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SCHOOL: [www.stmatthewselementary.ca](http://www.stmatthewselementary.ca)  
St. Matthew's Preschool Tel: (604) 589-1222



**February 18, 2018** **1st Sunday of Lent**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."  
Mk 1:14-15

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**REGULAR MASS TIMES**

**SUNDAY:** English Masses - 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 7:30 PM  
Vietnamese - 5:00 PM  
African - 12:30 PM (last Sunday of the month)

**SATURDAY:** 9:00 AM / Anticipated Mass at 5:30 PM

**WEEKDAYS:** Monday to Friday (except TUESDAY) 8:00 AM  
Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Friday Night—Mass at 7:00 PM (Vietnamese)  
\*\*\*except First Friday - in English

**CONFESSIONS**

- Weekend & Daily Masses: half an hour before each Mass

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**  
(see details inside)

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor** [ttran@rcav.org](mailto:ttran@rcav.org)

**Rev. Nixon D'Silva, Asst. Pastor** [nixsil2007@gmail.com](mailto:nixsil2007@gmail.com)  
**604-589-2083** **Rectory**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
**604-589-2448** [office@saintmatthews.ca](mailto:office@saintmatthews.ca)

**Parish Admin:** Mrs. Letty Regis  
Ms. Caroline Mrazek  
Mrs. Stephanie Chessell

**Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Melanie A. Narvaez  
**P.R.E.P.** Mrs. Trish Van Vliet [prep@saintmatthews.ca](mailto:prep@saintmatthews.ca)

**Maintenance** Mr. Lorne Ward [lorne@saintmatthews.ca](mailto:lorne@saintmatthews.ca)

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**REGULAR DEVOTIONS**

**Holy Rosary**  
20 minutes before daily Mass

**Divine Mercy**  
Tuesday after the 7 PM Mass

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
Saturday after the 9 AM Mass

**First Friday**  
After the 8 AM Mass - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
12:00 noon Benediction  
6:25 PM—Holy Rosary

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar. 17—22 St. Matthew's Parish Mission  
Mar. 18 Share Lent Pancake Breakfast (Hosted by K. Of C. & RCIA)  
Apr. 7—8 Project Advance Campaign  
June 9 Spring Dinner & Dance—80's Theme

**SECOND COLLECTION**  
**February 17/18, 2018**  
**St. Joseph's Society**

Monday	7:30 PM	St. Matthew's Prayer Group	Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	1 to 4 PM	Fifty Plus Social	Jubilee Hall
2nd Tuesday	7:30 PM	Knights of Columbus	Jubilee Hall
3rd Tuesday	7:30 PM	CWL	Jubilee Hall
Wednesday	9 AM	St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Kitchen
Thursday	10 AM	Legion of Mary	Upper Room
Thursday	7 PM	Bible Study	Church
Every 2nd Friday	9 AM	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Upper Room

**BAPTISM:**

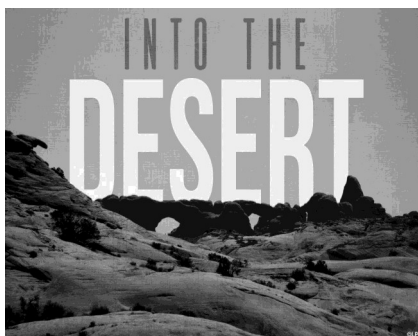
By appointment with a minimum of 2 months' notice (during pregnancy) so that instructions can be given to parents and godparents about the duties and responsibilities assumed in this Sacrament.

**MARRIAGE:**

A minimum of 6 months' notice with one of the parties registered in the parish and practicing his/her faith. The Marriage Preparation course is mandatory. Please ask for "Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage".

**FUNERALS:**

Please call the parish office before making arrangements.



Why do we always go to the desert? We see this example in Scripture time and time again. The Israelites wandered in the desert. King David and prophets were driven into the wilderness. And now Jesus is in the same place. Lent after Lent, we too are invited into a barren, desolate place. Why do we always go to the desert?

