

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 31, 2017

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

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(ext. 223)

gdion@starofthesea.ca

Assistant Pastors:

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Fr. Francesco Voltaggio (ext. 273)

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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



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WILLKOMMEN Bienvenido Baie Welkom
Benvenuto WELCOME 歡迎
ようこそ Bem-Vindos שלום Selamat Datang
Isten hozott Bienvenue خوش آمدید
환영합니다 Wemukekile

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

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

On this final day of the calendar year for 2017 it seems especially appropriate that we give thanks to God for the blessings of this past year and for those we share our lives with, most notably our families. They come in all sizes and shapes and ages, with both easy and hard to manage individuals, like each of us, and we ponder the reality that we are part of a group of people that we are either born into or have adopted by way of affection. Today celebrates the reality that we live in community, and that life is always a sharing with others in our own time and space. And our vocation is to reflect the love of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in our own homes, which is to reflect the love and unity of the Blessed Trinity itself.

I suppose it's also a time to reflect on this past year and maybe to make some resolutions as to the new year. I'm trying not to focus so much on what might have been seen as negative, but rather I'm focusing on what was positive and then trying to be nourished by that good memory and then move forward into a new year marked by gratitude and a renewed commitment to the service of the Lord.

Tomorrow we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, which is a Holy Day of Obligation for us, as it is the highest honor given to Mary and the most solemn of her feast days. She is the first Christian and the model for the whole Church to make Christ the center of our lives, and to imitate her fidelity to God's call to live a life of holiness and service to His will. We pray for her intercession with our prayers for 2018.

Have a blessed week, and of course,
a Happy New Year!

Happy
New Year

Fr. Dion

This Sunday's Readings

1ST READING: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
RESPONSORIAL: Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
2ND READING: Colossians 3:12-21
GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION BLOG
 FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
catholicsteward.com

The primary purpose of The Feast of the Holy Family is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

In Italy there is a saying, "*La famiglia é tutto,*" which means, "*the family is everything.*" Our Holy Father Pope Francis has made families one of the focal points of his papacy. He organized a conference on families in 2015. Speaking to the gathered families, he said, "*You cannot have a family without dreams. I am very fond of dreams in families. For nine months, every mother and father dream about their baby. They dream about what kind of child he or she will be... You can't have a family without dreams. Once a family loses the ability to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life shrivels up and dies. So I ask you each evening, when you make your examination of conscience, to also ask yourselves this question: Today did I dream about my children's future? Today did I dream about the love of my husband, my wife? Did I dream about my parents and grandparents who have gone before me?*"

All of today's readings have to do with families and family life. The reading from Sirach, our First Reading, emphasized the Fourth Commandment, "Honor thy father and mother." We are commanded to respect and love our parents. However, it is a two way street. The Gospel Reading speaks of the development of Jesus, and that should inspire parents to understand that our prayers are the same as the prayers of Joseph and Mary — that our children will become strong in spirit and filled with wisdom.

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE HOMILY GIVEN BY POPE FRANCIS DURING HOLY MASS ON OCTOBER 27, 2013:

What makes a family holy? First, *the family prays.* ...I would like to ask you, dear families: Do you pray together from time to time as a family? Some of you do, I know. But so many people say to me: But how can we? ...But in the family how is this done? After all, prayer seems to be something personal, and besides there is never a good time, a moment of peace... Yes, all that is true enough, but it is also a matter of humility, of realizing that we need God... all of us! We need his help, his strength, his blessing, his mercy, his forgiveness. And we need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not

something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents....praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: **prayer**.

Next, **the family keeps the faith**. Here too, we can ask: How do we keep our faith as a family? Do we keep it for ourselves, in our families, as a personal treasure like a bank account, or are we able to share it by our witness, by our acceptance of others, by our openness? We all know that families, especially young families, are often "racing" from one place to another, with lots to do. But did you ever think that this "racing" could also be the race of faith? Christian families are missionary families. ...They are missionary in everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith! Keeping the faith in families and bringing to everyday things the salt and the leaven of faith.

And finally: **the family experiences joy**. I would like to ask you all a question today. But each of you keep it in your heart and take it home. You can regard it as a kind of "homework". Only you must answer. How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family? You can answer this question. Dear families, you know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is not superficial; it does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well... True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life's journey. But the basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God, the presence of God in the family and his love, which is welcoming, merciful, and respectful towards all.

And above all, a love which is patient: patience is a virtue of God and he teaches us how to cultivate it in family life, how to be patient, and lovingly so, with each other. To be patient among ourselves. A patient love. God alone knows how to create harmony from differences. But if God's love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centredness prevails and joy fades. But the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole.

Dear families, always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth! The joy and peace of the Lord be always with you!

