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Phone: 604-531-5739
Email: parish@starofthesea.ca

FOR AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL:
604-831-1162 or 604-541-8036

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm
(Limited public access 8:30am – Noon)

FIND US ONLINE:



starofthesea.ca



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YouTube [SOSParish](https://www.youtube.com/SOSParish)

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Serving OUR PARISH:

Pastor: Fr. Glenn Dion (ext. 223)
gdion@starofthesea.ca

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janiceh@starofthesea.ca

PREP Coordinator: Irina Slijouk (ext. 227)
prep@starofthesea.ca

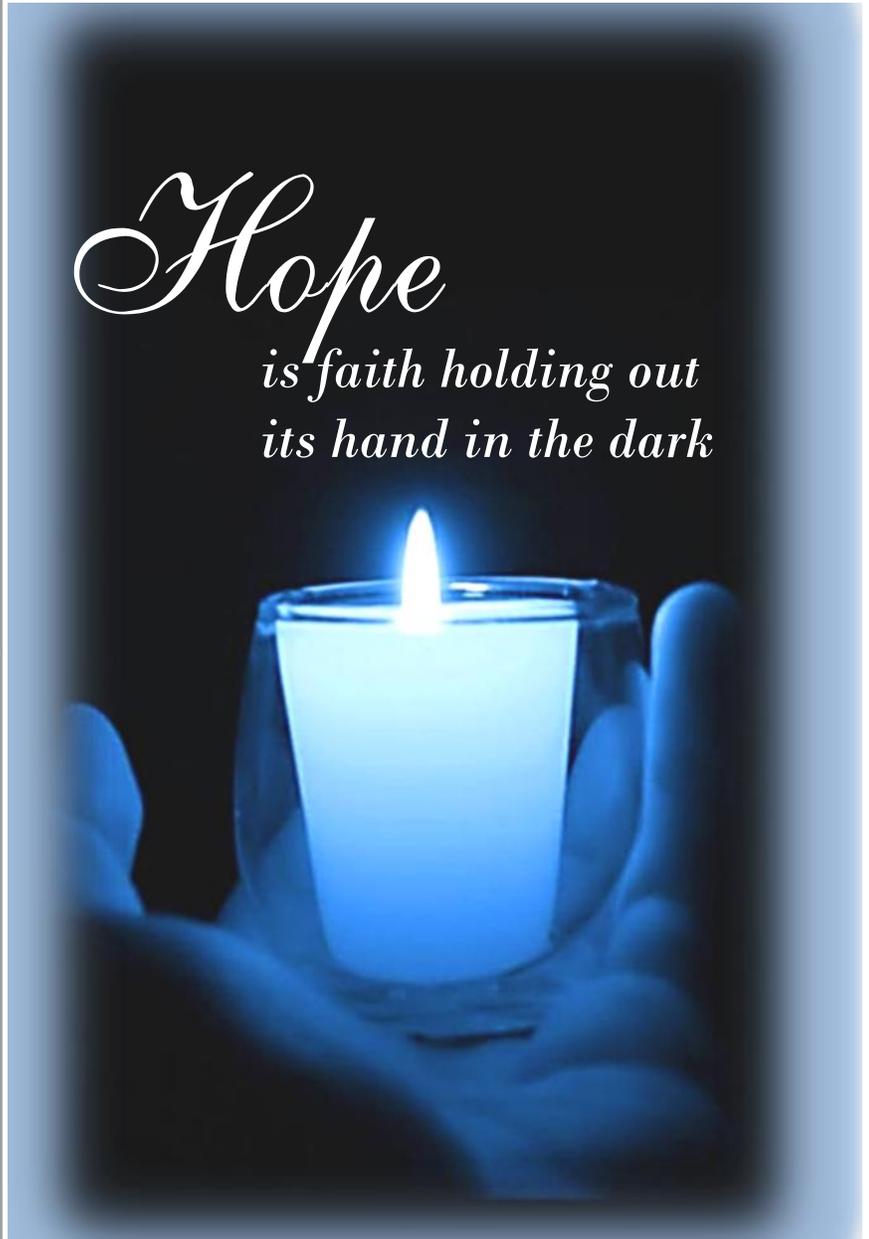
Youth & Young Adults: Tim Mok (ext. 500)
tmok@starofthesea.ca

Music Director: Trudi Stammer (ext. 222)
tstammer@shaw.ca

Facilities Manager: Tom Cremer (ext. 274)
tomc@starofthesea.ca

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ November 29, 2020

Hope
is faith holding out
its hand in the dark



OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

**To Follow
Jesus Christ
and to Invite
others to do the same.**

In-person Mass and other gatherings are currently suspended under Provincial Health Order.

Good Shepherd Church remains **OPEN** for private prayer and visitation during parish office hours.