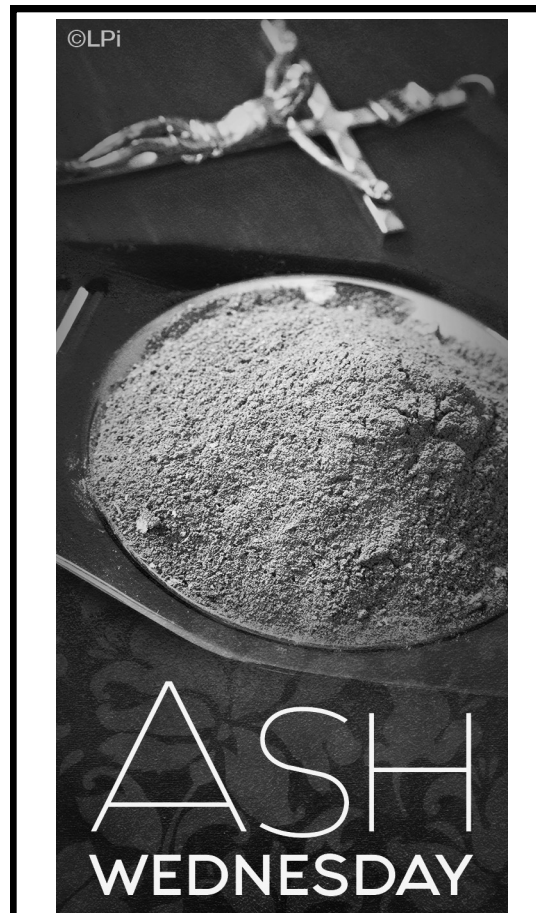
Throughout Scripture, the desert is a place of testing. It's also a place of hiding and withdrawal. In the Old Testament, David fled into the wilderness to hide from Saul, Elijah from Jezebel, and Jonah from God! In other words, the desert is a place of "retreat." In Christian circles, we use the word to describe a spiritual weekend away. But its meaning comes from warfare. To retreat means to draw back, to separate oneself from the fighting. Of course, a military retreat brings its own kind of "battle"- the internal assessment of why the fighting went so poorly.

As we enter into this Lenten season, we are invited to retreat into the desert with Jesus. Attending a day or weekend of reflection is a wonderful spiritual practice. This "desert spirituality," however, can fill all forty days. We can fulfill our Lenten resolutions with a purpose—writing daily notes to family and friends can inspire new gratitude. Every time we pass up that specific food item can be cause for intercession for deeper sufferings and privations of others.

The Gospel tells us that "the Spirit drove him out into the desert." In other words, God wants us to be here. What feels uncomfortable is actually part of our spiritual journey. To be stretched, to be challenged, to confront our own areas of weakness—these things are essential in our walk with God. This Lent, will you go the desert?

**LIVE THE LITURGY**

Repent and believe in the Gospel! This is the message that is found on Jesus' lips after 40 days in the desert. As the 40 days of Lent come before us, we are asked to create a desert experience in our lives so that we can learn anew the ways of God. Our daily cares and concerns can distract us from truth and cause us to become absorbed with the world and secular priorities. Lent is an opportunity to free ourselves from illusion and focus us on what really matters. In doing so, we open up new possibilities for our relationship with God, others, our world, and ourselves.



*As the priest places ashes on our forehead, we hear him say "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return." When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We are reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can!*

**PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)**

Grade 4 Teacher needed – please contact the PREP office if you could step into this position for the remainder of the year.

February 21st – Gr 2 & CIC2 Reconciliation Rehearsal & Parent Mtg. (PREP Only) Please meet in the church with students. Students will be dismissed from the church.

Staff Meeting following PREP in Jubilee Hall

Saturday February 24th – Gr. 2 & CIC2 & SME Reconciliation – please meet in the Fireside Room at 9:30. One parent must be in attendance.

Wednesday February 28th – Student, Sponsor & Parent Meeting – please meet in the church.

Wednesday, March 7th – Gr. 7 Confirmation Interviews.