For the full text of this homily go to: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20131027_omelia-pellegrinaggio-famiglia.html

Week at a Glance

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

Jan 1 Monday

Parish Office closed

- 8:30am Solemnity of Mary Mass - HC
- 9:00am Solemnity of Mary Mass - GS
- 10:30am Solemnity of Mary Mass - SOS
- 11:00am Solemnity of Mary Mass - GS
- 7:00pm Solemnity of Mary Mass - GS

Jan 2 Tuesday

- 7:00pm Christian Silent Meditation - GS - Cry Room

Jan 3 Wednesday

- 9:45am Priests at Communion Calls - Care Homes
- 10:00am Seniors Fitness - SOS Hall
- 6:30pm Confessions - GS

Jan 4 Thursday

- 4:00pm Legion of Mary- GS -Fireside

Jan 5 Friday

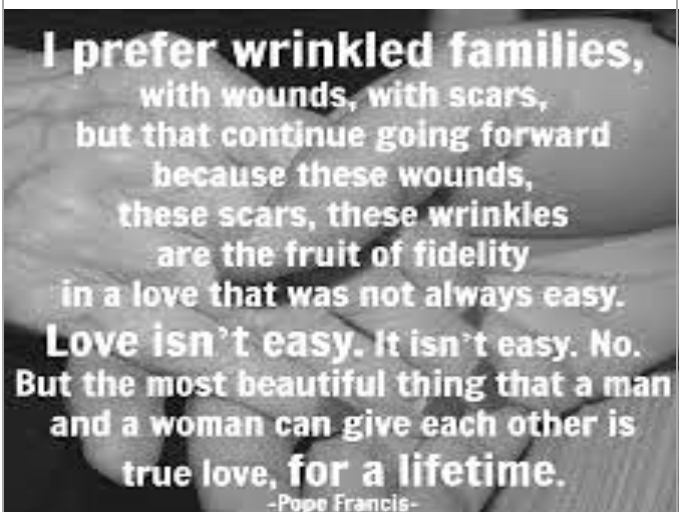
- 6:00am Friday Morning Men's Group - GS - Fireside
- 10:00am Priests at Communion Calls - Shut-ins
- 6:30pm First Friday Mass - GS
- 7:00pm Young Adults (19-35 yrs) Group - School

Jan 6 Saturday

- 8:30am Confessions - SOS
- 10:00am Confessions - GS

Jan 7 Sunday

- 7:00pm Teen Mass Band



Welcome to our newest parishioners:

Reyes Lao family:
Rodolfo, Marilou, Camille Ann,
Joy Celestine, Angela & Rudolf

Congratulations to those recently Baptised:



Madeleine Juliet Hoffmann
Leon Dagher
Riku Dagher

Congratulations to those whose Marriage was recently Blessed:

Elias A. Dagher
& Ayaka Inasaki



Perpetual Adoration Chapel



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."
John 1:14

Mary, obtain for us the light we need to realize that your Divine Son is present in the Holy Eucharist. We yearn to know Jesus more deeply and like you, we want our whole lives to reflect what your Son has given to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

Holy Hours needing a weekly adorer:

- Sunday, 4:00-5:00am
- Sunday, 7:00-8:00pm
- Monday, 5:00-6:00am
- Mon/Tuesday, Midnight-1:00am
- 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
- Saturday, 2:00-3:00pm

Hours needing a Substitute:

- Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 – 3:00-4:00am
- Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 – 7:00-8:00pm
- Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17-5-6:00pm
- Thursdays, Jan.4, 11, 18 – 11am-Noon
- Thursdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 –7:00-8:00pm
- Thurs. night/Fri, Jan. 5 - Mdngt-1:00am
- Fridays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 – 4:00-5:00am
- Fri night/Sat, Jan. 6 – Mdngt-1:00am

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

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 Church

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



We are grateful to 4 generous parishioners who have once again provided the Parish with a book to give away to each family this Christmas. This year, the book is: **Into the Deep** ~ by Dan Burke.

If you haven't picked up your family's copy of this book, they are still available at all 3 churches.

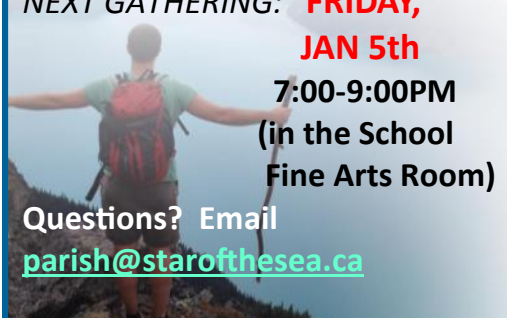
You are invited to participate in 2 Monday night workshops based on the prayer process introduced in this book.

Monday, January 22nd and Monday, January 29th
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Good Shepherd Church
Everyone is welcome!

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP for 19-35 yr-olds

NEXT GATHERING: FRIDAY, JAN 5th
7:00-9:00PM
(in the School Fine Arts Room)

Questions? Email parish@starofthesea.ca



This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ~ 1 John 5:14

Please pray for:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ken McVey | Odette Slezas |
| Joseph Fifik | Helen Mentek |
| Pat Flickinger | Joe Novak |
| Ray Davies | Luka Volentier |
| Larry Fagan | Dan Hof |
| Bill Symons | Ashley Lambert |
| Ashley Lambert | Edgar Druwe |
| Pat Bradley | Gene Nimetz |
| Marian Nadelko | John Dunn |
| Rose Lawson | Joyce Henderson |
| Derek Ridsdale | Jim Cullina |
| Graham Shore | James Mitten |
| Regina Merkl | Ken Wharton |
| Margaret Barron | Bernadette Deeley |
| Joanna Boomars | |
| Joyce Henderson | |
| Gloria Jaimes Aguilar | |

**Senior's Fitness Group
New Year's Potluck**

Wednesday, January 10th,
following class (10:00am-
11:00am), at Star of the Sea Hall.



