

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

My hopes for Christmas were met: large numbers of the faithful in attendance, wonderful music and participation by everyone, and no snow in the parking lot! Thank you to all our choir people, our greeters and ushers, our readers and altar servers, and our ministers of Communion. Everyone helped make our Christmas Masses a joyful experience for all.

And from myself and Fr's Francis and Ajin, a warm note of thanks for all the cards and gifts and well wishes from the parish. We have a nice supply of cookies, chocolates, and treats of various kinds that will take us happily into the new year.

Please remember that on January 1st we celebrate the most significant feast of Mary, under the title of "Mother of God." It is a holy day of obligation and so we have the full Sunday schedule of Masses for the convenience of everyone to get to Mass. I might add that if you are planning to go out for New Year's Eve you might consider attending one of the anticipated Masses at either 4 or 5pm.

Today is Holy Family Sunday, so it seems appropriate to thank God for the gift of our families and pray for a spirit of peace and harmony in all our familial relationships. These are the people we are given to share our lives with, and yet so often are the same ones we find hard to get along with. Love is at the heart of all that makes for getting along with others, and it is exemplified in the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Let us pray for their intercession for the good of all our families.

Have a blessed week, and Happy New Year to all ,

Fr. Dion

FINAL REMINDER FOR YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Parish donations must be received by the Parish Office **before the end of business day on December 31st**, in order to receive a tax receipt for 2018. Please ensure all cheques are dated on or before December 31, 2018. This is a requirement of Canada Revenue Agency.

Project Advance - Thank you for your contribution to our 2018 Project Advance Appeal. Income tax receipts will be issued by the Project Advance office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver in February.

Dec 31 *New Year's Eve*

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:00am Weekday Mass-GS followed by Rosary
Parish Office closed at 1pm
- 4:00pm Anticipated Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - SOS
- 5:00pm Anticipated Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - GS

Jan 1 *New Year's Day*

- Parish Office Closed*
- 8:30am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - HC
- 9:00am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - GS
- 10:30am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - SOS
- 11:00am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - GS
- 7:00pm Mass for the Solemnity of Mary - GS

Jan 2 **Wednesday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:00am Weekday Mass - GS
- 9:00am Weekday Mass - SOS
Priests at 1st Wednesday Communion Visits
- 6:30pm Confessions - GS

Jan 3 **Thursday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:00am Weekday Mass - GS
- 9:00am Weekday Mass - SOS
- 4:00pm Legion of Mary - GS Fireside

Jan 4 **Friday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:00am Weekday Mass - GS followed by Rosary
- 9:00am Weekday Mass - SOS
- 9:30am Seniors & Friends Café - SOS Chambers
Priests at 1st Friday Communion Visits
- 6:30pm First Friday Mass - GS

Jan 5 **Saturday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:00am - 1:00pm Knights' Flea Market - SOS Hall
- 8:00am Weekday Mass - GS followed by Rosary
- 8:30am Confessions - SOS
- 9:00am Weekday Mass - SOS
- 10:00am Confessions - GS
- 4:00pm Anticipated Mass - SOS
- 5:00pm Anticipated Mass - GS

Jan 6 **Sunday**

- 8:30am Mass - Holy Cross Church
- 9:00am Mass - Good Shepherd Church
- 10:30am Mass - Star of the Sea Church
- 11:00am Mass - Good Shepherd Church
- 7:00pm Mass - Good Shepherd Church

2019



This Sunday's Mass Readings

1ST READING: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 128: 1-5

2ND READING: Colossians 3: 12-21

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 41-52

Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family by Father Todd Koenigsnecht ~
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY INSTITUTE ~ tobinstitute.org

Today we celebrate the Holy Family, which quite simply is a picture of a family. It is sadly ironic that sometimes our reaction to the Holy Family is discouragement. We see a Christmas card of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in which everything is perfect and beautiful, and our first thought is, "My family looks nothing like that!!"

To begin with, we need to be clear – the Holy Family is not a Christmas card. This family, filled with grace as it was, went through unbelievable difficulties, trials, and struggles. That is what our own families are like – certainly not perfect. **This family, the Holy Family, like ours, needed to make choices to love when it was difficult, to be faithful when the way forward was anything but sure.** The Holy Family provides an ideal, yes, but one, which is still a real human family, that knows the very same hardships we know. Thus this day is a day of hope, not discouragement.

