

Parish Office

2250 – 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3
 Phone: 604-531-5739 Fax: 604-538-4928
 Email: parish@starofthesea.ca
 Web: starofthesea.ca
 EMERGENCY: 604-831-1162 or
 604-541-8036

Administration Hours

Monday - Saturday, 8:30am - 4:30pm
 (Closed over lunch 12:00pm - 1:00pm)

Staff

Pastor:

Fr. Glenn Dion (ext. 223)
gldion@starofthesea.ca

Assistant Pastors:

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PREP

Geraldine Methven (ext. 227)
 Irina Slijouk prep@starofthesea.ca

Music:

Trudi Stammer (ext. 222)
tstammer@shaw.ca

Facilities:

Tom Cremer (ext. 274)
tomc@starofthesea.ca



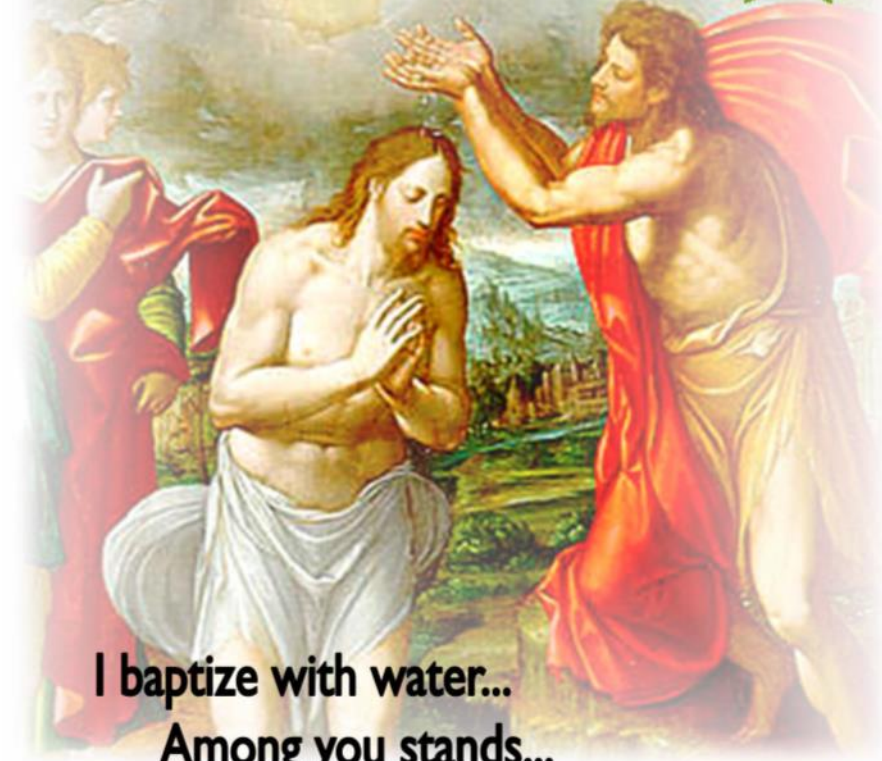
School

Star of the Sea Catholic Elementary

15024 - 24th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 2H8
 Phone: 604-531-6316 email: school@starofthesea.ca

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

3RD SUNDAY OF Advent



**I baptize with water...
 Among you stands...
 the ONE who is coming after me..."**

John 1:26-27

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 Benvenuto **WELCOME** 歡迎
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 Isten hozott Bienvenue خوش آمدید
 환영합니다 Wemukelekile

One Parish ~ Three Churches

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

2250 - 150th Street
 Surrey, BC V4A 9J3

Weekday Mass: 8:00am Monday
 6:30pm Tuesday
 8:00am Wed. to Saturday
 Weekend Mass: 5:00pm Saturday
 9am, 11am & 7pm Sunday
 Confession: 10:00-11:00am Saturday
 6:30-7:30pm Wednesday

STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

1153 Fir Street
 White Rock, BC V4B 4A8

Weekday Mass: 9:00am
 Tues. to Saturday
 Weekend Mass: 4:00pm Saturday
 10:30am Sunday
 Confession: 8:30am-9:00am
 Saturday

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

12268 Beecher Street
 Surrey, BC V4A 3A3

Weekend Mass:
 8:30am Sunday

December 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

This is our third Sunday under the banner of the theme of "**Reverence**", and we are giving special emphasis to the various prayer groups who are active in the parish. These groups bring a spirit of reverence to the communal life of faith shared with others when they gather for prayer, praise, and worship. And of course individually, we grow in reverence by spending a personal hour of prayer in the Adoration Chapel, albeit in a quiet manner, but often in the presence of other silent adorers. Reverence is a characteristic of being prayerful, both privately and in community with others, so please talk to those who can share with you the benefits of being part of a prayer group in the parish.

