

## PARISH OFFICE

2250 - 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3  
 Phone: 604.531.5739 Fax: 604.538.4928  
 Email: [parish@starofthesea.ca](mailto:parish@starofthesea.ca)  
 Web: [starofthesea.ca](http://starofthesea.ca)

EMERGENCY: 604.831.1162  
 or 604.541.8036



## ADMINISTRATION HOURS:

**Monday - Saturday** 8:30am - 4:30pm  
 (closed for lunch on Saturday Noon-1:00pm)

## OUR THREE CHURCHES

### GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH (since 1994)

2250 - 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3  
 Weekday Mass: 8:00am Monday  
 6:30pm Tuesday  
 8:00am Wednesday to Saturday  
 6:30pm First Friday  
 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 (since 1923)

1153 Fir Street, White Rock, BC V4B 4A8  
 Weekday Mass: 9:00am Tuesday to Saturday  
 Weekend Mass: 4:00pm Saturday  
 10:30am Sunday  
 Confession: 8:30am-9:00am Saturday

### HOLY CROSS CHURCH (since 1945)

12268 Beecher Street, Surrey, BC V4A 3A3  
 Weekend Mass: 8:30am Sunday

## OUR SCHOOL



**Star of the Sea Catholic Elementary**  
 15024 - 24th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 2H8  
 Phone: 604-531-6316 Fax: 604-531-0171  
 web: [staroftheseaschool.ca](http://staroftheseaschool.ca)  
 email: [school@soschool.ca](mailto:school@soschool.ca)  
 Principal: Nicole Regush

## Serving OUR PARISH:



Pastor: Fr. Glenn Dion (ext. 223)  
[gdion@starofthesea.ca](mailto:gdion@starofthesea.ca)  
 Assistant Pastors: Fr. Ajin George, MCBS (ext. 273)  
[ageorge@starofthesea.ca](mailto:ageorge@starofthesea.ca)  
 Fr. Francis Mallya, ALCP/OSS (ext. 225)  
[fmallya@starofthesea.ca](mailto:fmallya@starofthesea.ca)

**PREP Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:00am-2:00pm, 3:00pm-5:00pm  
 Thursday 4:00pm - 8:00pm

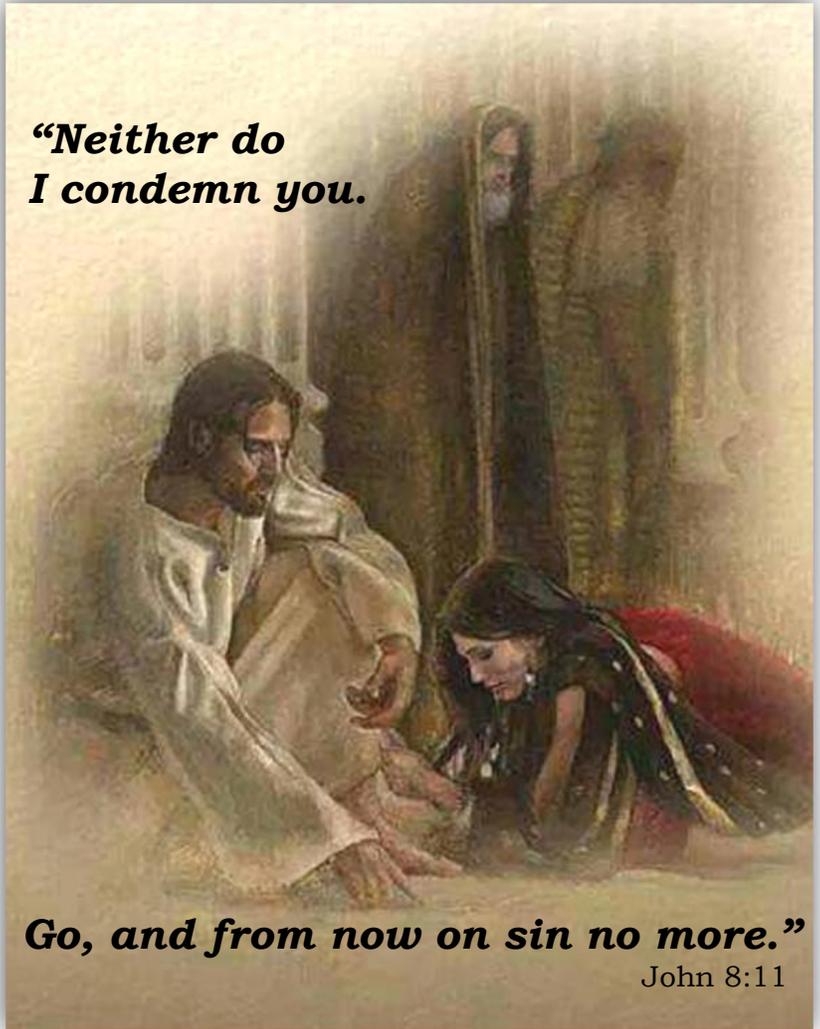
**PREP Coordinator:** Irina Slijouk (ext. 227) [prep@starofthesea.ca](mailto:prep@starofthesea.ca)