Our readings provide a beautiful picture of family life and the dynamics every family will face! The First Reading from the Book of Sirach speaks of the fulfillment of the fourth commandment and shows how loving our parents and members of our family, goes hand and hand with loving God. Jesus reiterates this when He tells us that the whole law can be summed up in loving God, and your neighbor, as yourself. Consider love then within the family. **Love always starts with those closest to us, which are our family members. Loving our families is part and parcel with loving God and the two go hand in hand. To ignore one is to ignore the other.**

Our 2nd reading today is from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians...chapters 3-4 is about Christian behavior and in our passage today addresses family life (which St. Paul will expound on in more detail in his Letter to the Ephesians). However, there is another important point to make here: our Lectionary translation is the NABR (New American Bible Revised), which causes problems with the English translation of this passage. It reads (v.18) "*Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.*" In English, "subordinate" has an inferior or "less than" connotation. However, the RSV (Revised Standard Version) translation, a much better translation from the original Greek language, reads: "*Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*" (v.18-19) The Greek implies her submission is free and voluntary, not degrading, servile or coercive in any way. St. Paul is introducing a new Christian understanding of mutual submission to the pagan Gentiles. This is about gender complementarity within the Christian understanding of marriage and family. **Mutual submission means being under the mission of the other and loving each other as Christ and the Church love each**

other. St. Paul is actually telling men NOT to demean or dominate women, as was the cultural norm, and love them as Christ loves and gives Himself to the Church. Wives, be under the mission of your husband as the feminine Church is under the mission of the masculine Christ. The mission of the husband is to build up the marriage and the family; to love, support and protect, including protecting from sin and evil. This was all expounded on beautifully by St. John Paul II in "Men and Women He Created Them – A Theology of the Body" (full course offered in Good Shepherd Church starting Jan. 7th)

In his letter to the Colossians St. Paul presents the realities of family life and the virtues a family requires. He compares these virtues to garments, which, like any garment, require our active choice to put them on or not. **Family life will require choosing to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness even when we don't particularly feel like it.** Consider what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to up and move to Egypt. I can guarantee in midst of that move with all of its fears, doubts, and uncertainties that they found many opportunities therein to choose to put on many things, most especially patience! Every family, facing the realities of life, is given ample opportunity to put on the garments of a Christian family.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let's get back to the basics. Do we remember that love is a choice – and a **choice that must be made again and again** – to put on compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness? ***Do I honor my Father and my Mother – even when it is most frustrating? Are there any blind spots in the family that are not being addressed? When it comes to passing on the faith do we do what God and the Church ask of us in regard the sacraments, prayer, etc? Another way to put it, are we humble enough to do what God asks of us – even if it means making hard decisions?***

This kind of self-examination can be a discouraging task, but don't let it be so! Here are simple suggestions: First, as you look to the basics it might seem there is a plethora of things to work on - don't tackle all of them at once, but start with one thing. On this feast of the Holy Family, see what Jesus points to as an area of growth and take one good step in following Him as a family. Second, don't do this on your own – surround yourselves with other families. Look to a Mom's group or Dad's group and find the support and encouragement you need. If there isn't one in your parish, consider starting one!

Let us not be discouraged, but encouraged by the fact that Jesus came into the world in a family and that the Holy Family prays for us. Let us then commend ourselves to the Holy Family's example and prayers.



Our newest parishioners:

Cheng family: Gavin, Julia, Abigail & Colin

Dennis & Kimberly Miller

Scholte family: Johannes, Rosario, Nurie, Natalie, John & Andrew

Shao family: Jun, Hong & Matt

Shen family: AJ, Stella & Victoria

Wu family: Chris, Jenny, Matthew & Jacob



Congratulations to those recently Baptised:

Nathaniel Fernandez
Nicholas Bligh Flores
Colton Cavan McDougall

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Danilo Sonido, Leslie Knapp, Patrick McManus, Jane Smith, Marie-Louise Hanna, Theresa McMurtry, Cathy Fifik, Bradley Antchak, Bill Lesage, Brianna Ginn, Kelsey Freisen, Jim Cullina, Nancy Murchison, Rachelle Beaver, Janice Thorsen, Walter Butula, Ray Wittrock, Mia Tennant, Sarah Philibert, Isla Ufford, Colleen Hopwood, Marie Geiger, Nikolas Fleming, Ken LaHaie, Magdalena Coombs, Luka Volentier, Charlotte Sears, Alice Anderson, Andrea Egan, Catharina Noble, Marian Nadelko, Pat Flickinger, Sophie Cosgrave, Joanna Boomars, Joyce Henderson, and Bernadette Deeley.