This coming week, on Wednesday at 11am, we will be having our traditional Senior's Mass with special luncheon and Christmas presentation by the students in the school gym to follow. There will also be the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at that Mass for those that are weakened by advanced age, frailty of health, or serious medical condition. We did this at the Mass last July when we held the Senior's BBQ, so it's a good time to offer this Sacrament in a communal way again.

Today is called "**Gaudete**" Sunday, derived from the first Latin word of the Introit meaning "rejoice". The liturgy permits rose colored vestments for this day, with a pink colored candle in the Advent wreath, both reminding us that we are rejoicing over the closeness of the Redemption brought to mankind through the birth of Christ our Savior.

And please be mindful that although there are Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday next week they don't count for Sunday, but for Christmas only. Our Bishops have put out a reminder that we are obliged to attend both a Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as a Mass for the Feast of Christmas. It will be a holiday long weekend, full of holiness, for all of us.

Have a joyful week,

Fr. Dion

Advent Penitential Services

Tuesday, Dec. 19 7:00pm IC Delta
Wednesday, Dec. 20 7:30pm OLG
Thursday, Dec. 21 7:00pm Good Shepherd Church

**Christmas & New Year's
MASS SCHEDULE**



Holy Cross Church

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 8:30am
Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 4:00pm
Christmas Day
Monday, Dec. 25 – 8:30am
Holy Family Sunday (New Year's Eve)
Sunday, Dec. 31 – 8:30am
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)
Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 – 8:30am

Star of the Sea Church

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 10:30am
Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 4:00pm
Christmas Day
Monday, Dec. 25 – 10:30am
Holy Family Sunday (New Year's Eve)
Sunday, Dec. 31 – 10:30am
Anticipated Mass - 4:00pm
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)
Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 – 10:30am

Good Shepherd Church

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 9:00am and 11:00am
Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec. 24 – 4:00pm, and
Midnight Mass - doors open 10pm,
carols start 11pm
Christmas Day
Monday, Dec. 25 – 9:00am and 11:00am
Holy Family Sunday (New Year's Eve)
Sunday, Dec. 31 – 9:00am, 11:00am
Anticipated Mass - 7:00pm
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)
Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 – 9:00am, 11:00am and
7:00pm

Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Philippians 4:4



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This Sunday's Readings

1ST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
RESPONSORIAL: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
2ND READING: 1 Thes 5:16-24
GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28



The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't.

He is not Elijah returned from the heavens, although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire and preaches repentance

and judgment. Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission (see Luke 1:17; Malachi 3:23-24).

Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 6:14). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since the womb (see Luke 1:15, 44).

John prepares the way for the Lord. His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains, the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see Zech 13:1-3; Ezekiel 36:24-27; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see John 6:33, 49-51).

And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes. (see John 6:33, 49-51)

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Week at a Glance

DECEMBER

See Bulletin cover for **regular weekly Mass times**

Dec 18 Monday

8:30am Rosary for Priests after 8am Mass - GS

Dec 19 Tuesday

9:30am Christian Silent Meditation - GS
- Cry Room (LAST MEETING before Christmas; resume Jan 9th)

4:00pm Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner
- SOS Hall (LAST DINNER before Christmas; resume Jan 9th)

7:00pm Christian Silent Meditation - GS
- Cry Room (LAST MEETING before Christmas; resume Jan 9th)

7:00pm Priests at IC Delta Penitential Services

Dec 20 Wednesday

10:00am Priests at Communion Calls
- Care Homes

11:00am Mass (GS) for Seniors and Anointing of the Sick, followed by Luncheon and Christmas Presentation in the School Gym

NO 6:30PM Confessions

7:00PM Priests at OLCG Penitential Services

Dec 21 Thursday

4:00pm Legion of Mary- GS - Fireside

7:00pm Advent Penitential Services - GS

Dec 22 Friday

9:15am School Mass - GS

11:00am Caroling in the school gym



Dec 23 Saturday

8:30am Confessions - SOS

10:00am Confessions - GS

11:15am Families around the Nativity - GS

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

8:30am Sunday Mass - HC

9:00am Sunday Mass - GS

10:30am Sunday Mass - SOS

11:00am Sunday Mass - GS

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass - HC

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass - SOS

4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass - GS

10:00pm Doors open for caroling at 11pm - GS

12:00am Christmas Eve Midnight Mass - GS

What is Prayer?

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE ADDRESS, 15 NOVEMBER 2017

...What truly is prayer? It is first of all a dialogue, a personal relationship with God. Man was created as a being in a personal relationship with God who finds his complete fulfillment only in the encounter with his Creator. The path of life leads toward the definitive encounter with the Lord.