**Youth & Young Adults:** Bev Anchikoski (ext. 500) [beva@starofthesea.ca](mailto:beva@starofthesea.ca)  
 Tuesday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
 Thursday 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Office Administrator:** Mario Ylanan (ext. 276)  
[mylanan@starofthesea.ca](mailto:mylanan@starofthesea.ca)  
**Office Assistant:** Anne-Marie D'Mello (ext. 221)  
[parish@starofthesea.ca](mailto:parish@starofthesea.ca)  
**Accounting:** Lorena Grange (ext. 224)  
[lgrange@starofthesea.ca](mailto:lgrange@starofthesea.ca)  
**Ministries/Volunteers:** Janice Hamanishi (ext. 280)  
[janiceh@starofthesea.ca](mailto:janiceh@starofthesea.ca)  
**Music Director:** Trudi Stammer (ext. 222)  
[tstammer@shaw.ca](mailto:tstammer@shaw.ca)  
**Facilities Manager:** Tom Cremer (ext. 274)  
[tomc@starofthesea.ca](mailto:tomc@starofthesea.ca)

# STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

**Fifth Sunday of Lent - April 7, 2019**



**“Neither do  
 I condemn you.”**

**Go, and from now on sin no more.”**

John 8:11

maligayang pagdating Welkam أهلا بك ласкаво просимо  
 Üdvözöljük WILLKOMMEN Bienvenido Boie Welkom  
 Benvenuto WELCOME 歡迎  
 ようこそ Bem-Vindos שלום Selamat Datang  
 Isten hozott Bienvenue خوش آمدید  
 karibu स्वागत हे 환영합니다 Witaly Wemukelekile

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

In two weeks we will be celebrating Easter with all the solemn ceremonies of Holy Week to look forward to. In anticipation of the Saturday night Easter Vigil Mass, when our adults in the RCIA celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation, we always host a reception after the Mass for all in attendance. You're invited to bring something to share, especially a pot of your own homemade chili, or a bottle of vino from your cellar. We'll have a big cake to congratulate our new members of the Church, with enough for all to share, and food for everyone.

Our second collection today will be in support of the Canadian Catholic Conference for Development and Peace. It usually comes as a kind of alms collected over the season of Lent from the fasting and giving up of things we didn't spend money on, so it reflects the spirit of self-sacrifice over the Lenten six weeks. I hope you will teach your children this annual practice and let them learn how we help others through our own generosity of self-denial.

This past week there has been a lot of publicity in the media about the fact that we did not permit the rental of our hall to a specific group called the Pride Society of White Rock. I've penned a letter of explanation for our parishioners and those interested in the situation. We had several calls and emails, both in support and in opposition to our stance, and so I've tried to explain our position in the face of these responses, but I'm afraid, it won't satisfy everyone. You can read my explanation in this bulletin and on our website.

Please remember that this coming Wednesday evening we will have several priests here for confessions

Have a good week,

*Fr. Dion*

# THE NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT



**LIVE IN OTTAWA  
MAY 4TH • 2019**

## STREAMING TO GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH



Cardinal  
Gerald C. Lacroix



Fr. James Mallon



Michelle Moran



Michael Dopp



Fr. Jon Bielawski



Michele Thompson

**Saturday, May 4th, 9:00AM - 4:30PM**  
Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room

**NO COST BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Register online at: [www.newevangelization.ca/register/19](http://www.newevangelization.ca/register/19)  
Light lunch and morning and afternoon snacks provided.

**Join us** for PRE-NES evenings showing selected speaker video talks from past Summits:

**Monday, April 15th, 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Videos:

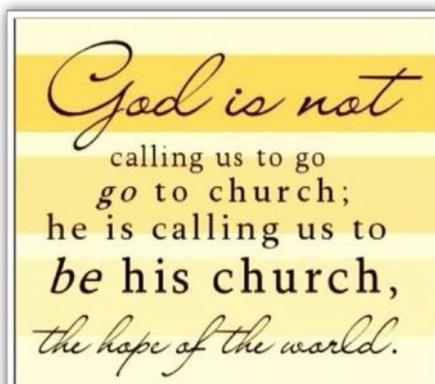
**Christopher West** - *Christianity: A Religion of Longing*  
**Dr. Ralph Martin** - *The New Evangelization: Why Bother*

