

STAR OF THE SEA Honour our Past and Go Forward on Mission

PARISH OFFICE: 2250 – 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3 Phone: 604-531-5739 Email: <u>parish@starofthesea.ca</u>

Website: starofthesea.ca

OPEN: Monday – Friday 8:30am– 4:30pm (*closed over lunch hour* Noon-1pm)

For After Hours Emergencies: 604-831-1162 or 604-541-8036



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

2250 - 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3

Weekday Mass Monday—Saturday 9AM First Friday 6:30PM

Weekend Mass Saturday 5PM Sunday 9AM 11AM 7PM LIVESTREAM Mass 11AM

Confessions Wednesday 6:30PM Saturday 10AM

STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH 1153 Fir Street, White Rock, BC V4B 4A8

Weekend Mass Saturday 4PM Sunday 10:30AM

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH Welcome

Second Sunday of Advent-December 10, 2023

As it is written in Isaiah, "Behold, I send my messenger... who shall prepare thy way;

> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord...

> > Mark 1: 2-3

To follow Jesus Christ and to invite others to do the same.

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 10, 2023

PARISH STAFF:

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Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Pray for us! Dear Parishioners,

Advent is the one Liturgical season which seems to have broad appeal. It is short, and the payoff is long on good feelings. Even the constant rainfall and snow removal are all part what makes this time so special. Hence as we come to the second week of Advent, the word of God bring us back to the real meaning of this season—preparation for the birth of Jesus.

In today's gospel reading, we encounter one of those towering Advent figures, John the Baptist. John is assigned a tough task ~ "A voice crying in the desert, prepare the of the Lord, make his paths straight!" How is John going to accomplish this heralding task? Again, not in an easy way. John must call the people to repentance and conversation so as to ready their hearts for the birth of the Saviour. We all know how popular such messages are. We also know what usually happens to those who bring the challenge to change.

Today, we are called to listen to the voice of John the Baptist. This message of conversion is also for us because the need to change, to reform our lives is not frozen in time. Today's message is timeless and timely. Advent therefore is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is a time of homecoming, God's nearness and conversion.

At times, we can seem so far away from God. We are well aware of our sins and shortcomings. We know well how far we have travelled in search of meaning and truth. It is easy to feel that God has abandoned us, since we in fact have turned away from him. Yet in the midst of our personal exile, He comes to rescue us. Our God is not a God of vengeance, but of Love. God wants us to come back to him. For only in him can we experience a comfort and peace beyond all telling. Our God is like a shepherd tending his flock and coming for the most in need with tenderness beyond human comprehension. God desires to heal and make whole all the brokenness of this. This is the reason why he became man for us and for our salvation.

This coming week, our parish will be celebrating *Simbang Gabi* starting on <u>Friday, Dec 15 with 7pm Mass</u> at Good Shepherd Church (for 9 consecutive days). Last year was the first time our parish celebrated Simbang Gabi, so I know this year it will be even bigger and better! Everyone is welcome.

I also bring your attention to our **Parish Seniors Luncheon** on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>December 20th</u> followed by the **Christmas Presentation** by all the students of Star of the Sea School. I hear that this was a tradition for many years, but it had stopped after 2019 due to covid. This is the first year it's back, and I'm pleased that it has returned. It will be a very special event for our parish seniors hosted by our Parish Education Committee (PEC) and served by our Grade 7 students. Please note that day <u>the morning Mass will be at 10:30am</u> (instead of 9am), followed by the <u>luncheon served at 11:30am</u>. The Christmas performance is at 1pm in the School Gym. There are some tickets left in the Parish Office—so please stop by this week to get yours. Tickets are only \$5.00 and includes a delicious lunch, Christmas treats and the Christmas presentation.