To all those who generously helped with the Christmas cards for the prison ministry: We are so blessed to have your help with this important endeavour. Prison is extreme isolation. By helping us give them cards, you are enabling them to stay close with their loved ones at this important time of year. Thank you and God bless!

FROM ANGELA VETERS, ON BEHALF OF
CATHOLIC CHARITIES JUSTICE SERVICES
(CCJS)

FUNDRAISER 
BY DONATION
**CHRISTMAS
TREE
CHIPPING**
In Support of
Knights of Columbus' Community Charities
SATURDAY, JAN. 6th, FROM 9AM-4PM AND
SUNDAY, JAN. 7th, FROM NOON-3:30PM
at **Good Shepherd Church Parking Lot**
(east side, in the overflow parking)
ATTENTION: Please remove all decorations, wires and tree stand from your Christmas Tree!

Winter Institute 2018

One day courses for ministry training, faith formation and general interest open to all.

Saturday, January 27th
10:00am to 4:00pm

Holy Cross Secondary School
16193 - 88th Avenue, Surrey

A few of the courses available are:

- Writing & Sharing Your Own Testimony
- Answering Questions on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity
- Discovering the Gospels
- Adult Catechesis - Part I

Course cost (\$45) will be covered for all those in parish ministry.

For full list of courses and for more info, visit rcav.org/oc-winter-institute

**A new session of
Alpha starts
in the New Year.**



explore life. faith. meaning.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the big questions about Christianity. Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; it's just an open, informal, and honest space to explore, discuss, share and grow together in a small group setting.

**Join us for an Invitation Dinner
on Monday, February 5, 2018
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Good Shepherd Church**

For more information or to register, please call the Parish Office 604-531-5739 or email Mario mylanan@starofthesea.ca or Janice janiceh@starofthesea.ca

Mary, Mother of God

Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart (Lk 2:19). In these words, Luke describes the attitude with which Mary took in all that they had experienced in those days. Far from trying to understand or master the situation, Mary is the woman who can treasure, that is to say, protect and guard in her heart, the passage of God in the life of his people. Deep within, she had learned to listen to the heartbeat of her Son, and that in turn taught her, throughout her life, to discover God's heartbeat in history. She learned how to be a mother, and in that learning process she gave Jesus the beautiful experience of knowing what it is to be a Son. In Mary, the eternal Word not only became flesh, but also learned to recognize the maternal tenderness of God. With Mary, the God-Child learned to listen to the yearnings, the troubles, the joys and the hopes of the people of the promise. With Mary, he discovered himself a Son of God's faithful people.

In the Gospels, Mary appears as a woman of few words, with no great speeches or deeds, but with an attentive gaze capable of guarding the life and mission of her Son, and for this reason, of everything that he loves. She was able to watch over the beginnings of the first Christian community, and in this way she learned to be the mother of a multitude. She drew near to the most diverse situations in order to sow hope. She accompanied the crosses borne in the silence of her children's hearts. How many devotions, shrines and chapels in the most far-off places, how many pictures in our homes, remind us of this great truth. Mary gave us a mother's warmth, the warmth that shelters us amid troubles, the maternal warmth that keeps anything or anyone from extinguishing in the heart of the Church the revolution of tenderness inaugurated by her Son. Where there is a mother, there is tenderness. By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong. She teaches us that we do not have to mistreat others in order to feel important. God's holy people has always acknowledged and hailed her as the Holy Mother of God.

To celebrate Mary as Mother of God and our mother at the beginning of the new year means recalling a certainty that will accompany our days: we are a people with a Mother; we are not orphans. Mothers are the strongest antidote to our individualistic and egotistic tendencies, to our lack of openness and our indifference. A society without mothers would not only be a cold society, but a society that has lost its heart, lost the "feel of home". A society without mothers would be a merciless society, one that has room only for calculation and speculation. Because mothers, even at the worst times, are capable of testifying to tenderness, unconditional self-sacrifice and the strength of hope. I have learned much from those mothers whose children are in prison, or lying in hospital beds, or in bondage to drugs, yet, come cold or heat, rain or draught, never stop fighting for what is best for them. Or those mothers who in refugee camps, or even the midst of war, unfailingly embrace and support their children's sufferings. Mothers who literally give their lives so that none of their children will perish. Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children.

Celebrating the feast of the Holy Mother of God makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong, that only within a community, within a family, can we as persons find the "climate", the "warmth" that enables us to grow in humanity, and not merely as objects meant to "consume and be consumed". To celebrate the feast of the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we are not interchangeable items of merchandise or information processors. We are children, we are family, we are God's People.

