

# STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*



The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High**, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, **and of his kingdom there will be no end.**



Luke 1:26-38.

Wemukelekile Isten hozott WILLKOMMEN *Bienvenido* Baie Welkom 환영합니다 خوش  
ようこそ Bem-Vindos שלום Benvenuto **WELCOME** 歡迎 *Bienvenue* Nazmukelekile  
Witamy Selamat Datang maligayang pagdating Mwalandiridwa Welkam

## One Parish ~ Three Churches

SEE INSIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASSES

### 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

#### PARISH OFFICE:

2250 - 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3  
Phone: 604-531-5739 Fax: 604-538-4928  
[parish@starofthesea.ca](mailto:parish@starofthesea.ca) [starofthesea.ca](http://starofthesea.ca)  
EMERGENCY: 604-831-1162 or 604-541-8036

#### ADMINISTRATION HOURS:

Monday - Saturday, 8:30am - 4:30pm  
(closed Noon - 1:00pm)

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY  
15024 - 24th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 2H8  
Phone: 604-531-6316

[school@starofthesea.ca](mailto:school@starofthesea.ca)



#### PASTOR:

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[gdion@starofthesea.ca](mailto:gdion@starofthesea.ca)

#### ASSISTANT PASTORS:

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#### Facilities:

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#### PREP

Geraldine Methven (ext. 227)  
Irina Slijouk [prep@starofthesea.ca](mailto:prep@starofthesea.ca)

December 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

We really don't get a fourth week of Advent to prepare for Christmas this year, since today is the only day we have and it's a partial day at that. This afternoon we will celebrate our Christmas Eve Masses and tomorrow will be the solemn feast of Christmas with the same schedule of Masses as we have on Sunday, except for the 7pm time slot. And for our annual reminder, the midnight Mass will start tonight at Midnight, with the choir beginning at 11pm.

The fact that we have back to back solemnities, and the same goes for next weekend as well, means that everyone involved with the liturgical ministries are called upon to assist at the Masses two days in a row, for two weekends in a row. Your dedicated gift of time and effort is greatly appreciated, and please know that we priests are truly thankful for your service.

We have spent the previous three weeks contemplating the theme of Reverence, with the focus on three areas of parish life that give expression to this theme, ie the Liturgy Groups, the Faith Formation Groups, and the Prayer Groups. I hope this emphasis has been helpful in prompting the faithful of our parish to ponder the virtue of reverence both as a personal call by God for our spiritual wellbeing, and as well, a communal call by God to share this virtue with others in the parish as a way of service or involvement in some manner. And thanks again to all who helped to bring this theme to the attention of the parish with the ministry table displays.

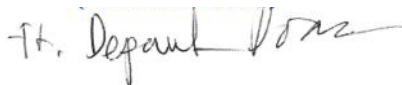
Since we don't have a bulletin tomorrow, let me express to all the parish the prayers and good wishes of the priests who serve here. We thank you for all your kind expressions of Christmas blessings, by way of cards and gifts and words of thoughtfulness. We are truly appreciative of your support.

On this wonderful feast of Christmas may the Lord bring you and your loved ones Peace and Joy, and may He bless you throughout this festive Season.

Love and prayers from:



FR. DION



FR. DEPAUL



FR. FRANCESCO



FR. NICK

## Christmas & New Year's MASS SCHEDULE



### Holy Cross Church

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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

