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Palm Sunday **March 25, 2018** **Palm Sunday**

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

Mk 11: 9-10

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SUNDAY: English Masses - 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 7:30 PM; Vietnamese Mass 5 PM

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

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor ttran@rcav.org; frtran@hotmail.com

Rev. Nixon D'Silva, Asst. Pastor nixsil2007@gmail.com
604-589-2083 **Rectory**

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
604-589-2448 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

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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

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

The Divine Mercy Novena (9 days) starts on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 8). Pick up a copy of the novena prayer in our church foyer.

GOOD FRIDAY

Before you name your sorrows, consider Jesus. Stand beneath His cross and gaze up at His ultimate sacrifice. As you face the small crosses of life, watch Him handle His crucifixion. Your Lord bequeathed to you an example of the high art of being crucified. Behold how He reacted to betrayal, to lies, to false witnesses. Jesus Christ absorbed these pains, even as they added the shameful of being crucified in public, humiliated, degraded, defamed, tortured and then murdered. That day He raised acceptance of the cross into an art form. He learned to accept all things from the hand of His Father. Can you do less?



Good FRIDAY

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.



Our humanity bleeds through today's Gospel passages in more ways than one. We see both elation and fall, hope in the midst of the darker sides of our natures. If we allow it, these Gospels hold a mirror to our own fickle hearts. The crowds cry "Hosanna" and the Apostles profess allegiance unto death. In a matter of days—even hours—Jesus is betrayed,

abandoned, denied, condemned, tortured, and executed. As God, He could have stopped this horrific narrative from unfolding, but He does not. He allows free will to play itself out.

There are nearly two millennia between this spectacle and us. We can stand safely removed, if we choose. But Lent invites us to return to this story. Lent invites us to find ourselves in the people we encounter there. Are we the repentant woman at Bethany? Are we naysayers of such lavish piety? Have we acted in a way that betrays those we love or denies what we know to be good and true? Have we fallen asleep in our faith? Have we unfairly accused others of a crime or immorality we imagine, though perhaps they did not commit? Do we help others carry their burdens? Do we stand in solidarity with those who suffer? Do we care for the dying?

This week, take up today's Gospel again. Look carefully at the Passion narrative and sit with it in silence. Find yourself in the story and ponder its meaning for your own life. Journey with Jesus to the foot of the Cross so that you too may say, along with the faithful centurion, "truly this man was the Son of God!"

LIVE THE LITURGY

Today some of the most poignant themes of human life come into clear central focus: the feeling of being praised and honored, fear, anxiety, betrayal, despair, doubt, uncertainty, trust, hope, sadness, separation, suffering, death, determination, and courage. These are the emotions and realities that every human being wrestles with often. Jesus, the Son of God, encounters them all. As we journey through life, we have to confront the existential meaning of each of these things. How do they fit into the bigger picture? Jesus shows us most clearly that even those things we fear the most lose their power when we discover that we are being led to new life. Suffering is redemptive. Sin and death give way to grace and life and God's unconditional love and conquers all. May we see in Jesus' Way of the Cross the path of truth we all must follow.



Wedding Anniversaries

Join us for a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, C.B., honouring couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries: 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th & 60th+ years of marriage.

Mass will be on Sunday, May 13 at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew Parish, Surrey. Reception to follow in the parish gym with exhibitors present in the Jubilee Hall. Register your milestone anniversary here: <http://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary/>. All are welcome to witness and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of others this Mother's Day!

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

- **Grade 7**—Sponsor and/or parent letters were due March 18. Please drop letters off as soon as possible. Name of confirmand on outside of the envelope, please.
- **Mite Boxes** are due back on April 4, please hand in to your teacher.
- **April 4:** Grade 1 & CIC1—Parent Meeting (both PREP and SME) – meet in the Fireside Room.
- **April 7 & 8:** Grade 7 Loon Lake Retreat—Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to chaperone. Some forms are still outstanding. Please drop them off at the parish office asap. Payment has been made. Forms are still needed for information.

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

- When I was young we had two special Sundays: Passion and Palm Sunday. Now they are combined as one. It is the start of Holy Week. I really like what in Dutch is called *Witte Donderdag*, or known to you as Holy Thursday. This Mass is so special as it was the last time Jesus was surrounded by His friends. He had a meal with them. But He made it so special as it was His gift to us all, remembered every day by hundreds of priests all over the world. He gave Himself, Body and Blood, to save us all.
- I know most of you will be in church on Good Friday. Come and pray with all parishioners and keep watch as the Lord gives His life for you.
- At the glorious Easter Vigil, I hope to see my CWL sisters come and offer their helping hand at the reception to congratulate and welcome those who were welcomed as new Catholics during Mass. *Ria Ling*

Dear Parishioners: After the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 31, we will welcome the RCIA candidates to our parish family at a reception in the Jubilee Hall. Can you donate a plate of finger food (sweet or savory) and bring to the kitchen by 10 AM on Saturday, or to the hall before Mass.

Divine Mercy Sunday is April 8 this year. Our Church has been given two Mercy Popes on that day: Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II.