Adoration Chapel remains **OPEN**
9AM - 9PM
(please observe covid protocols)

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Saturday 10:00am - 11:00am



**Subject to change due to potential changes in public health restrictions.*

Good Shepherd Church

Christmas Eve ~~4:00pm~~ **FULL**
~~5:30pm~~ **FULL**
7:00pm
8:30pm
10:00pm

Christmas Day ~~9:00am~~ **FULL**
11:00am
12:30pm
5:00pm

Star of the Sea Church

Christmas Eve 4:00pm
Christmas Day 9:00am
10:30am

*All Christmas Masses requires ONLINE pre-registration: starofthesea.ca
Contact the Parish Office if you have no internet access.*

O Come, Let us Adore Him!

During Advent, the Church invites us to look inward and renew our spiritual life as we prepare to welcome the Lord into our hearts and homes. Let's make this Advent season a time of joyful



anticipation – a prayerful time of preparation and reparation as we look forward to welcoming the Infant Jesus on Christmas Day.

“There is no better way to seek the presence of the Lord than spending time in quiet, peaceful prayer with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.” (St. Josemaria Institute)

Please pick up an **Advent Reflections Booklet** on your next visit to the Adoration Chapel.

Hours in need of a weekly adoror:

Wednesday, 3:00pm-4:00pm
Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm
Wednesday, 6:00pm-7:00pm
Thursday, 12:00noon-1:00pm
Thursday, 4:00pm-5:00pm
Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm

Hours in need of a Substitute:

Monday, Nov. 30 – 11:00am-12:00noon
Mondays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 – 4:00-5:00pm
Thursdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 – 12:00-1:00pm
Fridays, Dec. 4, 11, 18 – 12:00-1:00pm
Fridays, Dec. 4, 11, 18 – 1:00-2:00pm
Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19 – 4:00-5:00pm

For more information please call:

Donna Sali 604 542 3070
Sandra Perrin 604 542 6057

Chapel Covid Safety Measures

- **MAXIMUM** 3 people in the chapel.
- **SIGN IN** for contact tracing.
- **SANITIZE** hands upon entry.
- **MASK** / Face-covering must be worn.
- Observe **SOCIAL DISTANCING**.
- **DISINFECT** all areas you've come in contact with before you leave.
- Washrooms are unavailable.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

It seems so strange to light the first candle of our Advent wreath without the presence of any parishioners in the church for Mass. It surely helps to convey the message of hope for a world steeped in the darkness of a global pandemic. The Christopher Movement coined a phrase many years ago: "It is better to light one candle, than to curse the darkness," which certainly is an appropriate sentiment for our present times.

Our use of the Advent wreath helps us to be rooted in the faith of our Baptism, which highlights the giving of a lighted candle to the newly baptized, with the invitation by the celebrant: "Receive the Light of Christ" and the encouragement to the parents and godparents to keep this light burning brightly in the life of this child. So during this Season of Advent we are reminded of these heartfelt sentiments and renew our hope in the power of Christ as we light our own candle and say the appropriate prayers.

Last week I mentioned that there would be a special day for confessions on Saturday, Dec. 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Since we won't be holding our seasonal penitential services, there will be a longer availability of priests on this particular day, in hopes that for many of our parishioners this extended time will be convenient for a confessional opportunity. So for Dec. 12th, the times will be: 10am - noon, and 1pm - 4pm .

Have a restful week,

Fr. Dion



Archdiocese of Vancouver

Help rewrite the ending of the Christmas 2020 story as one of hope amidst a challenging time for families.

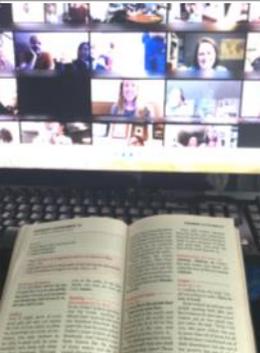
With the pandemic competing with the Grinch to snuff out Christmas cheer this year, all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Vancouver is encouraged to participate in a Blue Light Campaign by decorating our churches and homes with blue lights as a sign of hope and solidarity with families who have lost loved ones and are experiencing a "blue Christmas" this year.

"Christmas is such a time of hope, family, and all those things that seem to be under threat of being robbed. So let's not let that happen!" Should restrictions carry into Advent and Christmas, *"the joy of Christmas is in our hearts and cannot be taken from us."*

While the campaign is launched by Catholics, anyone of any faith is welcome to join in decorating their homes blue and entering a photo contest for the most blue and beautiful Christmas decorations.

Learn more about the Blue Light Campaign: bccatholic.ca

GATHER ONLINE



Liturgy of the Word & Faith Sharing

**Monday to Friday
10AM on Zoom**

Join familiar faces for prayer.



