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OFFICE HOURS

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

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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

Assistant Pastors: Fr. Francis Mallya, ALCP/OSS (ext. 225)
fmallya@starofthesea.ca

Fr. Guy Zidago (ext. 273)
gzidago@rcav.org

Office Administrator: Mario Ylanan (ext. 276)
mylanan@starofthesea.ca

Office Assistant: Anne-Marie D'Mello (ext. 221)
parish@starofthesea.ca

Accounting: Lorena Grange (ext. 224)
lgrange@starofthesea.ca

Ministries/ Volunteers: Janice Hamanishi (ext. 280)
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

December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family



OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

IN-PERSON MASS AND OTHER GROUP GATHERINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED UNDER PROVINCIAL HEALTH ORDER.

NEW YEAR'S LIVESTREAM MASS TIMES:

**New Year's Eve: 5PM
New Year's Day: 9AM**

Livestream Weekend Masses:

**Saturday 5PM
Sunday 9AM**

Join on  **YouTube** at [SOSParish](https://www.youtube.com/SOSParish)
followed by **Drive-Up Communion**

(see drive-up communion procedure inside bulletin)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE
at Good Shepherd Church

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



ADORATION CHAPEL*
OPEN 9AM - 9PM

* please follow Chapel Covid Safety Protocols

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH remains **OPEN** for private prayer and visitation during Parish Office hours:

Open to the public: Monday – Friday
8:30am – Noon
(Limited public access from 12pm-4:30pm – *please knock to gain access*)

New Year's Eve: CLOSED at Noon
New Year's Day: CLOSED

Pastor's Corner

Holy Family Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

The Sunday following Christmas is in honor of the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family, and the Gospel story is the event of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. This is a sacred ritual for Jewish parents as they dedicate their newborn to God and give thanks for the gift of their child.

Our Catholic Faith obliges us to do likewise when a baby is born, by following the example of Mary and Joseph and bringing our newborns to the parish church for Baptism. The requirement for Mary and Joseph was to do this on the eighth day of life, while for Catholic parents the Church places the requirement within the first 4 weeks of life, with the expectation that due preparations are made before the child is born.

I think we have become a little relaxed in the general practice of infant baptism, and have often delayed this sacrament for a much longer period of time. It is a sadness to see the grace of this blessing put off for an indeterminate time. It is my hope that parents will see the importance of bringing their little ones to the Church at the very beginning of their lives, and imitate the example of the Holy Family, who came very quickly for the dedication of their child.

Our experience of giving Holy Communion to the faithful by way of the drive-thru convenience, has been a very positive one, save for the fact that the first Saturday night we did this it was pouring rain and our umbrellas were not entirely effective. We also figured out that the Sunday morning window of opportunity, cited to be until noon, was too long a period of time. So we're adjusting that timeframe to be only after the 9am Mass until 10:30am, or until no more cars are in line.

And now that we have celebrated Christmas this past week, let me say a big "THANK YOU", on behalf of Fr. Francis, Fr. Guy, and myself, for all the cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes that came our way. So many things have been different for all of us these past many months, but what is constant is the support and kindness we priests have received, and to all of you we pledge our continued prayers and priestly service.

Have a restful week, *Fr. Dion*

DRIVE UP HOLY COMMUNION

AFTER LIVESTREAM MASS



Reminders:

1. The Archbishop's dispensation of Sunday Mass continues. Therefore, we are not obligated to receive Communion. Rather, Drive-up Holy Communion is available for those who desire to receive.
2. Please stay home if you are a vulnerable member of the community or if you are sick.
3. Wear a face covering as per Provincial Health Order.

Before Communion:

1. Participate in the celebration of the liturgy by viewing our livestreamed Mass on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/SOSParish> in your home and come to Good Shepherd Church immediately after the Mass.

New Year's Livestream Mass times: New Year's Eve: 5PM | New Year's Day: 9AM

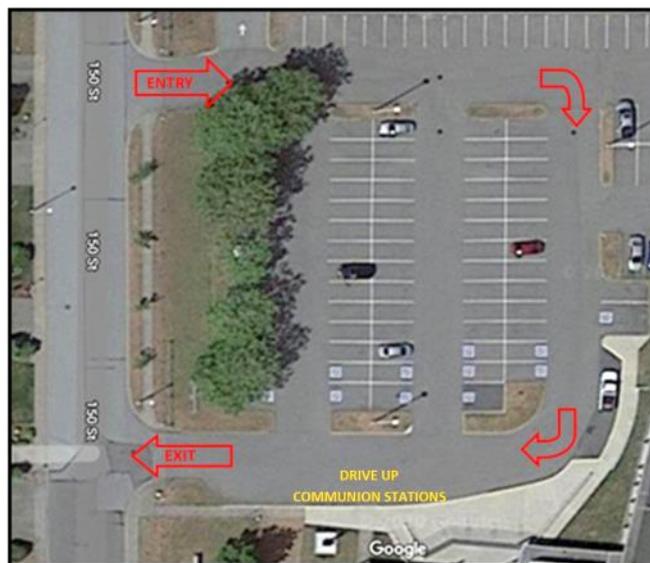
Saturday 5:00 PM Anticipated Mass and Sunday 9:00 AM Mass

The priests will be distributing Communion for an hour after the end of the Mass.