Trish Van Vliet – prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-589-2448 ext.233



**FIFTY PLUS GROUP**

Social 1 to 4 PM every Tuesday in the Jubilee Hall

**CWL Corner**

Our general meeting on Tuesday, February 20 will start at 6:30 pm. with Mary's Way of the Cross. All parishioners are invited to join in. After Mass we will move to the Fireside Room. A workshop on the future development of the league will be offered. Ladies, we need your ideas, your comments, your thoughts. Come help us to keep the League vibrant.

Tuesday, February 27— All parishioners are invited to the Mass of the anointing of the sick. A reception will follow in the Jubilee Hall. We offer a light lunch with soup, sandwiches and sweets. Ladies, you still have time to sign up as a helper. We need you! *Ria Ling*

**Best Lent Ever! Small Group Discovery Faith Study - starting the week of Feb. 19th!**

Come and experience your faith in a new and exciting way with 4 or 5 others in a small men's or women's Discovery faith study group; just 1 hour a week for 6 weeks. Rediscover the essence of your faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus, while learning ways to easily share your faith with others.

For more information and to see if there is a study that will fit your schedule -

- 1. Come and see us after Sunday Mass
- 2. Contact Tim McKinnon @ 604-614-3499 email [tjm3499@gmail.com](mailto:tjm3499@gmail.com)
- 3. Ask the Parish Office



Tax Receipts for the year 2017 are now ready for pick up at the Parish Office, Tuesdays— Saturdays, from 9am—5pm and after weekend Masses until Feb. 26/18.

**Sunday Coffee**— help is needed with serving coffee after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday. If you can help, please call Ron Fournier at 604-589-2932 or see him after the Mass any Sunday.



**Our Lady of La Vang:** Please support our Vietnamese Eucharistic youth group and purchase their delicious spring rolls—home made, good price, for small or large parties. Contact Mary 778-995-2758.



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**HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR 2018**  
**All Are Welcome!**  
 Great food, deliciously prepared by King Do Seafood Restaurant, 13922—104 Ave. , Surrey, B. C. V3P 1X2. Join us for lunch on February 24 at 12:15pm. Cost: 25.00 per person.  
 Limited seating, please call Julia 778-888-6259 to confirm attendance.

**BURSARY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2018:** If you are planning to go on to further studies and you are a child or grandchild of a St. Matthew's CWL member, you are eligible to apply for one of our \$750.00 bursaries. Application forms can be picked up at the Religious Articles room. DEADLINE for applications is May 15, 2018.

**DIOCESAN SCHOLARSHIP** for high school graduates is \$1000.00. Deadline to apply is March 31. Information and application forms are at [www.vancouvercwl.ca/bursary](http://www.vancouvercwl.ca/bursary)  
**CWL MEMBERS:** check out the bursaries available to members pursuing studies related to adult faith formation or youth ministry.  
 See [www.bcyukoncwl.com](http://www.bcyukoncwl.com) and [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) . Deadline is March 31.

**R. I. P.**—Please remember in your prayers longtime parishioner, **Salvatore Tomasello** who passed away February 9, 2018. On Tuesday, February 20, 7pm the Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace.

**Domestic Abuse Services - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society**  
**22nd Annual General Meeting**  
 Wednesday, March 7th, 2018 at 7 pm at St. Michael's Parish Center, Burnaby, BC . We are pleased to have two members of the Vancouver Police Domestic Violence Unit speaking at our meeting. Bring a friend to learn about the Society and the good work we do. Interested in joining our Board of Directors and making a difference in peoples' lives? Call Della at 604-585-6688 for more info.

**ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Join us for our next school Mass on Friday, February 23, 2018. Our Grade 4 class will help proclaim the readings and Father Tran will celebrate. All parishioners and family members are most welcome to attend. We begin at 9:00 am in St. Matthew's church - see you then!