AND

**Monday, April 29th,**  
**6:30pm-8:30pm**

Videos:

**Sr. Miriam**  
**James Heidland** -  
*The Decisive Encounter:  
Evangelizing from the Heart*  
**Fr. James Mallon** -  
*Divine Renovation*  
(The CASE Method of Parish  
Renewal)



## This Sunday's Mass Readings

**1ST READING:** Isaiah 43:16-21  
**RESPONSORIAL:** Psalm 126: 1-6  
**2ND READING:** Philippians 3: 8-14  
**GOSPEL:** John 8: 1-11

Pope Francis' Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthe - 7 April 2014 [w2.vatican.va](http://w2.vatican.va)

Today's readings speak to us about adultery, which together with blasphemy and idolatry was considered a very serious sin in the law of Moses, punished with the death penalty - by stoning. Adultery, in fact, goes against the image of God, the fidelity of God, because marriage is the symbol, and also a human reality, of God's faithful relationship with his people. Thus when the marriage is ruined with adultery, this relationship between God and the people becomes dirty. At the time it was considered a grave sin because it was precisely the symbol of the relationship between God and the people, of God's faithfulness.

The Gospel today tells the story of the adulterous woman - we meet Jesus, he was sitting there, among so many people, and he was a catechist, he taught. Then the scribes and Pharisees approached with a woman they dragged in, perhaps with her hands tied and they throw her to the ground, in the middle and accused her: 'Here is an adulteress!' Theirs is a public accusation. And, they asked Jesus the question: 'What should we do with this woman? You tell us about goodness but Moses told us that we must kill it!' They said this to test him, to have the reason to accuse him. In fact if Jesus said: yes, before the stoning, they had the opportunity to tell the people: 'But this is your very good teacher, look what he has done to this poor woman!' If instead, Jesus said: 'No, poor thing!', then they would have grounds to accuse him of not fulfilling the law.

Their sole objective was to put Jesus to the test and to trap him. The woman didn't matter to them; the adulterers didn't matter to them. Indeed, perhaps some of them were adulterers themselves!

For his part, although there were so many people around, Jesus wanted to be alone with the woman, he wanted to speak to the heart of the woman - it is the most important thing for Jesus. And the people had left slowly after hearing his words: *"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her"* (John 8: 7)

With a certain irony, the Gospel says that everyone went away, one by one, beginning with the elders: it is

evident that they had a big debt against them in the bank of heaven! Here then is the moment of Jesus the confessor. Only he then remains with the woman, and Jesus bent over and wrote with his finger on the dust of the earth. Some exegetes say that Jesus wrote the sins of these scribes and Pharisees. Maybe it's an imagination. Then he stood up and looked at the woman, who was full of shame, and said to her: *"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"* (v.10) After all the noise settles and everyone has left, it is Jesus each of us are alone with. You before God. Without accusations, without talk: you and God.

The woman does not claim to be a victim of false accusation. She does not defend herself saying: 'I have not committed adultery!' No, she recognizes her sin and replies: 'No one, Lord, has condemned me.' In turn, Jesus tells her: ***"Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on do not sin anymore"...*** ***in order not to pass through a time of disgrace, in order not to experience such shame, in order not to offend God, in order not to sully the beautiful relationship between God and his people.***

Jesus forgives. But there is something more here than forgiveness. For as a confessor Jesus goes beyond the law, for the law said that she had to be punished. Indeed, as Jesus was pure and could have thrown the first stone! But he went beyond this. He doesn't tell her that adultery is not a sin, but he doesn't condemn her with the law. This is the mystery of the mercy of Jesus.

**Mercy doesn't eliminate sin, for it is God's forgiveness that does this. Mercy is the manner in which God forgives.** For Jesus could have said: 'I forgive you, go!' as he had said to the paralytic: 'your sins are forgiven!' In this situation, however, Jesus goes further and counsels the woman *"Go, and from now on do not sin any more"* (v.11)

How many of us would deserve to be condemned! And it would even be just! Yet he forgives! Such is the mercy of God: it is a great light of love, of tenderness. **For God doesn't forgive with a decree but with a caress. He forgives by caressing the wounds caused by our sins, because he is involved in forgiveness, is involved in our salvation.**

This is Jesus' style as a confessor. He does not humiliate the adulterous woman. Instead, he tells her to go and sin no more: God's mercy is great, God's mercy is great: forgiving us by caressing us.