...Jesus responds that the first thing necessary for prayer is being able to say "Father". Let us take heed: if I am not able to say "Father" to God, I am not capable of prayer. We must learn to say "Father", that is, to place ourselves in his presence with filial trust...

...In our relationship with the Lord, in prayer — I ask — do we let ourselves be astonished or do we think that prayer is speaking with God as parrots do? No, it is trusting and opening the heart so as to let ourselves be astonished. Do we allow ourselves to be surprised by God who is always the God of surprises? Because the encounter with the Lord is always **a living encounter**; it is not a museum encounter. It is a living encounter, and we go to Mass, not to a museum. **We go to a living encounter with the Lord.**

...In truth, the Lord surprises us by showing us that he loves us even in our weaknesses. "Jesus Christ ... is the expiation (atonement or reparation) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 Jn 2:2). This gift, the source of true consolation... the Lord always forgives us...

Welcome to our newest parishioner: Vincent Tamesis

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Ray Davies, Bernadette Deeley, Larry Fagan, Bill Symons, Ashley Lambert, Pat Bradley, Marian Nadelko, Rose Lawson, Derek Ridsdale, Graham Shore, Regina Merkl, Elsie Cowley, Margaret Barron, Joanna Boomars, Jim Cullina, James Mitten, Ken Wharton, Danya Slijouk, Odette Slezas, Helen Mentek, Joe Novak, Luka Volentier, Dan Hof, Ashley Lambert, Edgar Druwe, Gene Nimetz, John Dunn, Gloria Jaimes Aguilar, and Joyce Henderson



Christmas Eve Family Mass is on **Sunday, December 24th**, Good Shepherd Church, **4:00pm**.

If you would like to participate in this special Family Choir (*only 20 open spaces!*), there is a **rehearsal on Friday, Dec. 22nd, 6:30pm-8:30pm** in the School Fine Arts Room. Please contact Mrs. Olsen at eolsen@starofthesea.ca

Thank You for your donations of 2018 calendars and Christmas cards for the Prison Ministry. We have collected enough at this time.

A special thank you to the helpers who sorted through all the donations - it is a lot of work and we are so very grateful for your precious time especially during this busy season!

Seniors' Mass is *NEXT* **Wednesday, December 20th** Good Shepherd Church - 11:00am Mass including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, followed by Senior's Luncheon and Christmas Performance by the students in the school gym. Everyone welcome to Mass; you will need a ticket for the lunch and performance.



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

"Stay here and keep watch with me."
Matthew 26:38

As we continue in this Advent Season, will you allow your voice and heart to be heard by Our Lord and Saviour in His Very Presence. Come with faith and humility to experience Jesus like the shepherds of long ago.

Hours needing a weekly adorer:
Sat/Sunday, Midnight-1:00am
Sunday, 4:00-5:00am
Sunday, 7:00-8:00pm
Monday, 5:00-6:00am
Mon/Tuesday, Midnight-1:00am
Tuesday, 2:00-3:00pm
Wednesday, 5:00-6:00pm
Thursday, 2:00-3:00am
Thursday, 5:00-6:00am
Thursday, 11:00-12:00noon
Thursday, 7:00-8:00pm

Hours needing a Substitute:
Sat night/Sunday, Dec 24, 31
 - **Midnight-1:00am**
Sundays, Dec. 24, 31 - 8:00-9:00am
Sunday, Dec. 24 - 9:00-10:00pm
Monday, Dec. 25 - 8:00-9:00pm
Tuesday, Dec. 26- 10:00-11:00am
Tuesdays, Dec. 19, 26 - 2:00-3:00pm
Thursdays, Dec. 21, 28
 - **11:00am-12:00noon**
Fridays, Dec 22, 29 - 1:00-2:00am
Fridays, Dec. 22, 29 - 8:00-9:00pm

To schedule a Holy Hour or for more information please call: Sandra Perrin 604 542 6057 or Donna Sali 604 542 3070

What a *Joy* to see so many families join Fr. Francesco, Claudia, Evon and youth music makers in front of the Nativity, singing songs and praying the "O Antiphons" to prepare us to welcome the newborn King!



We will be meeting around the Nativity for one more Saturday: **December 23rd, 11:15am-Noon**, Good Shepherd Church. *All families welcome!*

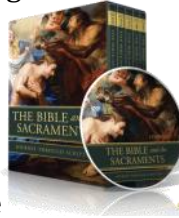
The **PREP** students started the Advent Season with an Advent Prayer Service which included Adoration & Benediction with Fr. Francesco in anticipation of the coming of the Jesus.



Thursday, Dec. 14th was our last PREP class before Christmas break. *The PREP students would like to wish all Star of the Sea Parishioners a truly blessed Advent & Christmas Season*, filled with faith, joy and wonderful family memories! PREP Classes resume on Thursday, January 11th, 2018.

