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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)

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Serving OUR PARISH:

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

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fmallya@starofthesea.ca

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Ministries/ Volunteers: Janice Hamanishi (ext. 280)
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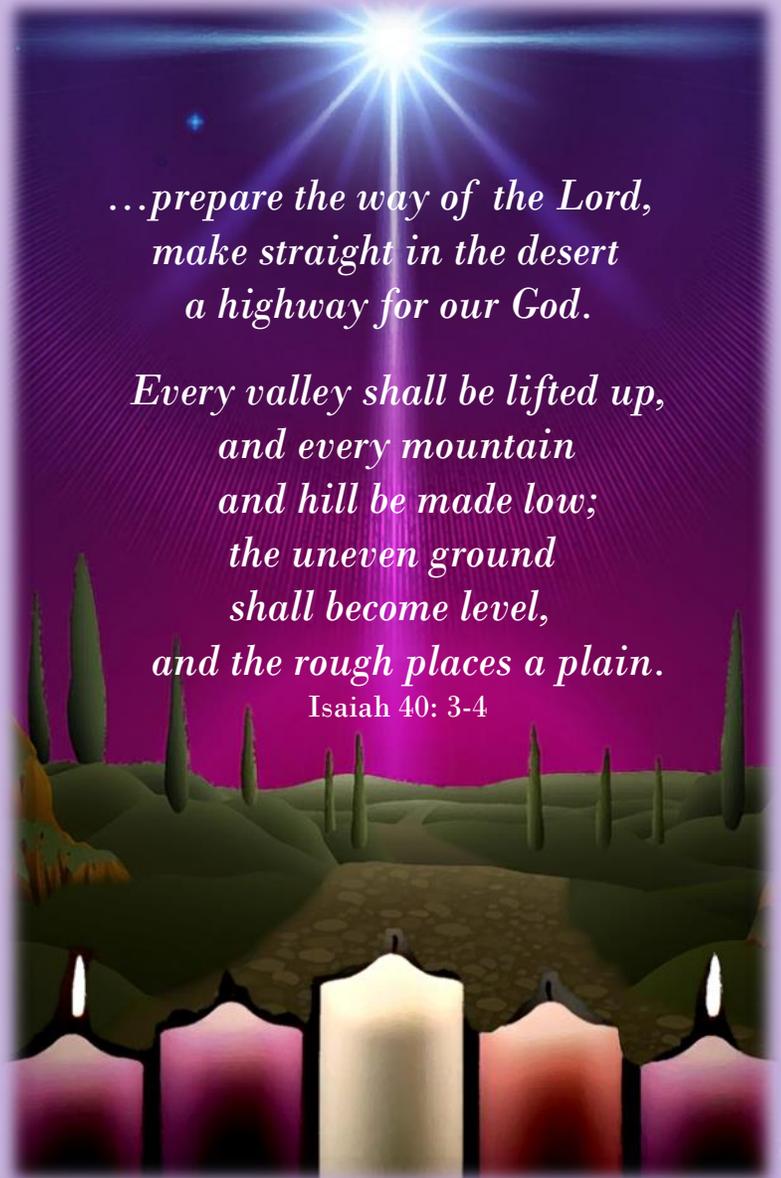
PREP Coordinator: Irina Slijouk (ext. 227)
prep@starofthesea.ca

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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ December 6, 2020



*...prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain
and hill be made low;
the uneven ground
shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

Isaiah 40: 3-4

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

OPEN 9AM - 9PM



In this 2nd week of Advent as we celebrate the **Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, let us remember that when we go before Jesus on the altar, we always find Him with Mary His Mother, just as the Magi did at Bethlehem (Mt 2:11).

Jesus invites us to come visit Him in the Adoration Chapel, in this refuge and protection, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Hours in need of a weekly adorer:

Monday, 4:00pm-5:00pm
Thursday, 12:00noon-1:00pm
Thursday, 4:00pm-5:00pm
Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Friday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Hours in need of a Substitute:

Friday, Dec. 18 – 12:00-1:00pm
Fridays, Dec. 11, 18 – 1:00-2:00pm
Saturdays, Dec. 12, 19 – 5:00-6:00pm

For more information please call:
Sandra Perrin 604 542 6057

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Next Saturday (Dec. 12th) for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the doors of Good Shepherd will be open throughout the day so that parishioners can visit and get to confession. There will be three priests available from 10am to noon in the morning, and then one of us for an hour each from 1pm to 4pm. Our usual practice of having Advent penitential service on a particular evening with priests of the area helping out, will not be done this year due to the pandemic situation.