*Week at a Glance* see bulletin cover for regular  
weekday Mass schedule

**Apr 8 Monday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:30am Rosary for Priests after 8am Mass - GS
- 7:00pm "Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" Book Review - GS Meeting Room

**Apr 9 Tuesday**

**24 HR VIGIL DAY TO PRAY FOR THE END OF ABORTION IN CANADA** ~ if you haven't signed up for your hour yet and would still like to contact Greg 604-999-5027

- 9:00am Drop-off, Drop-in Coffee (*school parents*) - GS
- 4:00pm King's Banquet Soup Kitchen Dinner - SOS Hall
- 7:00pm Christian Silent Meditation - GS Cry Room

**Apr 10 Wednesday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 9:00am Korean Bible Study - GS Fireside Room
- 10:00am Seniors Fitness -SOS Hall
- 7:00pm RCIA - GS Meeting Room
- 7:00pm LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE - GS

**Apr 11 Thursday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 1:30pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible (8 of 8) - GS
- 4:00pm Legion of Mary - GS Fireside
- 6:15pm PREP - *School*
- 7:00pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible (8 of 8) - GS

**Apr 12 Friday**

- 6:00am Friday Morning Men's Group - GS Fireside
- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:30am Rosary for the Crisis in the Church - GS  
Priests at 2nd Friday Communion Visits
- 6:30pm Mass followed by STATIONS OF THE CROSS led by RCIA - GS
- 7:00pm **Journey Youth** (Gr.6&7) - *School Gym*

**Apr 13 Saturday**

- 7:30am Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours - GS
- 8:30am Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Prayer - GS
- 8:30am Confessions - *SOS*
- 9:00am - 5:00pm **YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT** at Westminster Abbey in Mission
- 9:30am - 3:00pm Pastoral Care Visitation Training (3 of 4) - GS Meeting Room
- 10:00am Confessions - GS

**Apr 14 PALM SUNDAY**

*Prayer Shawls available for sale - 9am & 11am Masses at Good Shepherd and 10:30am Mass at Star of the Sea*

- 3:00pm Stella Maris Concert Choir presents: "What Love Is This" - GS



**Holy Week & Easter Masses**

**Monday, April 15**

Good Shepherd Church 8:00am

**Tuesday, April 16**

Star of the Sea Church 9:00am  
Good Shepherd Church 6:30pm

**Wednesday, April 17**

Good Shepherd Church 8:00am  
Star of the Sea Church 9:00am  
**NO REGULAR 6:30PM CONFESSIONS ON APR.17 - PRIESTS AT CHRISM MASS, HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL**

**Holy Thursday, April 18**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Good Shepherd Church 7:00pm  
Adoration until Midnight

**Good Friday, April 19**

**Stations of the Cross**  
Star of the Sea Church 9:00am  
Good Shepherd Church 11:00am and 6:30pm

**Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday**

Good Shepherd Church 3:00pm  
Star of the Sea Church 3:00pm

**Holy Saturday, April 20**

**Blessing of Easter Food**  
Good Shepherd Church 12Noon  
**Easter Vigil**  
Good Shepherd Church 8:00pm  
**NO REGULAR 8:30AM OR 10:00AM CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY, APR.20**

**Easter Sunday, April 21**

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

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES**

- |                     |               |                             |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Tues. Apr. 9        | 7:00pm        | Immaculate Conception       |
| <b>Wed. Apr. 10</b> | <b>7:00pm</b> | <b>Good Shepherd Church</b> |
| Thurs. Apr. 11      | 7:00pm        | Precious Blood              |
| Thurs. Apr. 11      | 7:00pm        | St. Bernadette              |



**Our newest parishioners:**

Rick & Ruth Daley  
 Chantel Begley & Christopher Lee  
 Hansen Family: Michael,  
 Esmeralda & Anastasia



**Please pray for:**

Nelson Pereira, Mary Harrington,  
 Brianna Ginn, Helen McLellan,  
 Alice Anderson, Bruce Ewing,  
 Nancy Murchison,  
 Bernie Karoway, Debra Manyani,  
 Gerri Straus, Nikolas Flemming,  
 Anna Schott, Diane Benincasa,  
 Anne McLelland, Linden Smith,  
 Manfred Schunck, Thea Lopez,  
 Catharina Noble, Jim Dudar,  
 Brendan & Colleen Hopwood,  
 Larry Ginn, Jane Smith,  
 Lorraine Beauvais, Graham Shore,  
 Deborah Graves, Danilo Sonido,  
 Patrick McManus, Bill Lesage,  
 Marie-Louise Hanna, and  
 Theresa McMurtry

Please pray for the **Rest**  
**of the Souls** of:

Nancy Tompkins and  
 Paolo Valli



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** **HELP SAVE LIVES.**  
 Pray to End Abortion.  
 If you still want to add your voice to this campaign of **Prayer, Fasting and Peaceful Activism** by signing up for one hour on **Tuesday, April 9th**, sign-up sheets are in the foyer of Good Shepherd Church or contact Greg 604-999-5027 [gregv@bigratz.ca](mailto:gregv@bigratz.ca)

Stella Maris Concert Choir  
 presents:  
**"What Love is This"**



**A CHORAL PRESENTATION  
 REFLECTING ON THE  
 Passion of Jesus**

**Sunday, April 14th, 3:00pm**  
 Good Shepherd Church

Tickets available at the Parish Office  
 now or at the door on April 14th  
 \$10/Adult, \$8/Seniors & Students

**Perpetual Adoration Chapel**



*The Blessed Sacrament is the great "open secret" of the Catholic Church – the great truth that Jesus Christ is in the Tabernacle and is accessible to all who believe in Him. In this perpetual miracle is all the wealth of His love, and our "heaven" on earth! Come to Him, and let your soul rest in the wonder of His loving Presence.*

Holy Hours needing a weekly adorer:

- Sunday, 1:00am-2:00am
- Sunday, 2:00am-3:00am
- Sunday, Noon-1:00pm
- Sunday, 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Monday, 5:00am-6:00am
- Monday, 11:00pm-Midnight
- Tuesday, Midnight-1:00am
- Thursday, 4:00am-5:00am
- Saturday, 5:00pm-6:00pm

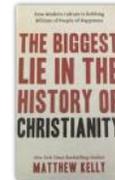
Hours needing a Substitute:

- Sundays, Apr. 21, 28 – 7:00-8:00pm
- Mon, Apr. 22, 29 – 11:00pm - Mdngt
- Tues, Apr. 16, 23, 30 – Mdngt-1:00am
- Tuesday, Apr. 9 – 6:00-7:00pm
- Saturdays, Apr. 20, 27 – 5:00-6:00pm

For more information please call:  
 Sandra Perrin 604 542 6057  
 or Donna Sali 604 542 3070

**The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity**, Matthew Kelly's latest book, was given out to every family this past Christmas. Have you read it? Would you like to dig deeper and discuss it with fellow parishioners? Come for an intensive one evening review:

**TOMORROW!**



**Monday, April 8th**  
 7:00pm to 9:30pm  
 Good Shepherd

Please come prepared to participate in a group discussion on various topics of the book. Refreshments will be served.

**JPT Young Adults (19-35yrs)**  
**GENERATION**



Join us on **Saturday, April 13th** at **Westminster Abbey** for special day of fellowship, prayer and reflection. We will start with 9AM Mass at Star of the Sea Church and carpool to Mission, returning to South Surrey around 5:30pm. Everyone will be responsible for their own expenses. Contact Bev for more info: [beva@starofthesea.ca](mailto:beva@starofthesea.ca)



All youth in Grades 6 & 7 are invited to come join us on **Friday April 12th**, 7:00pm in the School Gym. This will be our only Journey event in April. Please rsvp to [youth@starofthesea.ca](mailto:youth@starofthesea.ca) We will resume of regular (every other Friday) schedule in May.



### Easter Vigil Mass followed by Chili Potluck

As we have done in the last 4 years, there will be a potluck reception following the 1st Mass of Easter: the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night. The reception will feature **everyone's homemade recipe for chili**. Please bring some to share!  
*EVERYONE WELCOME*

### Spanish Ethnic Dinner needs Volunteers

King's Banquet Soup Kitchen is hosting the FIRST Spanish ethnic dinner on **Tuesday, Apr. 30th**.

Please consider helping, especially if you are of Spanish-speaking background, with either:

- food prep 12:00pm - 3:30pm or
- serving 3:30pm - 7:00pm

Contact Carolyn 778-277-2533  
[cawharton73@gmail.com](mailto:cawharton73@gmail.com)

Do you enjoy the retail environment and have a few hours to spare?



### Thrifter's

**Paradise** is a volunteer-run thrift store that sells and accepts donations of clean and gently used clothing and accessories for infants, children, youth, and adults; housewares, books, and linens. All profits go directly back into funding Our Lady of Good Counsel Society services, which funds the second stage transition home (Eva's House) offering a safe haven to women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Hours are 10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday to Saturday. Sign up for one shift a week, or even one shift per month.

Located at 20566 56 Avenue, Langley. Call us at 604-514-7001. If you have good, clean items to donate, please call Beth Brewer at 604-531-2927 for pick-up or for more information.

### ACTIVE PARISHIONER STATUS

We receive many requests from parishioners to celebrate Baptisms, weddings, funerals, or to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, or for registration in our parish school, requests for reference letters, and to generally and rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at Star of the Sea Parish. Part of the request is to be able to verify that a person is an "active member" of our Parish. Because of the nature of our congregation (not only size but especially because we are three churches, one parish), it is difficult to know everyone.