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**ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL:**  
 Attention parents of children born in 2014 & 2015! St. Matthew's Preschool is accepting applications for the Social Recreation and Pre-Kindergarten programs for September 2018. Please call 604-589-1222 or Email [preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca)

**The Catholic Health Association of BC (CHABC)** will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2018 graduating students who are enrolled in Catholic secondary schools, or who are members of BC or Yukon parishes and enrolled in public secondary schools, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500-word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of **Spirituality in Health Care**. Submissions must be received on or before March 9, 2018. For further details, please refer to the poster on display in the parish bulletin board, or check the CHABC website at [www.chabc.bc.ca](http://www.chabc.bc.ca) under News and Events.

**PRO LIFE : MARCH FOR LIFE, VICTORIA**  
 The annual March for Life will be on Thursday, May 10. Please call Genevieve 778-785-7877 if you plan to join us for the March for Life, so that travel arrangements and ferry bookings can be made. It is urgent that you call right away as ferry reservations can be difficult to get if we delay in booking. We will try to rent a school bus for this event. However, if we're not successful and if you have a mini-van and can volunteer to drive that would be a tremendous help. Thank you.

**FILIPINO MINISTRY LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAM**  
 To be conducted by Deacon Greg Barcelon for Filipino Parishioners of St. Matthew on March 3-4, 2018 (Sat & Sun) 9 to 4 pm. Lunch and snacks are provided free. Kindly pre-register at the Parish Office.

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*Priority on this list given to parishioners and families, as space permits.*

## Devotions during Fridays of Lent (except Good Friday)

8:00 AM Mass  
 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross—English  
 7:00 PM Mass (in Vietnamese for regular Fridays)  
 7:00 PM Mass (in English for First Friday)



## Were you married outside the Catholic Church?

If you are married, but were not married in the Catholic church, we would like to offer you an opportunity to have your marriage regularized with the Church. Please make an appointment with our priest to discuss having your marriage convalidated or "blessed".  
**Sacrament of the Sick.** What was referred to as "Last Rites" is now called "Anointing of the Sick" administered by a priest when one is "in danger" due to sickness or old age. Please call the Parish Office to arrange.  
**Hospital/Care Home Communion Visits.** Please remember to let the Parish Office know whenever you or a loved one is hospitalized or moved into a Fleetwood area care home. The Parish has a dedicated group of people who will bring Holy Communion weekly to you or yours.



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## CONTACT LIST—ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES

African Community	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	604-589-1222
Altar Servers	Mrs. Sandi Luongo	604-530-1893
BLD Community	Mr. Nilo Diguangco	604-591-2301
Bible Study	Mrs. Gail Estrada	bible_study@live.com
Catholic Women's League	Mrs. Ria Ling	ria_ling@hotmail.com
Choirs: Fri 7 PM	Mr. Hahn Nguyen	henryq.nguyen@yahoo.ca
Sat 5:30 PM	Mr. Danilo Bernabe	604-710-5407
Sun 8:30 AM	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	604-576-2867
10:30	Mr. Peter Luongo	604-530-1893
5 PM	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	vien4cdsurrey@gmail.com
7:30 PM	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	778-836-9501
Couples for Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Jon Javier	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mrs. Germana Brotto	604-583-1488
Fifty Plus Group	Mr. Claude Poirier	604-589-6007
Greeters & Gift Bearers	Mrs. Stella Lemos	604-338-5070
Hospitality Committee	Mrs. Maureen Fadum	604-589-9679
Knights of Columbus	Mr. Michael Kumar	604-379-6903
Lectors	Mr. Jon Javier	778-846-2586
Legion of Mary	Mrs. Carmen Caballero	604-576-5735
Liturgy of the Word for Children	Mrs. Nenita Capili	604-951-0830
Pro-Life Ministry	Mrs. Genevieve Perchotte	778-785-7877
Parish Education Committee	Mrs. Katrina Bellosillo	604-644-7686
Parish Pastoral Council	Mr. Bill Bouwman	604-581-9316
Preschool Enquiries	Pre-school office	604-589-1222
Principal	Miss Deborah Welsh	604-589-7545
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	Mr. Steve Potusek	604-597-8202
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