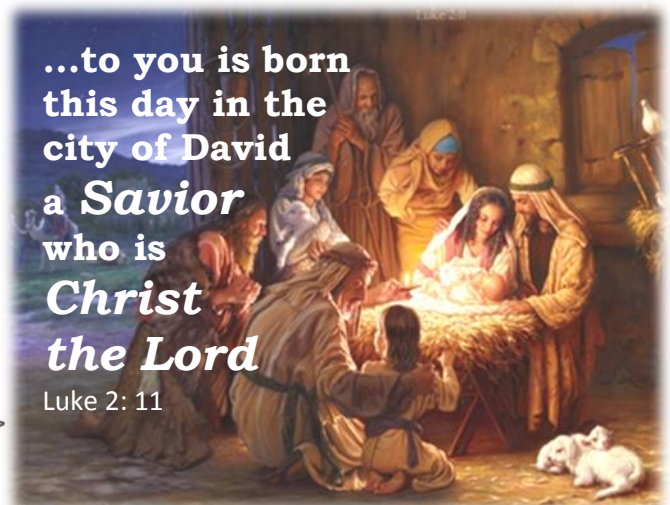
Anticipated Mass - 7:00pm

#### **Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)**

Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 – 9:00am, 11:00am and  
7:00pm

...to you is born  
this day in the  
city of David  
a **Savior**  
who is  
**Christ**  
the **Lord**

Luke 2: 11



## This Sunday's Readings

**1ST READING:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16  
**RESPONSORIAL:** Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29  
**2ND READING:** Romans 16:25-27  
**GOSPEL:** Luke 1:26-38

We have been in this time of waiting... waiting for the coming of Jesus. In our church, in our homes, we're in this season of Advent to remind us that we're a waiting people, and we are called as a people to orient our hearts in such a way that we wait well. And Jesus tells us: don't waste your waiting, because in the

waiting there's a tendency, a danger to be lulled asleep. *"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Therefore, keep awake!"* (Mark 13: 32..35)

We get a picture of this kind of faithful waiting from the lyrics of a song sung from the mouth of a young girl named Mary. In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary, who is a virgin, that she shall conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to a Son. We can picture Mary (probably 13-16 years old at this point) as a poor, working-class girl and she is engaged to a poor, working-class carpenter. And even though she does not understand it, Mary says, *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* (Luke 1: 38)



That is an astounding response if you think about Mary's circumstances. She had a lot to lose and a lot to worry about because of this news. Being a 15-year-old pregnant virgin engaged to be married to a man who at least knows the baby isn't his... That's a lot to worry about!

We're a waiting people, and in our waiting none of us wait with empty hands. We've all been given things by God. Jobs and gifts, people, responsibilities and talents, the spouse you have, the children you have or the circumstances you're in right now have been given to you by God. We can view what we hold in our hands as **God's servants**, and as God's servants we are stewards of what he has given us. We can say, *"God, all this is yours. My job, my family, my future, the circumstances I'm in right now...they are yours. Help me to steward them well. Help me to represent you well."* All the while praying, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* We can also view the things we've been given as things we are entitled to because **WE** have earned it and we expect to be served by it.

But Mary says, *"I'm God's servant."* What is missing from her response? Fear and worry. There's a risk in our waiting to look at what God has entrusted to us, and instead of living as a servant or as a steward, we live waiting for what we've been given to grow and live in fear that what we have we will one day lose. The thing is, fearing loss has never actually prepared anyone to face the day of loss.

After Gabriel makes his announcement, Mary sings a song from her heart - a song of faith instead of fear:

***"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name..."***

(Luke 1: 46-49)

Isn't that the foundational value statement of every believer? **"God has done great things for me."** It's why life has meaning. It's why life has purpose. The foundational value statement over all of us is, "God looked upon me. He set his loving care on me." When we are in our humble estate, our addicted state, our rebellious state, our sinful state, He turns His eyes towards us, uses His might for us, and saves us by grace through faith in Mary's son, **Jesus**.

