

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17TH, 2024



I MADE A DIFFERENCE OF THAT ONE

(Adapted and condensed from "The Star Thrower" – a story by Loren Eiseley (1907-1977), from the book *Unexpected Universe*): One day, a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going down. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "See? I made a difference for that one!" — "The Star Thrower" is a classic story of the power within each one of us to make a difference in the lives of others. Today's Gospel challenges us to make a difference in the lives of other people by our sacrificial service to those around us in the family, in the workplace, and in a wider society.

READINGS AND LITURGY

*Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13;
Hebrews 5:7-9; Gospel: John 12:20-33.*

Jeremiah prophesies the Lord will one day establish a new covenant with his people whereby he will write his law upon their hearts. The author of Hebrews says that Jesus' prayers and supplications were heard because of his reverence. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the time for him to fulfill his purpose is upon him.

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 GAIN IN GRAIN

"Hope for the Flowers" is a well-known parable written by Trina Paulus. It tells of two caterpillars, Stripe and Yellow, who are crawling in a caterpillar queue (rat-race) to reach the top. They see another caterpillar hanging upside down waiting to become a butterfly, who explains: "It looks like you will die, but, you will really live. Life is changed!" Convinced, Yellow surrenders and becomes a butterfly; Stripe continues crawling. — Am I ready to surrender and fly rather than crawl? To yield hundred-fold harvests rather than survive selfishly? (Francis Gonsalves in *Sunday Seeds for Daily Deeds*; quoted by Fr. Botelho).



MASS

INTENTIONS

| | | | |
|-----|--------|---------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Tue | Mar 19 | 9:00 am | RIP Michael Quinn RIP Kent, Peter & Beaverley Krpan. |
| Wed | Mar 20 | 9:00 am | RIP Sr. Magdalen (RSM) RIP Kent, Peter & Beaverley Krpan. |
| Thu | Mar 21 | 9:00 am | Int for John Becher |
| Fri | Mar 22 | 7:00 pm | RIP Dianne Rodney |
| Sat | Mar 23 | 7:00 pm | RIP Maria Camba |
| Sun | Mar 24 | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Int for all our Parishioners RIP Mandica & Ante Furlan |

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 Ruth Henwood.

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.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

| Date | Church | Time |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 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 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 Trials of Saint Patrick The Trials of Saint Patrick, a powerful journey through hardship, loss, mercy, and forgiveness. With skilled actors and cinematic elements, this captivating story comes to life, stirring the imagination and sparking inspiration. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-trials-of-saint-patrick-1>

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

| Date | Celebration | Time |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Sat, March 23 | Palm Sunday—Sat Mass | 7:00 PM |
| Sun, March 24th | Palm Sunday | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM |
| Holy Thursday March 28th | Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration at the Altar of | 7:00 PM 8:00 PM |
| Good Friday March 29th | Stations 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.

RCIA

We will be celebrating our third and last Scrutiny for our Elect, Alex Ovien this Sunday at the 11am Mass. Alex will be receiving his Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

Our Candidates who have already been Baptised, Lucas Stewart, Alexandra Gilbert, and Shane Sienaert will be receiving their Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please keep our Elect and our Candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey through the RCIA.



SECOND COLLECTION: SHARE LENT

This Lent, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, invites you to stand with small-scale farmers and peasant communities through their Create Hope: Reaping our Rights campaign.

Your generosity will help support over 73 projects in 36 countries around the world, helping address the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality. On Solidarity Sunday, March 17, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, please consider making a tax-deductible donation in person at the parish or online at: <https://devp.org/en/campaign/reaping-our-rights/resources-lent-2024/>

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 began 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.

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://cispg.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?

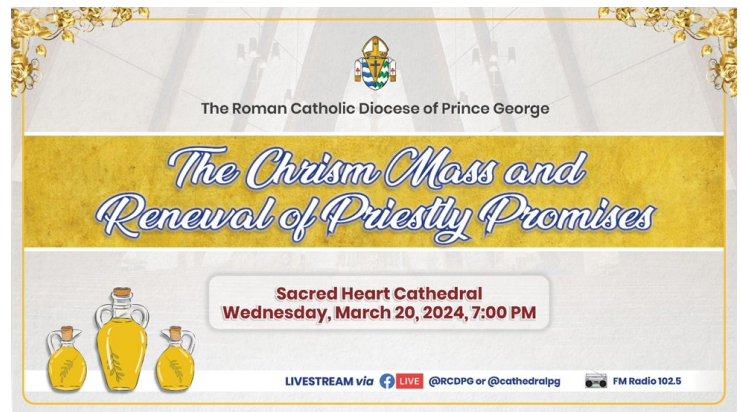
Doug & Candice Chappell

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**). The last Choir practice will take place on 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-abortion 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**