An "active member" of this parish is one who:

- ◆ Is properly registered with the Parish Office
- ◆ Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
- ◆ Participates in parish activities when possible
- ◆ Uses the parish envelope system or contributes via Pre-Authorized Offering Plan

While assessments of an inquirer's status will be made individually, the above are the main factors that will be considered in making that determination.

### PASTORAL CARE VISITATION

This 4-session training program to equip volunteers with the tools to better understand and support those isolated in their homes or care facilities for health reasons began on March 23rd. Participants have so far heard passionate, informative and inspiring presentations by Cecilia Moore on *The Healing Ministry of Christ*, David Chapin on *Listening and Communication Skills*, and Jo-Ann Tait on *Mental Health*. Two more sessions are upcoming: on Saturday, April 13th - Session 3: The Grieving Process & Ministering to Families, and Saturday, April 27th - Session 4: Who Am I as a Pastoral Care Outreach Visitor.

For more information, contact the Parish Office.



*"Church is not just a place you go, but a place where you belong."*

To the Parishioners of Star of the Sea Parish:

I'm aware that the recent news of not allowing our parish hall to be rented to the Pride Society of White Rock has occasioned a variety of responses from the public, some in support of our stance, and others in opposition. And because the sign on the front of the building says "*Star of the Sea Community Center*" it is somehow being perceived as a public facility rather than a privately owned one, which is a misunderstanding. We will adjust the sign for greater clarity. We do allow others to use our hall as long as they are not in conflict with the mission and values of the Parish.

The contract that is used for any prospective renter states clearly the parameters for those outside groups that express interest in the use of our hall, ie: "***The Renter acknowledges that the Premises may in no event be used for any purpose which is unlawful or contrary to the practices, or teaching on matters of faith and morals, of the Roman Catholic Church as interpreted by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.***"

The Pride Society would clearly fall within the context of those who promote, practice, and celebrate the intimacy of same sex individuals, the practice of same sex marriage, and the homosexual lifestyle of these proponents. This is in stark contrast to the teaching of the Catholic Church that upholds the sanctity of the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, and the call to live a chaste life for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, outside the sacred bond of marriage. While the Church teaches the sanctity of marriage and the purity of life for all, she also teaches that all people, no matter their chosen walk of life, are beloved children of God, created by Him and in need of His loving care and mercy – *everyone!* The Catholic Church teaches that we hold *all* people in this loving regard, with an inherent right to respect and dignity, even those who live far outside her teaching.

In speaking of the love and compassion Christ and His Church have for all, it doesn't mean that we need to cooperate in the activities of groups that are diametrically opposed to the Church's teachings on faith and morals. Some have taken the position that the use of our facilities should be without restriction, even though they stand in contrast to our Catholic beliefs and values. That would suggest that we couldn't decline to let our hall be used by groups such as those espousing hatred against a minority or ethnic group, or those wanting to raise funds for the sake of promoting abortion or euthanasia and assisted dying. Our Catholic facilities would not be open for such groups to use.

Our parish is a community of faith with the mission **to follow Jesus Christ and to invite others to do the same.** Our values are **to live by faith based principles rooted in the New Testament,** and our doors are open to any and all who want to follow the Lord and become a member of his Church.

Once again, the use of our churches, our living quarters, our school, our hall, and our meeting rooms, are to bear witness to these faith based principles, even when it seems unpopular to do so.

Thank you for your concern in this matter.

*Fr. Glenn Dion, Pastor*

From the many phone calls, voicemails and emails left at our Parish Office by protesters as well as well-meaning supporters of our Parish's decision to not rent our hall to the Pride Society of White Rock, it became clear that many Catholics ourselves do not know or understand why and what the Church's teachings are on homosexuality. This article will hopefully encourage you to further explore the Catholic Church's teachings, particularly when questions or controversy arise, and there is a need for clarity...

## What is the official Church teaching on homosexuality?

This article by Fr. James Martin, S.J., appeared in print in the April 30 2018 issue of the American Jesuit Review [www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org)

[About what the Church teaches about homosexuality] I have been asked a few questions that recur over and over. The most common are: "What can we say to gay people who believe that God hates them?" "How can we help young people who feel tempted to suicide because of their sexual orientation?" And "What can we say to gay or lesbian Catholics who feel that their own church has rejected them?" So it's important to ask: What is the church's official teaching on these issues? As an aside, since the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a compendium of church teaching on various topics, does not address bisexual or transgender persons but rather "homosexual persons," I'll refer here to gay and lesbian people to be more precise.