Pope Francis announced a Jubilee Year of Mercy starting December 8, 2015. In preparation for the graces available for us all, St. Faustina has shared a Novena given to her by Jesus. A copy of this Novena is available after Masses this weekend and during the week. Please begin the Novena on Good Friday. St. Matthew's Parish will celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy following the 7:30 PM Mass on Sunday, April 8.



Fr. Tran's 25th Anniversary of Ordination:

Please plan to attend the celebration dinner to be held Saturday, May 19, after the 5:30 PM Mass in St. Matthew's Elementary School Gym. Tickets and further information will be available soon. Please watch the bulletin for details. There will be an opportunity for presentations by parish groups.

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



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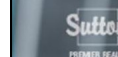
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St. Matthew's Elementary School:

- Reminder to all parents: St. Matthew's Elementary School is now on spring break. School will re-open on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 8:40 AM. School will also be closed on Good Friday (March 30, 2018) and Easter Monday (April 2, 2018).

BURSARIES

- ♦ **St. Matthew's CWL:** If you are a child or grandchild of a St. Matthew's CWL member, you are eligible to apply for one of \$750 bursaries.
- ♦ **Diocesan Scholarship:** \$1,000 for high school graduates. Deadline to apply is March 31. Check out 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.bcukoncwl.com and www.cwl.ca. Deadline is March 31.



MONTH TWO—Developing Baby—Your baby is making progress developing all of his/her external features and internal organs. His/her brain is functioning at 40 days. His/her mother can hear his/her heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Milk-teeth buds are present at 6-1/2 weeks. And it has been reported that a two-month old baby can suck his/her thumb. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines his/her body. But everything he/she needs to survive once he/she is born is already present by the end of the eighth week.

St. Matthew's Dinner & Dance 2018

- With this upcoming event, you have an opportunity to be a *special sponsor*. Act now as there are limited spots! With your contribution of \$500 towards our Community Building Fund, you can have your business/company logo included on:
 - ♦ *Event poster (exposure to audience from different communities);*
 - ♦ *Back of event ticket (first-time ever to be done);*
 - ♦ *Display (provide us with your banner/stand and we will display it in the buffet serving room on the night of the event);*
 - ♦ *Advertisement (a full-page ad of your company will be included in the event Souvenir Program).*
- Closing deadline of **April 6** for all event sponsors. Contact the Parish Office today and register!

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2018 Lent & Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday—March 29

- ♦ NO MORNING MASS
- ♦ 5:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper—Vietnamese
- ♦ 7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper—English, followed by Solemn Exposition & Adoration

Good Friday—March 30

- ♦ 9 to 11 AM Confessions
- ♦ 10:00 AM Stations of the Cross—English
- ♦ 11:00 AM Stations of the Cross—Vietnamese
- ♦ 12:00 Noon Solemn Liturgy—English
- ♦ 3:00 PM Solemn Liturgy—English
- ♦ 6:00 PM Solemn Liturgy—Vietnamese

Holy Saturday—March 31

- ♦ 9:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday—April 1

- ♦ 8:30 AM Mass—English
- ♦ 10:30 AM Mass—English
- ♦ 12:30 PM Mass—English
- ♦ 5:00 PM Mass—Vietnamese
- ♦ 7:30 PM Mass—English

NEWS FLASH:

Beginning April 1, 2018, St. Matthew's will have a 12:30 PM Mass **every Sunday, in English**. There will be a need for a new choir—anyone interested, please call the parish office, or email askmymusic@rocketmail.com.

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If you submit a name to the Prayer List, **it is your responsibility** to inform the office should his/her circumstances change. Priority on this list given to parishioners and families, **as space permits.**



Alpha Course ... Why Alpha?

A challenging statement from Pope Francis: "... we need a Church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey ... Jesus warmed the hearts of the disciples of Emmaus. I would like all of us to ask ourselves today: are we still a Church capable of warming hearts? Sadly for many of us the answer to that question would be No, even in the context of our own families. The good news is, as always, God provides a way. The new Alpha Film Series, designed for today's audience, unpacks the basics of the Christian faith in an updated and engaging way. For many, the Alpha Course has been a watershed moment of growth or a return to faith. Will you join us for an Alpha night? You will enjoy a meal, a presentation and a discussion. It all starts right here at St. Matthew's April 19 at 6:30 PM and there is no charge. For more information or to register for Alpha, visit our website: www.saintmatthews.ca. It is for anyone of any faith or someone just seeking answers to big questions of life, the meaning of faith. Who will you invite?



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CONTACT LIST—ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH MINISTRIES

African Community	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	aneledom@hotmail.ca
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	Mr. Hahn Nguyen	henryq.nguyen@yahoo.ca
Sat	Mr. Danilo Bernabe	604-710-5407
Sun	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	604-576-2867
	Mr. Peter Luongo	604-530-189
	Mr. Homer Garcia	askmymusic@rocketmail.com
12:30 PM (last Sunday)	Ms. Tina Obiwuma	aneledom@hotmail.ca
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
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