THE BIBLE *and the* SACRAMENTS

The Bible and the Sacraments is a beautifully filmed visually stunning series exploring the Sacraments of the Catholic Church by investigating the deeper Mystery of the Sacraments as illuminated by Sacred Scripture.



The goal is to understand where the sacraments come from, what they mean and why they are so important and foundational to our Catholic Faith.

Five Thursdays
starting **January 18th**
1:00pm or 7:00pm
Good Shepherd - Meeting Room

No registration necessary. For inquiries, call Loren 604-538-8761



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Local 7015



to the Knights of Columbus and the many volunteers who helped last Sunday with "Breakfast in Bethlehem". We have been experiencing a steady decline in participation by families and parishioners over the last few years (this year being the lowest in attendance) so we may be looking at making some big changes to this event next year.

However, those who did attend had a good time - enjoyed delicious pancakes and sausages and delighted in some good company and energetic Christmas caroling!



LECTORS NEEDED at the 8:30AM Mass at **Holy Cross Church**. Please contact Vic at balvic99@gmail.com

Vigil Candles

The purpose of vigil lights (from the Latin *vigilia*, which means "waiting" or "watching") accompanied by prayers of attention or waiting is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

At Good Shepherd Church, we continue to offer the opportunity to 'sponsor' the lighting of vigil candles - one located at the Pieta and the other at the portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The suggested donation is \$10. The vigil candles burn for 1 week. Please make arrangements through the Parish Office.



Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to our Project Advance Appeal for 2017. Just a quick reminder, **for 2017 income tax purposes**, donations need to be received at the Parish Office **BEFORE Friday, December 29th**.

Donations can be made by cheque, cash or credit card at the Parish Office. For online donations: www.rcav.org/giving

Furniture & Household Items Needed



Do you have basic furniture and household items to donate to newly-landed refugee families?

- Bedroom furniture (single or double beds only)
- Living room furniture
- Kitchenware (basic items including dishware set, cutlery set, pots and pans, cooking utensils)

PLEASE: YOUR FURNITURE ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD, CLEAN CONDITION

If you have any of these items, please email photographs to Mario at the Parish Office: mylanan@starofthesea.ca

Please *ONLY* drop off items at the church or at the Parish Office *AFTER* approval - this is to make sure the items are suitable for the small apartments these families are sharing.

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

"May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end."



Join us as we celebrate life on **Thursday, Dec. 28th**, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30am and Mass is at 12:10pm. Reception to follow in the Cathedral Hall (donation of finger foods is appreciated).

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is home to Catholics from many countries and where the Holy Mass is celebrated in over twenty-two languages. Migrants leave their homes in search of a better life and face the difficult experience of migration in its various forms. As an Archdiocese, for the past 6 years we have commemorated and observed the **WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES** by celebrating a Mass inviting as many cultures (both old migrants and recent arrivals) to share and pray on this day as an universal church.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees is ***"Welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees."*** As Christians, *"we have the unique opportunity to advocate and support the concrete actions to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate our migrant and refugee neighbours"*, and to share this message with all, especially our political and social leaders.

On **Sunday, January 21st, 2018**, the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB at St. Patrick Parish, 2881 Main Street, in Vancouver, at 2:30pm with reception in the parish gym immediately following Mass. This is a family event!

For more info, email: wdmr@rcav.org or call: Erwin Fung 604-683-0281 ext. 50226

St. Francis Xavier Relic Pilgrimage



The Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Jesuits in Canada and Catholic Christian Outreach are collaborating to bring the famous relic of St. Francis Xavier to North America for the first time in generations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the incorrupt first class relic of one of the greatest missionaries and evangelists since St. Paul the Apostle.

The veneration of relics is a longstanding practice inside and outside the Catholic Church. Within Christianity, the practice rests on the belief that God came to humanity in the flesh, namely in the physical person of Jesus of Nazareth. Important sacraments of the faith also include water, wine and bread—physical elements that take on spiritual, supernatural value and characteristics. Similarly, the relics of saints provide for a tangible experience of God's graces. As well, Catholics believe that saints can intercede for humanity, given their proximity to God in what is commonly referred to as the "Communion of Saints" or the Mystical Body of Christ.

Our prayer is that through this relic pilgrimage, you will have the unique opportunity to personally encounter the tender heart of Jesus.

Wednesday, January 24, 2018
at St. Francis Xavier
428 Great Northern Way, Vancouver

1:00pm-6:30pm - Public Veneration
7:00pm - Mass with Archbishop Miller
8:30pm-11:00pm - Public Veneration
11:00pm - Closing Prayer:
Litany of St Francis Xavier

Everyone is welcome. Free event.