2. Please also try to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare for Holy Communion.

Drive Up Communion:

1. You will be directed by traffic volunteers to enter the parking lot at the north gate and exit through the south gate. See map:
2. Volunteers will direct you to drive up to the front entryway of Good Shepherd Church where two priests will be waiting at the Communion stations. Remain in your vehicle as the priests approach the vehicle to offer you the Eucharist.
3. You must receive in your hand. On the tongue is not permitted.
4. Those who intend to receive must extend their arms and open hands towards the open windows of their vehicle, saying their "Amen" when the priest offers them, "The Body of Christ".
5. You can say a silent prayer in your car for a few moments as you leave the premises.



This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

Reflection on the Holy Family by Fr. Mike Lagrimas
www.catholicforlife.com/homily-feast-holy-family-3/

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Against this bleak backdrop of society, the Church invites us all to look up to the example of the Holy Family. Of course, many of us will say, "Well, that's great! Joseph was celibate, Mary is the Immaculate Virgin, and Jesus is the Son of God. That is an ideal family, a perfect family. My family is not. We just cannot be like them!"

My dear brothers and sisters, let us not forget that this is the Feast of the Holy Family. The Church purposely avoided using the term "Perfect Family" or "Ideal Family." This is in order for us to avoid the temptation to look at the Holy Family as an unreachable ideal, something that is too good to be true; and so that we may not hide behind alibis and excuses not to pursue growth and holiness for our families.

The truth of the matter is that the Holy Family was not exempt from the harsh realities of life, from troubles and problems that beset our families today. The Holy Family, therefore, is being presented to us, not as a romantic ideal as in the movies, but as an inspiration for our families. **The Holy Family conquered their struggles through their strong faith. The real test of faith is obedience to God's will.** This is very clear in the life of the Holy Family. Mary's faith enabled her to accept God's plan. Joseph's faith made him strong to protect and provide for the family. Jesus, having emptied himself, had faith in the Father's will and in his parents to care for him. The Gospel on the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple is a vivid illustration of such a strong faith in God and humble obedience to His commands.

Whatever is the situation we are in now, the example of the Holy Family gives us hope and inspiration in the struggles our families face each day. If Jesus, Mary and Joseph, though poor and simple, successfully overcame all challenges in life, our families too can be successful because we put our faith in God who is with us, and we are always ready to obey His will in our lives.

The readings for this Sunday give us very important lessons and reminders on to how to live as a Christian family. The Book of Sirach exhorts the children to respect and obey their parents, and when they grow old, to take care of them. In our modern societies however, where the emphasis is more on material success or personal comfort rather than on family values, many elderly parents are sent to



nursing homes instead of being taken care of by their children. Blessed Mother Teresa said, "There is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our lives - the pain and loneliness. We must have the courage to recognize

it. The poor you may have right in your own family. Find them. Love them."

Saint Paul in his letter to the Colossians reminds us to deal with each other out of kindness, to be patient with each other, to forgive and respect each other continually, and not to let our pride and selfishness erode our love for one another. In conclusion, the only sure formula for a happy and strong family is God: "Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord." We may encounter the worst trials and difficulties in life, but as Saint Paul said: "If God is with us, who can be against us?" Let us entrust our families to the protection and guidance of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. *Amen*

Congratulations



to those recently Married:

Aileen Zipagan & Richard Penn

Venice Lorraine Donceras & Van Michael Dela Cruz

to those who recently had their Marriage Blessed:

Camila Brasil Moreira & Francisco Da Silva Neto

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Parish donations (Sunday Offering) must be received by the Parish Office **before the end of business day on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30** (office is closed at Noon on Dec. 31) in order to receive a tax receipt for 2020. Please ensure all cheques are dated on or before Dec. 31, 2020. This is a requirement of Canada Revenue Agency. Your Sunday Offering can be made by cheque or cash at the Parish Office. For credit card donations, go to starofthesea.ca/giving

Project Advance 2020 - Thank you to those who have already made a pledge. Please note that pledges need to be received by the Parish Office **before the end of business day on MONDAY, DEC. 28** to qualify for the 2020 parish rebate and your 2020 tax receipt. Donations to Project Advance can be made by cheque, cash or credit card at the Parish Office. For credit card donations, go to www.rcav.org/giving

Please pray for ...