Church teaching at the most basic level is contained in the Gospels and, even more basically, in the revelation of the Father's love in Jesus Christ. So **the most fundamental of all church teachings about gay and lesbian people is this: God loves them. They are beloved children of God, created by God and in need of God's loving care and mercy—as all of us are.** Moreover, in his public ministry Jesus continually reached out to those who felt ignored, excluded or marginalized, which many gay and lesbian Catholics do. In fact, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics are probably the most marginalized group in the church today, and so I believe that Christ loves them with a special love. When it comes to gays and lesbians, then, the Gospel values of love, mercy and compassion are the building blocks of all church teaching.

To that end, **it's important to state that in the eyes of the church simply being gay or lesbian is not a sin**—contrary to widespread belief, even among educated Catholics. That may be one of the most poorly understood of the church's teachings. Regularly I am asked questions like, "Isn't it a sin to be gay?" But this is not church teaching. **Nowhere in the catechism does it say that simply being homosexual is a sin.** As any reputable psychologist or psychiatrists will agree, people do not choose to be born with any particular sexual orientation.

But when most people ask questions about "church teaching" they are referring not to this question, but to restrictions on homosexual, or same-sex, activity as well as the prohibition on same-sex marriage. Homosexual acts are, according to the catechism, "intrinsically disordered" and "contrary to natural law." (The bulk of the catechism's attention to homosexuality is contained in Nos. 2357-2359.) Consequently, the homosexual orientation (and by extension, any orientation other than heterosexuality) is regarded as "objectively disordered." Where does this teaching come from, and what does it mean? While this teaching has some biblical roots (Gn 19:1-29; Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tm 1:10), we can perhaps best understand it from the church's traditional reliance on natural law, which was itself heavily influenced by the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (who himself drew on Aristotle).

Natural law is founded on the idea that God's divine will and divine plan for the world and for humanity are not only revealed in the natural world but are, perhaps more important, self-evident to the human mind. Aquinas wants us to see that the world makes sense. One can understand God's plan, says Aquinas, not only by observing nature but also by using our reason. From that starting point, Aquinas would say that it's clear that everything is "ordered" toward something. Its endpoint should be obvious both to our eyes and to our reason. For example, an acorn is quite obviously "ordered" toward becoming an oak tree. A child is "ordered" toward becoming an adult. Likewise, every act is judged according to whether it is properly oriented toward its proper end. In terms of sexuality, all sex is "ordered" toward what are called the "affective" (love) and "generative" (having children) ends, within the context of a marriage.

Consequently, according to the traditional interpretation of natural law, homosexual acts are not ordered toward those specific ends and so they are deemed "disordered." Thus, "under no circumstances can they be approved," as the catechism states. Consequent to that, the homosexual orientation itself is viewed as an "objective disorder" since it can lead to "disordered" acts. **Here we need to make clear that the phrase "objective disorder" does not refer to the person himself or herself, but to the orientation.** The term is also not a psychological description, but comes from the perspective of philosophy and theology. Moreover, it **does not detract from the inherent dignity of any human being, since God creates all human beings equal and good.**

... there is more to the church's teaching on this topic in the catechism. Perhaps mindful of the specialized philosophical and theological language, the church teaches that **"every sign of unjust discrimination" against gays and lesbians** (again, here "homosexual persons") **must be avoided, and gays and lesbians must be treated with the virtues of "respect, compassion and sensitivity."** In my experience, this is the section of the catechism's teaching on homosexuality that is the least known by most Catholics.

Read full article at <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/04/06>



## Accolades from BC Ministry of Education

The Star of the Sea PEC congratulates the teachers and staff on their outstanding evaluation conducted by the BC Ministry of Education every four to six years. Ministry Chair, Harry Moes, commended Star of the Sea for:

(1) promoting and modelling a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe faith-based learning environment, ensuring that students are at the centre of learning...(2) contracting with independent educational and technology consultants to assist in the successful implementation of the redesigned BC curriculum, the cross-pollination of perspectives and ideas and professional development...(3)the purposeful Learning Assistance/Special Education Departments, experienced teaching staff and supportive educational assistants...and (4) the planning of the new and redesigned curriculum. Teachers clearly exhibited a sense of "ownership" for their plans and a sense of pride for their accomplishments.

Mr. Moes further praised Star of the Sea for surpassing the benchmarks set for independent schools. Our children are certainly blessed to be educated and supported by the wonderful teachers and staff at Star of the Sea.



This Spring, students from Grades 4-7 will be learning how the Internet and mobile technologies can be used in healthy and constructive avenues. As we move towards a more 'connected' society, we know that issues on the Internet can cause problems that impact others in our community, our friends, and our schools.