## Week at a Glance

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

### Dec 25 *Christmas Day*

*Parish Office closed*

8:30am Christmas Mass - *HC*

9:00am Christmas Mass - *GS*

10:30am Christmas Mass - *SOS*

11:00am Christmas Mass - *GS*

### Dec 26 **Tuesday**

*Parish Office closed*

### Dec 27 **Wednesday**

6:30pm Confessions - *GS*

### Dec 28 **Thursday**

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

### Dec 29 **Friday**

### Dec 30 **Saturday**

8:30am Confessions - *SOS*

10:00am Confessions - *GS*

### Dec 31 *Holy Family Sunday*

8:30am Sunday Mass - *HC*

9:00am Sunday Mass - *GS*

10:30am Sunday Mass - *SOS*

11:00am Sunday Mass - *GS*

4:00pm Anticipated Mass for Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) - *SOS*

7:00pm Anticipated Mass for Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) - *GS*

**Welcome to our newest parishioners:**

Ronaldo, Mayra & Giovanna Crupe Cerri

**Congratulations to those recently Baptised:**

Brianna Elizabeth Serra



**Families around the Nativity**

For 3 Saturdays, Fr. Francesco, with help from Evon and Claudia, led families in stories, song and prayer around the Nativity at Good Shepherd Church.



We encourage all families to continue such a Christmas tradition of your own - gathering together to hear and re-hear God's story of how he came into the world as a little baby, who grew up to be a man who lived a perfect life so that he could make a perfect sacrifice because of his great love for us!

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



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](http://www.rcav.org/giving)

**Perpetual Adoration Chapel**



*"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."*  
Mark 6:31

**Come, O Come, let us adore Him!**

Come adore His very Presence. Glorify Him in fervent prayers, thanksgiving and jubilation, our **Emmanuel**, our **God with us!**

Our Eucharistic Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Hours needing a weekly adorer are:

- 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
- Sunday, Dec. 24 - 9:00-10:00pm
- Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17 - 5:00-6:00pm
- Thursdays, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11 - 11:00am-12:00noon
- Thursdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 - 7:00-8:00pm
- Thurs. night/Friday, Jan. 5 - 12Mdngt-1:00am
- Fridays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 - 4:00-5:00am
- Friday, Dec. 29 - 8:00-9:00pm
- Friday night/Saturday, Jan. 6 - 12Mdngt-1:00am

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

*Prayer Requests*

John 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

**Please pray for:** Pat Flickinger, Ray Davies, Bernadette Deeley, Larry Fagan, Bill Symons, Ashley Lambert, Pat Bradley, Marian Nadelko, Rose Lawson, Derek Ridsdale, Graham Shore, Regina Merkl, 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

and **please pray for the Repose of the Souls** of:

Theodora Sokolowsky  
Lilian Pei Van Kuo  
Elsie Cowley



We have collected enough calendars and cards for the Prison Ministry. **Thank You!**

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!

### Senior's Fitness Group

Our weekly classes start again on **Wednesday, January 3rd**, 10:00am-11:00am, at Star of the Sea Hall. Then on the following Wednesday (Jan.10th), we will have a **Potluck** after class.



We welcome newcomers, congratulate our faithful friends, and invite everyone to come and join us, see what we do, and share a potluck lunch after the class. Please bring a dish to share if you like!

Our **Young Adults** have been meeting every second Friday evening since the end of October. These meetings will resume on **Friday, January 5th**. For more information or to be included on our young adults email list, please call or email the Parish Office at [parish@starofthesea.ca](mailto:parish@starofthesea.ca)

**Young Adults' Christmas party on December 16th**

(in the priests' residence)



### Jesse Tree Outreach

A very special thank you to all parishioners who donated items to be given to the less fortunate in our society.

230 Christmas Gift bags were given to some of the women who live in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside. Special Christmas brunches are prepared for the women by volunteers at the Spirit Centre and at The Door is Open.

In addition, clothing was given to the Extreme Weather Shelter – now operating at the First United Church in White Rock and moving in the New Year to the Star of the Sea Hall for people in the White Rock area who do not have adequate shelter in times of cold, inclement weather.

And another special thank you to the Grade 7 students at Star of the Sea School – who made the gift tags that were put in the Jesse Trees. Truly a parish effort addressing the needs of our society!