Our regular confession times on Wednesday evening and Saturday morning are still available. We're trying to encourage everyone to prepare for the Christmas feast, even though we haven't been able to get to Mass very much, if at all, over these past many months.

I'm not sure where we are at in regard to having people in the church for Mass, since any changes to the status quo will not be made until Monday (Dec 7). So for the time being we're not adjusting anything until we are told otherwise. Keep alert to the news, and if things do change for the better it will also be posted on our website.

And don't forget your Advent wreath candles and prayers, they're needed now more than ever. Remember the Christopher motto: "It is better to light one candle, than to curse the darkness."

Have a hope-filled week,

Fr. Dion

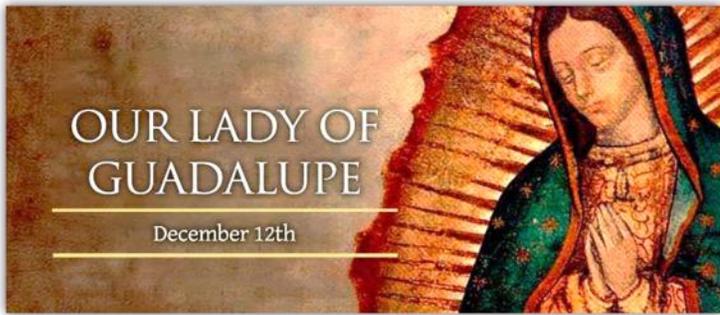


Archdiocese
of Vancouver

BLUE LIGHT CAMPAIGN

During Advent and Christmas, we encourage the faithful to obtain blue lights and let them shine from their homes as a symbol of hope and solidarity.

rcav.org/christmas/blue-light-campaign



Day of Mercy

Archbishop Miller has set aside December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as a dedicated *Day of Mercy*. The particular day itself will see vast opportunities throughout the archdiocese for people to prepare their hearts to receive Jesus at Christmas by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

At Good Shepherd Church, our schedule for Confessions are:

Sat. Dec. 12: 10AM - Noon (all 3 priests)
1PM - 4PM (1 priest)

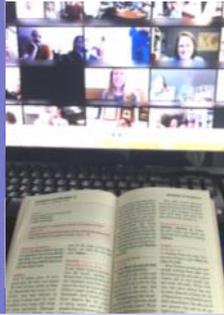
Additional times for Confession:

Mon. Dec. 14: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)
Tues. Dec. 15: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)
Thurs. Dec. 17: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)
Fri. Dec. 18: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)
Mon. Dec. 21: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)
Tues. Dec. 22: 6:30PM - 7:30PM (1 priest)

Regular weekly Confession:

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 7:30PM
Saturdays 10AM - 11AM

GATHER ONLINE



Liturgy of the Word & Faith Sharing

Monday to Friday
at 10AM

The Liturgy of the Word is a dialogue between God and the community: the Father has a message for each of us. This is why we respond: "Thanks be to God" and "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ". The Psalm is God's Word and our response combined. The homily (reflection) is another word from God, as the priest or presider opens up the meaning of what we have heard. We respond to God's Word with the only worthy offering we have - faith, and in that faith we know that God will hear our prayers for the Church, the whole world, our own community and for those in need.

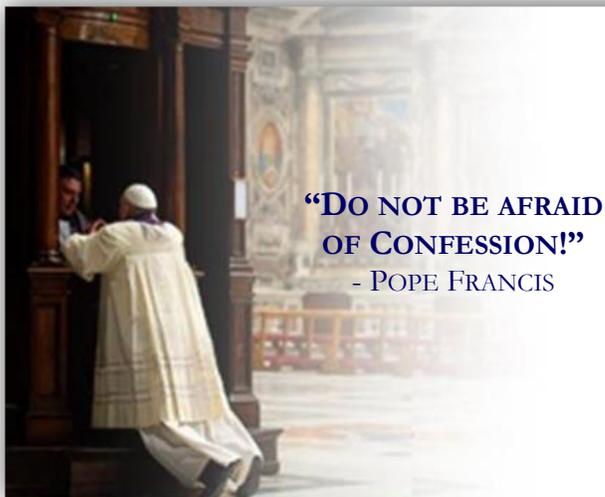
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Weekdays 10AM

Meeting ID: **982 7324 1570**

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



"DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION!"

- POPE FRANCIS

Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation. "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again." Ah! Brothers and Sisters, **God's face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient.** Have you thought about God's patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. "Great is God's mercy," says the Psalm.

