable for retirees, or young folk needing volunteer experience. Thank you,

- Joseph P. Creegan, President, SVDPPG.

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**