*Please pray for the **Rest** of the **Soul** of Michael Daniel Pidsadny*

A note from the Parish Office regarding:

Offering Envelopes



At Star of the Sea Parish, offering envelopes are mailed to registered parishioners at their request, quarterly by a third party envelope company. This is because we have 3 churches which makes it more challenging to determine where parishioners worship and where their envelopes would be made available for pick up. We did experiment with the pick-up of Project Advance packages in the Spring of this past year, and found that 70% of packages had to ultimately be mailed out.

There is a cost incurred by the Parish in mailing your offering envelopes to you. Your "INITIAL OFFERING" grey envelope helps us offset this cost.

Alternatively:

- there is our **PRE-AUTHORIZED OFFERING PLAN** option, i.e. your offering is debited directly from your bank account once a month eliminating the need for envelopes;
- you could also use your own generic envelope and print your full name legibly on the envelope so that your offering can be credited to your account.

From time to time, parishioners report that they have not received their quarterly envelope mailout (perhaps lost in the mail or otherwise 'goes missing'); we ask that you please let the Parish Office know in order that a request can be made to the envelope company to resend a set to you.

Please feel free to contact the Parish Office if you have any questions in this matter.

If you would like to advertise in this bulletin, there are open spaces available starting next weekend for January-December 2019. Please contact the Parish Office 604-531-5739.

A GIFT TO YOU.



GREAT BOOKS CHANGE LIVES.

Written in Matthew Kelly's usual direct, practical style, his message is clear, simple, challenging, important and especially timely for Christians looking for spiritual fortitude in an increasingly irreligious world.

If you haven't received your family's copy of this book, some are still available at Good Shepherd Church and Star of the Sea Church

Next **Seniors & Friends Café** is **Friday, January 4th, 9:30am.** Coffee & Goodies... at the Star of the Sea Chambers (enter off Star of the Sea Church Parking Lot). Come for coffee and make new friends! Everyone welcome.



Knights of Columbus

Council 7015 would like to thank all those who have supported the 3% Club by submitting receipts from Nature's Fare. To date we have raised just under \$2,000 towards our charitable works. Thank you for your continued support by dropping off your receipts in boxes located in all three churches. **Wishing all parishioners a joyous and peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Don't Forget!



on the first Saturday of each month (**Jan. 5th**) from 8:00am - 1:00pm at Star of the Sea Hall.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



FROM ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD:

Words cannot express the perfection of his (St. Joseph's) adoration. If St. John leaped in the womb at the approach of Mary, what feelings must have coursed through Joseph during those six months when he had at his side and under his very eyes the hidden God! If the father of Origin used to kiss his child during the night and adore the Holy Spirit living within Him, can we doubt that Joseph must often have adored Jesus hidden in the pure tabernacle of Mary? **How fervent that adoration must have been:** My Lord and my God, behold your servant! No one can describe the adoration of this noble soul. He saw nothing, yet he believed; his faith had to pierce the virginal veil of Mary. So likewise with you! Under the veil of the Sacred Species your faith must see our Lord. **Ask St. Joseph for his lively, constant faith.**

Hours in need of a weekly adorers:

Sunday, 1:00am-2:00am

Sunday, 2:00am-3:00am

Monday, 5:00am-6:00am

Monday, 10:00pm-11:00pm

Tuesday, Midnight-1:00am

Tuesday, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm

Friday, 8:00pm-9:00pm

Hours needing a Substitute:

Monday, Jan. 14 - 11:00am-Noon

Monday, Jan. 7 - 12 noon-1:00pm

Mon, Jan. 7, 14, 21 - 10:00-11:00pm

Tuesdays, Jan. 1, 8, 15 - 4:00-5:00am

Tues, Jan. 8, 15, 22 - 3:00-4:00pm

Wed, Jan. 2, 9, 16 - 10:00-11:00am

Wed, Jan. 2, 9, 16 - 4:00-5:00pm

Wed, Jan. 2, 9, 16 - 11:00pm-Mdngt

Thursdays, 3, 10, 17 - 7:00-8:00am

Fri, Jan. 11, 18, 25 - 8:00-9:00pm

For more information please call:

Sandra Perrin 604 542 6057 or

Donna Sali 604 542 3070

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Fr. Alan Boisclair, BA
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email: aboisclair@rcav.org

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(except Feb. 18 Family Day)

7:00pm - 9:15pm

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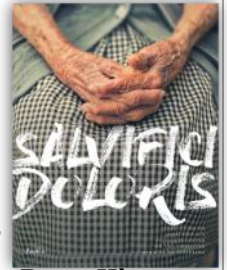
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INVITATION TO WOMEN: Join the Endow Study Group



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and discuss **ST. JOHN PAUL II'S ENCYCLICAL "ON THE CHRISTIAN MEANING OF SUFFERING"** alongside your sisters in Christ.

"*Salvifici Doloris* addresses the question of why God allows suffering. In this apostolic letter, Pope John Paul II reflects on the origins of suffering, explores the different types of suffering we endure, examines our quest to discover its meaning and purpose, and explains how we are to respond to suffering. He links our personal experiences with suffering to the mystery of God, of humanity, and to the redemption brought by Christ's suffering."

Meeting at Good Shepherd Church for 8 sessions on alternating Wednesdays **beginning**

February 6, 2019,

9:30am-11:30am

(excluding Ash Wednesday and Spring Break). Childcare provided on site by our wonderful volunteer team! To participate in this study or to volunteer for childminding call/text, or email Gemma Myers 604-828-8493

glcowhig@gmail.com



Thank you to all the music ministry groups for their wonderful contribution of music to the Christmas events and Christmas Liturgies. It is much appreciated by all of our congregations and our parish.

Auditions for the Stella Maris Concert Choir for the new choral seasons will be held in January. We will be auditioning for all vocal parts; we have 6 spots available - in particular, we are seeking two additional bass singers. It's a great choir - lots of hard work, but great fun as well! We are also looking ahead to another choir tour in 2020. If you are interested, please contact Trudi 604-889-8558.

We also invite singers to join our Teen Choir, 9AM Mass and 11AM Mass choirs. Please contact Evon Olsen evono@starofthesea.ca for the Teen Choir and Trudi 604-889-8558 for the 9AM and 11AM Mass choirs.

JANUARY 1ST is
the *Solemnity* of



The title “Mother of God” goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* (“The God-bearer”) was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: *“Praised be the Theotokos!”*

This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: *“God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law”* (Galatians 4:4).

Catholics believe that worship is due to God alone. Catholics do, however, venerate Mary. In other words, **we honor our Blessed Mother with great reverence and devotion because she is the Mother of God.**

Mary is the model of perfect love and obedience to Christ. God preserved Mary from sin, and she conceived our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing Christ into our world. Catholics can’t help but honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is full of grace, the Mother of God and our Mother, for her “yes” to God that made the Incarnation possible. And without the Incarnation, we would not have salvation.

Mary is the most beautiful model of total submission to the will of God. Catholics do not view Mary as equal to Christ, but rather venerate Mary because of her relationship to Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, *“Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it”* (CCC 964).

As Catholics, we pray that we can respond to God’s call to holiness for our lives in the way that Mary did. Mother Theresa prayed to emulate Mary’s devotion to Christ:

“Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as You loved Him, and serve Him as You served Him....”

On this day the Catholic Church also celebrates the World Day of Peace, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope John Paul II.

www.catholicscomehome.org

Note received from Peninsula United Church ~ December 21, 2018:

In this season of hope, peace, joy and love, all of us at Peninsula United wish to express our very special gratitude for your support of the Peninsula United Extreme Weather Shelter and the Community Dinners. The Community Dinners have been offered for almost one year at the Star of the Sea Hall and our volunteers have always felt welcomed and supported by your volunteers. Your Parish’s offer to provide the Hall throughout the winter months for the Extreme Weather Shelter is extremely generous and we are so appreciative of the commitment by all who use the Hall to support this vital ministry. In particular, Tom Cremer has worked hard to ensure the Hall was ready for the Shelter and John van Koll is at the Hall almost daily to troubleshoot any concerns. St. John Paul II Academy and the Daycare staff have also been very supportive. This ecumenical partnership of living out the Gospel message of love for others is a rich blessing for all!

With blessings,
Rev. Janice Young- Minister Peninsula United
Rev. Bruce McAndless-Davis- Minister Peninsula United
Kathy Booth- Convenor Outreach Peninsula United

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