- Pope Francis Homily on March 17, 2013

Please pray for ...

Barbara Odermatt, 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.



Jesse Tree Outreach

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are collecting **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!



We are here to help! Please get the word out!
NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY.

At the end of June, the Archdiocese started the **All Were Filled Pilot Project**, funded by the Archbishop's Crisis Recovery Fund, which is made possible by donors to Project Advance. The Archdiocese also acquired a grant from the Government of Canada and help from other private donors to feed families struggling to make ends meet due to the pandemic.

The main goal of this project is to reach families who would not normally be struggling to make ends meet, but now find themselves without support, not knowing how to put food on the table for their families. Receiving help from All Were Filled could also assist in lowering their food bill so they can pay their other living expenses. There is no qualification or proof of income or long-term commitment required to receive the food. It is on a week-by-week basis.

This project is currently operating in a few parishes in our diocese and Fr. Dion has agreed to bring it also to Star of the Sea. We hope to launch in the coming new year. If you would like to be part of this wonderful new ministry coming to our parish, please let us know by contacting the Parish Office 604-531-5739.



**2nd Collection this weekend
 December 5 & 6
 for Youth Ministry**

This archdiocesan collection is to assist the work of the Ministries and Outreach Office in providing formation, training, and support for youth ministry. Parishes with active youth ministry programming **(that's us!)** will receive a rebate from this collection.

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This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11
Psalm 85:9–14
2 Peter 3:8–14
Mark 1:1–8

The following is a reflection on the Gospel passages of today
catholic-link.org

Every path needs a starting point. In order to leave port, a ship must lose its mooring; in order to begin his journey, must choose his goal. But there are times in life when we feel stuck and unable to take the next step. We feel lost and are unsure where to turn. The mountain seems insurmountable and the trail too long. In the end, we stay put, but our hearts are unsatisfied.

He who opens the Gospel of Mark feels uplifted by words of consolation: “The beginning of the good news...” The Good News is already in the very first word: a new beginning is possible! **Here is a road to walk, a path that you can begin.** If you think the die is already cast, you can close this book because it will have nothing to tell you.

In the beginning, things are usually unclear, like when you read a story. You have to read a while and make the effort to see where the story might take you. But the Gospel of Mark tells you where this road will take you right away: **it will take you to Christ.** It is not road of blind turns, it is not a raffle, and it is not about being lucky: Christ is waiting for you – walk towards Him! This is the Good News. You no longer have to wander unfamiliar and fearful streets.

Jesus Christ can be the new beginning for you. Mark uses a Greek word here that would have been very familiar to the philosophers of the time: the word *arché*, which means not only beginning, but also “cause,” “motive,” “reason for which...” Many times we stay where we are because we don’t find any reason to move forward and we are disillusioned because we can’t find any desire worth fulfilling, as if our sky were so dark that not one star to follow could pierce it.

This is why the first word of the Gospel is one of consolation: the good news is that we can begin again – always – like a book the can be reread in a new way, starting once more from the beginning. It is a story that we can keep writing, **but in order to**



start a new season we must put a period at the end of this paragraph and start a new one. We can’t start a new season of our lives by writing on the same line as the previous!

Sometimes we can feel lost and without faith and incapable of starting out again, like the people the prophet Isaiah is addressing as he tries to encourage those in exile to return to the fatherland: he who returns from exile, he who has been far from his own life, he who has not lived, who is afraid to take up his own history because he fears he will find only rubble. The prophet gives words of consolation, words the people would recite line by line on their journey. In this way, these repeated words became the courage they needed to move forward and return to their land.

Every beginning needs a physical sign; otherwise, it risks being nothing more than a desire, a good intention. This is why John the Baptist did not simply invite his followers to conversion, that is to simply change their way of thinking, but asks them to accompany this change with a physical sign, to go down to the water, to experience death and rebirth, like the first time when we left our mother’s womb. The beginning is always a time of tension. There is the enthusiasm of new beginnings but the fear of the unfamiliar path also. Baptism holds these two elements together: it means dying to what has been and, at the same time, bringing something new into being.

The beginning is the threshold of history. It means struggling to say goodbye to the past but also not having returned home yet. John baptizes on that threshold of the Jordan. It is the river that Israel had to cross to enter into the Promised Land. John shows the way but he won’t be the one to accompany us on this journey. John opens the door, but it will be Jesus, the new Joshua, that will come and take us by the hand to make us enter into the new Promised Land that is eternal life.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW!

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