The learning outcomes of the session will provide students with an understanding of finding balance with technology use, how to communicate Internet safety concerns to trusted adults in the home and at school, and to look for opportunities to take the interests they may have involving technology and further explore education and career options.

As the senior students head towards secondary school, discussion will also include finding good balance with tech in education spaces, in the home, and in social communications, foundational skills of seeking consent from others prior to being photographed or filmed will



also be discussed, as will how to use the Internet to find good information online, and how to bring concerns to trusted adults when online content may be causing a problem for students..



(Parents from all grades welcome)

Because the Internet is an environment without boundary, the trusted adults in the lives of children need to know how to help them create boundaries and stay safe. **Parents/Guardians are invited to come for an afternoon of education, discussing technology, youth & social media awareness:**

**Monday, April 8th, Noon - 1:00pm**  
**Star of the Sea School**  
Contact the school for more info.

## WALKATHON time again!

The School's Annual Walkathon is coming up on **Friday, May 3** Starting at 9:00am at Blackie's Spit in Crescent Beach.



The staff and students invite you to come join us along the Crescent Beach walkway on May 3rd. Fr. Dion, Fr. Francis and Fr. Ajin will be walking too!

Students will be at Mass during the weekend of April 27/28 to collect pledges. Funds raised at Walkathon 2019 will go towards Library Revisioning.

*Thank you for your continued support of our school!*

## Man of the Shroud Exhibition Langley BC

A full size replica of "The Shroud of Turin" will be on display with other replica artifacts:

**April 11 - April 15**

St Joseph's Catholic Church, 20676 Fraser Hwy, Langley



### Exhibit Viewing Hours

#### Thursday to Saturday:

10:00am to 4:00pm &  
6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Sunday** 1:00pm to 4:00pm &  
6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Monday** 10:00am to 6:00pm

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[manoftheshroudlangley.com](http://manoftheshroudlangley.com)



**DAILY TV MASS**

For the past 20 years the National Catholic Broadcasting Council (NCBC) has been making Daily TV Mass available to Catholics across Canada Monday to Saturday, and last year Sunday TV Mass was added.

In addition to Daily TV Mass, the NCBC also produces a Mission each year. This year, his Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will lead the Mission and he will explore the healing power available to all of us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Mission will air on JoyTV during Holy Week:

**Part 1: Mon, April 15th, 8:30pm**

**Part 2: Tues, April 16th, 8:30pm**

Call NCBC 1-888-383-6277

or visit [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com) for more info.

## Living and Leading by Faith

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

**Saturday, April 27th**

10:00am to 4:00pm

Holy Cross Secondary  
16193 88 Ave, Surrey

Please register before Apr 23rd.

Cost: \$40.00\*

Course topics include:

#### Making Gen-Z Disciples \*

Explore the latest research on faith and life trends among young Canadians and the best practices for Gen-Z discipleship formation.

#### Basics of Faith II \*

The Catholic faith is true and beautiful, and many have yet to discover its riches. Part II explores the moral life and prayer - 2 of the 4 pillars of the Catholic faith

#### Children & Prayer \*

Learn to lead children to intimacy with Jesus.

#### Adult Catechesis - I & II \*

This workshop provides an overview of the role of adult catechesis in the mission of the Church.

\*Our parish will cover 50% of these selected courses for all parishioners interested, and 100% for all PREP, RCIA, Youth/Young Adult Catechists.

For more course descriptions, visit

[rcav.org/oc-spring/](http://rcav.org/oc-spring/)

### CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILD

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Gallagher on **Saturday April**

**27th** after the 5:00pm Mass at

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or [drtoniparsons@telus.net](mailto:drtoniparsons@telus.net)



## Marriage Anniversary Mass

Celebrate your Milestone Anniversary with us! This Mother's Day, Archbishop Miller will be honouring couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th & 60th+ years of marriage.

Register your anniversary at:

[rcav.org/marriage-anniversary](http://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary)

Mass will be on **Sunday, May 12th**, 3:30p.m. at St. Paul Parish, 8251 St Albans Rd, Richmond. Reception to follow in St. Paul Parish Centre. All are welcome to witness and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of others!

## Living in Love :

### Helping families grow closer to God and each other

Join us for an event for the whole family as we examine the essential nature of humanity, love and family with

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[liferestoration.ca](http://liferestoration.ca)



We will have testimonies, breakout sessions, Mass with Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB and dinner. A teen program and child minding will be available.

**Saturday, May 18th**, 12:30pm-7:00pm at St. Matthew's Parish, 16079 88 Ave, Surrey. Register at [rcav.org/event/living-in-love/](http://rcav.org/event/living-in-love/)

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