Weekdays 10AM

Meeting ID: **982 7324 1570**

<https://zoom.us/j/98273241570>

This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Isaiah 63:16–17, 19
Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:33–37

Pope Francis 03.12.17 Angelus, St Peter's Square

Today we begin the journey of Advent, which will culminate in Christmas. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. Today's liturgy introduces us precisely to this evocative theme of vigilance and waiting.

In the Gospel passage of today, Jesus exhorts us to take heed and watch, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. He tells us: *"Take heed, watch ... for you do not know when the time will come.... Watch therefore ... lest he come suddenly and find you asleep"* (Mark: 13: 33-37).

The person who takes heed is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. **The heedful person then also turns toward the world, seeking to counter the indifference and**

cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us.

The watchful person is the one who **accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment;** and at the same time **it wards off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed.** It is the painful experience of the people of Israel, recounted by the Prophet Isaiah: God seemed to have let his people err from his ways (Isaiah 63:17), but this was a result of the unfaithfulness of the people themselves (Isaiah 64:4b). We too often find ourselves in this situation of unfaithfulness to the call of the Lord: **He shows us the good path, the way of faith, the way of love, but we seek our happiness elsewhere.**

Being attentive and watchful are prerequisites so as not to continue to "err from the Lord's ways", lost in our sins and in our unfaithfulness; **being attentive and being watchful are the conditions that allow God to permeate our existence, in order to restore meaning and value to it with his presence full of goodness and tenderness.**

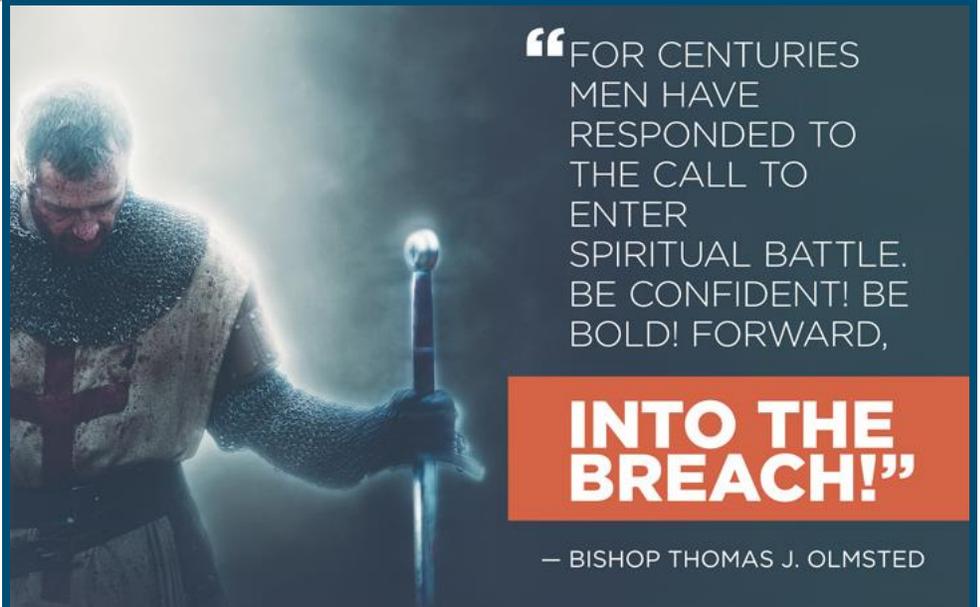
May Mary Most Holy, role model for awaiting God and icon of watchfulness, lead us to her son Jesus, rekindling our love for him.



Advent reminds us that, while God has kissed the earth with his presence, much remains broken, unfulfilled and in darkness. We see plenty of evidence around us of the dark night. If we have learned anything in 2020, it is that we need not be told how late, how long and how dark our wait has turned out to be. We need help. Not just to protect us from the night so we can huddle together in mutual support and encouragement. We need courage to keep the light of hope, love and service to neighbor aglow in us so we can face down the spirit of despair and continue to work in the night to be a beacon of hope to others. How long is the night? *Very long.* How dark is it? *Very dark.* Yet we are children of the Light. As Catholic Christians, we can transcend the old way of doing things to bring the reality of Christ to the modern world... we can live in the present moment and be full of hope for the future.

Please pray for ...

Ang Djiet Nio, Jose Gagute,
Evdokia Slijouk, Maria Becker,
Magdalena Coombs, David Hume,
Al & Margaret Whyte,
Dale Yahn, Christine Morrison,
Clemente Miranda Guajardo,
Anna Schott, Alice Anderson,
Odette Slezas, Madeline Daigneau,
Sebastian Janota, Robyn Savage,
Dan Hoffman, Manal Ibrahim,
Lynn Carruth, Janet Rushinko,
Victor Espinoza, Rey Alvarado,
Orlando Alvarado Jr.,
Dolores Alvarado, Helen McLellan,
Edna Reti, Morley Underwood,
Bruna Sbrunchella, Nicole McKaig,
Kim McClelland, Helen Ferrier,
Nikolas Fleming, Norm Menzies,
Jan Sahota, Trish & Les Jones,
Toni P., Michael Scott Lucarz,
Rolf May and Max Bissegger.



