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August 26, 2018 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

In 6: 67-69

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REGULAR MASS TIMES

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

Appeal to our parishioners: Please be mindful that the hymn books in the pews are not toys. Please refrain from leaving chewing gum on the pews and on the carpet.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 7-8	All day	Youth Post-Confirmation Retreat	Gym/JH
Sept. 12		PREP Classes Start	
Sept. 15/17	After Mass	Raffle Sellers Draw for \$100 Cash	Church
Sept. 16	All day	International Brunch	Gym/JH
Sept. 22	9:30 AM	RCIA starts	Rm 129
Dec. 2	12 Noon	Raffle Draw	Gym
May 11	6:30 PM	Spring Dance	Gym/JH

Raffle Sellers Draw for \$100 cash and \$100 Nando's dining certificate. Submit your sold books to the parish office BEFORE SEPT. 15.

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	4:30 PM	Junior Legion of Mary	Fireside Room
Thursday	7 to 9 PM	Bible Study	Church
Every 2nd Friday	9 AM	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Upper Room
Saturday	9:30 AM	RCIA	Room 129

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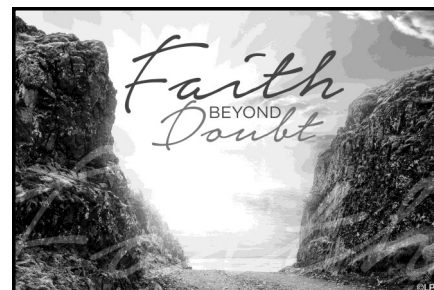
By appointment with a minimum of 2 months' notice (during pregnancy) so that instructions can be given to parents and godparents about the duties and responsibilities assumed in this Sacrament.

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.



"This saying is hard: who can accept it?" The words of Jesus' disciples in today's Gospel must sound familiar. At some point in our lives, you and I have said it about some article of our faith. Christianity makes firm demands on our ethical behavior and gives no easy answers for suffering. Many disciples were confused and dismayed by Jesus' words in the Bread of Life Discourse. Not all of them, however, had the same reaction.

When the disciples question Jesus' teaching, He confirms its truth. "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life." For some, Jesus' reassurance was not enough. These disciples do not question Jesus further or wrestle with their lack of understanding. The mighty deeds Jesus has done fade to the background. "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." For them, their doubt proves too much.

Jesus turns to the Twelve, knowing that confusion lives in their hearts as well. Peter answers. "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Notice this is not a confession of perfect understanding. It is a confession of faith in Jesus. The precise words may still confuse them, but they believe the One who said them.

In our own lives, we face doubt, confusion, and disillusionment in our Christian faith. The same choice available to the disciples is available to us. Do you have faith in Jesus, even when you lack perfect understanding? Will you stay or will you go? What do you do with your doubt?

LIVE THE LITURGY

Jesus' teaching is hard and challenging. In fact, many who originally believed in Him left and returned to their former way of life. They were not able to accept what He had to say or to make the changes that are necessary to conform their lives to the Gospel. We often water down our faith and make it more about securing our place in heaven than leading a life in pursuit of the kingdom of God. Following Jesus and living the Gospel require action now. The Gospel demands that we change the way we conduct the business of our lives. Sadly, many are still afraid of taking risks and cannot accept change. Are we really ready to venture forth into the unknown, or would we prefer to simply return to our old ways of doing things?



This week we celebrate two saints, a mother and son: St. Monica and St. Augustine. As a young Christian woman, St. Monica was married to a pagan. Early in their marriage, he was bitter and critical. After nearly 20 years, Monica's holy example led to his conversion to Christianity. In the meantime, Augustine was a teenager beginning to live a wild life of self-indulgent excess. This lifestyle would continue into his adulthood. Like with her husband, Monica prayed and fasted for the conversion of her son. Augustine met another future saint, the Bishop Ambrose of Milan, who greatly influenced his perspective in life. Augustine was baptized a Christian! Augustine later became a bishop and one of the most influential thinkers in Christian history. How's that for the power of patience and intercessory prayer?

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

A **Catechist** is needed in grade 3. If you love working with children and sharing your knowledge of the faith please contact the PREP office for details. **Student Registration forms** are available by the PREP folder behind counter by the Parish office. Early-bird rates are in effect until July 1st only! Registration is on-going however to ensure placement for start of classes on September 12th have forms in by September 6th.

Registration is on-going. **Evening Registrations – Tuesdays August 28th & 30th, September 4 & 6th from 5pm – 7pm**

Catechist & Assistant Application forms are available by the PREP folder behind counter by the parish office. Once forms have been received you will be contacted to complete reference forms and Criminal Records check for 18+.

Mandatory Staff meeting for Catechists & Assistants: September 5th in the Jubilee Hall at 6:30 pm.