Grant Lane, Leo Gray,
Joe Nadelko, Charles Goetken,
Cathleen & Ken Sanders,
Kennedy Brown, Ang Djiet Nio,
Jose Gagute, Evdokia Slijouk,
Maria Becker, Magdalena Coombs,
Al & Margaret Whyte,
David Hume, 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.

*Please pray for the
Repose of the
Soul of:*

Christiane Berner



CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING

BY DONATION - in support of Knights of Columbus Community Charities

**Saturday, Jan 2nd
9:30am - 4:30pm**

and

**Sunday, Jan 3rd
12:30pm - 4:30pm**

at Good Shepherd Church
Parking Lot (east side,
in the overflow parking)

*Please remove ALL decorations,
wires and tree stand from
your Christmas tree*

Knights of Columbus Annual Charity Appeal Draw



- 1st Prize: \$100,000
- 2nd Prize: \$50,000
- 3rd Prize: \$10,000
- 4th Prize: \$5,000
- 5th Prize: \$2,000
- 6th to 15th: \$1,000 each

This year, charity appeal tickets are available exclusively online: KofCDraw.net/C7015

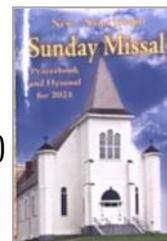
Proceeds go back to assist Star of the Sea Parish Community. *Thank you for your support and community spirit!*

St. Joseph Sunday Missal

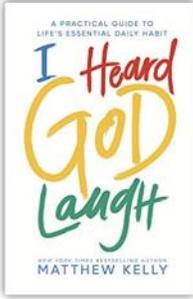
(Nov 29, 2020 -
Nov 21, 2021)

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**Christmas
Gift to You**

If you haven't picked up your family's copy of the book: "**I HEARD GOD LAUGH**" by Matthew Kelly,

please do so from the Parish Office while supplies last.

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life will be live streamed from Holy Rosary Cathedral on **Monday, Dec. 28** at 12:10 pm. Join at holyroarycathedral.org/live-stream

Making Sense of Anxiety in Children and Youth

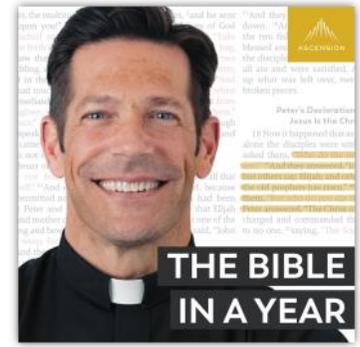
The escalating level of anxiety in our children begs for an explanation as well as a solution. Dr. Neufeld sheds light on this age-old problem, paving the way for natural interventions that can actually get to the root causes as opposed to just managing symptoms. Although the focus is on children, this enlightening material will benefit anyone suffering from anxiety.

Wednesday evenings 7:30-9pm starting Jan. 6. Register online at: beholdvancouver.org/events

Into the Deep: Reading Fratelli Tutti

Pope Francis' latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti diagnoses the shortcomings of society that have been laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspired by the Gospel and the example of St. Francis of Assisi, our Holy Father invites all to embrace fraternity and social friendship in order to build a more just world. Fr. Nick Meisl and Nick Olkovich will introduce and contextualize the encyclical, highlight important themes and invite participants to reflect on its implications for Christian living. **Friday, Jan. 29** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. Register for

FREE at: beholdvancouver.org/events



Coming January 1st!

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021.

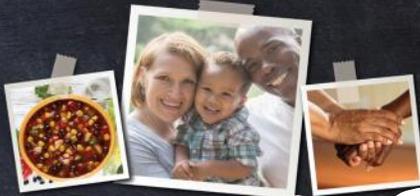
Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- 2-3 scripture readings
- a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and
- guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system developed by Jeff Cavins. It identifies the 14 narrative books that tell the "big picture" story of salvation history. Once you understand these 14 central books, everything else in the Bible will fall into context. Fr. Mike will be following this Bible Timeline progression throughout the year, so you'll get to see how all 73 books of the Bible fit into this one central narrative thread! Everything is outlined in a reading plan, so you'll never be lost.

Sign up at: ascensionpress.com

All Were Filled John 6:12



Do you know anyone struggling to have enough food to eat? Maybe you lost your job due to Covid-19 and are having trouble making ends meet. The All Were Filled Project offers **free frozen food packets of hearty soups and/or entrées to put over rice, pasta or potatoes.**

There is no qualifying requirement to receive the food, and your order is kept confidential. Every week, you can place your order before 12Noon on Monday and pick it up or have it delivered to you on Friday afternoon or Saturday. Each order has 6 different dishes (7 servings each).

Call or email the Parish Office *in confidence* 604-531-5739 parish@starofthesea.ca

*We are in this together!
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No one we know should go hungry!*



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