“FOR CENTURIES MEN HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CALL TO ENTER SPIRITUAL BATTLE. BE CONFIDENT! BE BOLD! FORWARD,

INTO THE BREACH!”

— BISHOP THOMAS J. OLMSTED

**What is authentic masculinity?
What does it mean to be a Christian man?**

Into the Breach is a call to battle for Catholic men which urges them to embrace wholeheartedly masculine virtues in a world in crisis. Inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix, the Knights of Columbus produced a video series which seeks to answer the question of what it means to be a man and how to live as a man in today's world. Watch trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss0i4xuSffQ>

AN INVITATION TO ALL MEN in our parish:

join us **Wednesdays 7PM** from the comfort of your home.
Starts **THIS WEDNESDAY** (Dec 2nd) ←

Each video is intended to help facilitate reflection and discussion on the themes of the episodes. A study guide will be provided to you **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Sign up by emailing: sospgmdirector@gmail.com with you name and telephone number. We look forward to having you participate!

Knights of Columbus Star of The Sea Council #7015



Jesse Tree Outreach Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we hope to collect gift cards in place of traditional Jesse Tree gifts.

Gift cards can be of any denomination and be from a variety of grocery stores. If you would like to donate gift cards from Safeway, Superstore, Save-on-Foods - consider purchasing Knights of Columbus grocery cards available at the parish office.

Please drop off your gift card donations to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity and for reaching out to someone in need!

THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL DESIRE ~ Advent Mission with Ralph Martin

This LIVE, online Advent Mission will help you build a solid foundation for the spiritual journey. **Each Sunday in Advent**, 5PM-8PM, Dr. Ralph Martin will teach and answer questions on the first stages of the spiritual journey, as found in his book: *The Fulfillment of All Desire*.

This Advent Mission is for everyone! Register for free at beholdvancouver.org/events



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

ADVENT RETREAT 2020

For many of us, it would be easy to say that 2020 has had its unique share of challenges. It has been easy to become discouraged, disconnected, and disengaged. Advent and subsequently, Christmas, however, present for us an opportunity to share in a fresh joy, a true joy, a joy that can conquer any darkness: Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born!

Join Father Juan Lucca and Barb Dowding at this year's Advent Retreat: ***Ero Cras (Tomorrow, I Will Be)***, **Friday, Dec. 4th, 7:00PM-9:00 PM** where we will explore the rich symbols in Advent and share the intricate details of Christmas liturgy to help prepare us for the coming of Christ at Christmas, where our hope and our joy will be full.

Register for free at beholdvancouver.org/events



Covid can't stop Christmas! And this year, the **Daughters of St Paul** choir's **Christmas Concert** is finally making it to Canada... virtually!

The Daughters of St Paul are an international congregation of religious sisters who evangelize through the media. The sisters of the USA & Canada have long wished to bring their Christmas Concert tour north, but international rights and customs made it impossible. But this year has offered the sisters the unique opportunity to launch their first ever virtual concert:



Home for Christmas

with choir members joining in from their homes to sing to you in yours! So join us, the Daughters of St Paul Choir, for our first concert for Canada!

December 3rd at 8pm EST
(5pm PST)

Visit <http://www.pauline.org/virtualconcert>

This is a free Youtube live-streamed event where you can expect to meet our choir members, listen to some concert favourites, learn some dance moves, hear some inspirational stories, and have the opportunity to support our mission of evangelization.

The True Meaning of Christmas

While it may be cliché to say, the truth is that we can often lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas in the midst of all the planning and dealing with dysfunctional family dynamics. This talk is geared towards re-orienting our hearts to have the sentiments of the divine heart this Christmas towards ourselves, our family, and any suffering we may experience during this holy time. As we will see, the Incarnation of Christ was filled with suffering for the holy family, but also more deeply joy. This talk will reflect upon that paradoxical reality as well as what the birth of Christ says to who we are as persons, a truth worth rediscovering and accepting, again and again, especially those of us who have been rejected or forgotten at times in our families.

Thursday, Dec. 17

5:30pm - 7:00pm on Zoom Webinar, followed by a small-group breakout session.

Register online for free at beholdvancouver.org/events

OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

All interested parents and students are invited attend a Virtual Open House on Wed. Dec. 2nd at 6:30pm.

Please RSVP by Nov.30 by emailing: skelly@sjp2academy.com

SJP II Academy will be accepting applications for students in Gr. 8, 9, 10, & 11 for the 2021-22 school year.

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