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



"50" Plus Social
Every Tuesday, 1 to 4 PM
Jubilee Hall

CWL Corner

- One more week and September arrives. Our first general meeting will be on September 18, 2018. On the 16th there is the international brunch. I am asking our members to come and assist at the coffee, tea and dessert table. It is an easy job, no need for punches, it is all free. And you will meet happy parishioners. Mark it on your calendar and watch for more news.
- Elections will take place in November. Soon you may get a phone call or a little chat trying to find out which one of your talents you can offer. Say yes to a position on the executive. Remember, even if you think you are not able to handle this, our Lord always equips those willing to work with Him. He will never let you fail. *Ria Ling*

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Catholics in Surrey/Delta/White Rock of Chinese Descent:

Fr. Paul Chu sincerely invites you to a potluck dinner and social on Saturday, September 1, at Precious Blood Parish (17475—59 Avenue). You are welcome to attend the anticipated Mass (in English) at 4:30 PM. Potluck will take place in the parish hall at 6 PM. Please contact Julia Yang at 778-885-6257 if you have any questions or wish to register.



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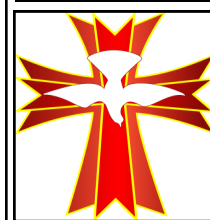
Great Adventure Bible Study, an 8-Week Series by Jeff Cavins

entitled *"Wisdom: God's Vision for Life"*. In this series, Jeff examines Scriptural wisdom as it relates to daily life. The videos will show how Scripture offers a vision for happiness and well-being in everything from friendships to finances, from making decisions to attaining peace of mind. Learn how to gather, gain, and grow in wisdom, and experience the joy it brings. Cost \$25 until Sept. 5, then it goes to \$30. **Starts Thursday, Oct. 4**, from 7 to 9 PM in the church. For more information or to register, email bible_study@live.com or register and pick up your Journal study guide at the parish office. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study, you will also help us grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.



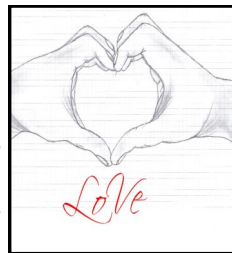
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2018:

You are invited to attend our upcoming Post-Confirmation Retreat taking place on the evening of Friday, September 7 and all day on Saturday, September 8, in the Gym. The retreat will help new high school students make a successful transition to High School and aid them in making good choices. For registration and more information, please visit saintmatthews.ca/events. Register by August 31 for the Early Bird rate.



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS STILL ON ...

Register your children for a hands-on learning experience. Registration forms are available in the parish office. For more details, please send us an email: preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca. Programs offered:
 * **PRE-KINDERGARTEN (4 YEARS OLD)** - Monday, Wednesday and Friday—\$160/month
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INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH

Sunday, September 16, 2018 after the 8:30 and 10:30 A.M. Masses. Feast and enjoy the foods of our parishioners' nationalities and cultures. Don't miss this annual event.

Tickets are on sale at the Welcome Centre.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Do you know someone who would like to deepen his/her knowledge of the faith? Have you thought of becoming Catholic and discovering the faith? Then, we invite all to participate in the RCIA program at Matthew's Parish and become a part of the Catholic community. Starts Sept. 22, 2018. Call the parish office to register.



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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**.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

Come and experience your faith in a new and exciting way by joining a Discover Discipleship gender specific faith study group starting in mid-September. Rediscover the essence of your faith and a personal relationship with God. Learn simple but powerful tools to help you share your faith with others. Call, text or email Tim McKinnon for more details. Mobile phone 604-614-3499 & email: tjm3499@gmail.com. The groups meet for an hour once a week for six weeks. We will have a special **Registration Weekend September 8th and 9th after all Masses**.

VANSPEC: Catechetical Program for Children with Special Needs. The program offers an alternative to PREP for those who would benefit from one-on-one catechism classes. Classes are led by volunteer catechists and aides who, with the assistance of the Program Director, adapt the content of each lesson and learning materials to the needs of the individual student.

St. Matthew's has a Vanspec Centre—classes are held Wednesday evenings—September to May (run during PREP time/schedule). We are now accepting students, however space is limited. We are also looking for teachers and teaching assistants. Contact Trish Van Vliet, PREP Coordinator for more info.



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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	604-510-1250
	Mr. Peter Luongo	604-530-1893
	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
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mrs. Germana Brotto	604-583-1488
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Knights of Columbus	Mr. Richard Thompson	604-597-7288
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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	778-956-7348
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
R.C.I.A.	Fr. Nixon D'Silva	nixsil2007@gmail.com
St. Matthew's Prayer Group	Ms. Josephine Copon	604-723-2535
	Mr. Steve Potusek	604-597-8202
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Mrs. Belle Carson	604-588-0690
St. Vincent de Paul	Mr. Eric Andres	604-589-2448
Sports Ministry	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	604-715-5484
Ushers	Mr. Doug Thomas	604-218-2722
Vietnamese Community	Mr. Hoang Minh Nguyen	778-708-0506
Young Catholic Family Group	Mrs. Pam Abramski	ycfg@saintmatthews.ca
Youth Ministry	Mr. Matthew Furtado	778-898-6317



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