### 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



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.

**Pick up your family's copy of this book at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at all 3 churches.**

#### About INTO THE DEEP

**PRAYER.** It's mysterious, challenging, frustrating . . . and life-changing. Discover why growing in prayer, which sometimes can be compared to a battle, is worth every ounce of effort you give it. Even if you've never prayed, or if you've never developed the habit of daily prayer, God is waiting to meet you where you are and encourage you every step of the way.

Using a simple approach to prayer, you'll learn how even 10 minutes a day can change your life! Author Dan Burke explains how to set up your own sacred prayer space, discusses the common obstacles to prayer, and provides practical ways to overcome them. You'll also read stories of others who are seeking to orient themselves to God through prayer.

If you're ready for God to transform your heart and mind, you will know the life that Jesus has promised; a life of peace and joy that cannot be taken away by the trials of this world.

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!

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).

The Archdiocese of Vancouver joyfully announces the **ordination of Guy Zidago** to the **Sacred Order of the Diaconate** through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB.

You are cordially invited to celebrate with us on **Friday, December 29**, at 7:00pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Light refreshments to follow in the Cathedral Hall.

Guy Zidago has just completed 4 years of study at the Redemptoris Mater seminary (where Fr. Francesco studied) in Vancouver. Read more about Guy's story and his upcoming ordination as a transitional deacon (the final major step before becoming a priest) in the Dec 11th issue of the [BC Catholic](#)

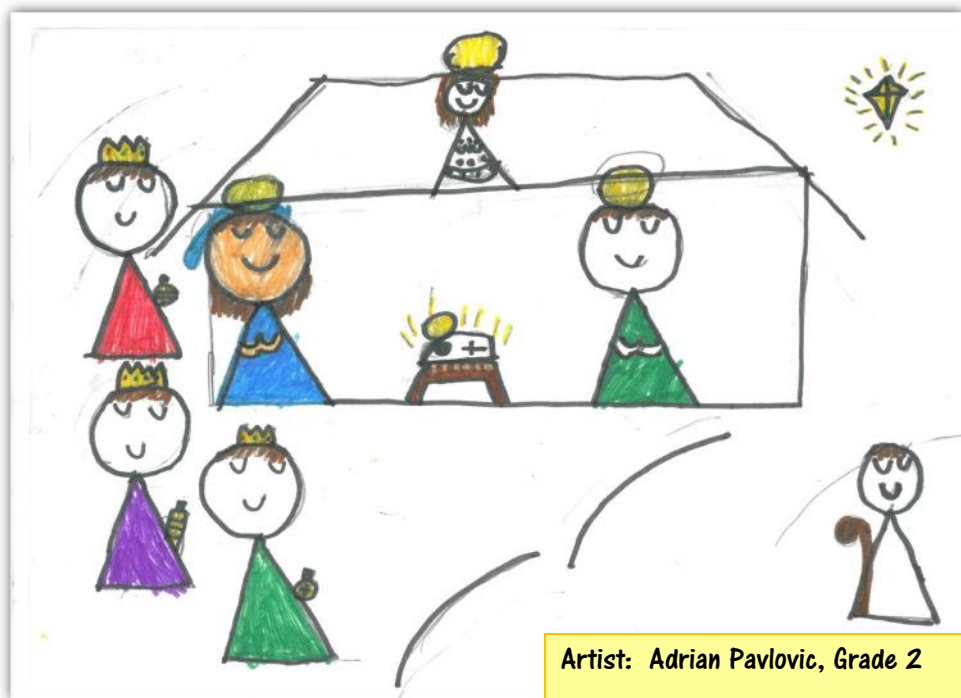
A new session of **Alpha** starts in the New Year.



**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**



**The Students and Staff of Star of the Sea School wish you all Peace, Joy and Love this Holy Season!**

*Merry Christmas*

School is closed for the Christmas Break and will reopen on January 8, 2018