Fr. Augustine

This Sunday's Mass Readings:

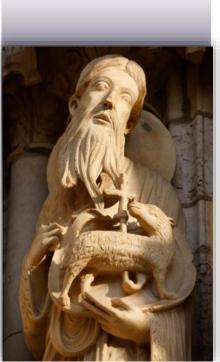
Reading 1: <u>Isaiah 40:1–5</u>, <u>9–11</u> Psalm: <u>Psalm 85:9–14</u> Reading 2: <u>2 Peter 3:8–14</u> Gospel: <u>Mark 1:1–8</u>

The Second Sunday in the Season of Advent for Year B shifts our focus from the final advent, or second coming of Christ at the end of time, to the first advent of Jesus by bringing us back to the very beginning of the Gospel of Mark. Unlike Matthew

and Luke who both begin their Gospels with the infancy of Christ, Mark goes straight into the public ministry of Jesus and its preparation in the figure of John the Baptist who is a very prominent figure during the Advent season because John is the precursor or the forerunner to Christ; he's the one who comes and announces Jesus in advance.

Pondering John the Baptist with Bishop Barron: <u>https://</u> www.wordonfire.org

"One of my favorite places on earth is the great Cathedral of Chartres in Paris...Chartres is famous, of course, for its transcendently beautiful stained glass, but it also boasts hundreds of exquisitely rendered sculptures of biblical figures. On the north porch of the cathedral, there is a statue depicting John the Baptist, and it shows him as an emaciated



All of us wear the expression of the John the Baptist of Chartres: *craving an absent good.*

And this makes him, *par excellence*, a saint of Advent. This holy season, of course, calls to mind the coming (adventus) of Jesus in history, but it also anticipates the arrival of the Lord at the culmination of the age, that time when, as St. Paul puts it, Christ will be "all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). This fulfillment, obviously enough, has not yet happened, for the world is still plagued by wars, famine, floods, earthquakes, and pandemics. And our lives are still marked by depression, failure, sin, and frustrated plans. None of this tells against the

> fact that God's creation is good, but it does indeed confirm the intuition that this life is, as the Salve Regina puts it, "a vale of tears." All of us, therefore, wear the expression of the John the Baptist of Chartres: craving an absent good.

> Might I suggest some practices for all of us Advent people during these upcoming weeks? First, we should deepen our lives of prayer. As John of Damascus told us long ago, to pray is to "raise the mind and the heart to God." It is to be consciously aware of God, present to him. Even if we wear a somewhat anguished expression as we do so, we should turn our faces purposely to God, and as we pray, we should allow our yearning for God to surface. C.S. Lewis told us that the aching of the heart for God—and it is a real suffering—is properly called "joy." Prayer, in a way, is the cultivation of precisely that sublime form of joy. One of the very best ways

figure (after all, the Bible tells us that he ate locusts and wild honey) holding an image of the Lamb of God. But what is most striking about the sculpture is the face of the Baptist. He bears an expression that bespeaks an aching, a longing, a looking toward something that he does not have but wants. Some of the saints that surround Chartres Cathedral seem blissful, already in possession of the great good for which they longed. But not John the Baptist. He yearns, pines, hungers still. to practice this form of spiritual attention is to spend an uninterrupted hour or half hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

A second Advent suggestion is this: wear the world lightly. The reason that we feel spiritual anguish is that the deepest desire of our heart cannot be met by any merely worldly good. We look to something beyond our ken and capacity precisely because we realize, consciously or unconsciously, that the hungry soul cannot be satisfied by any amount of esteem,

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riches, power, or pleasure. The attainment of any of these goods produces a momentary bliss followed by a letdown, a disappointment. But this truth mustn't be

allowed to depress us; rather, it should compel us to adopt the spiritual stance that the spiritual masters call "detachment." This means enjoying wealth and then letting it go; using power for good but not clinging to it; taking in honor and not caring a whit for it. It is to adopt the attitude that St. Ignatius of Loyola calls "indifference." Advent is a privileged time to practice this virtue.

A third and final suggestion is this: we should devote ourselves to doing one of the corporal works of mercy. These actsfeeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, etc.—are concrete acts of love. It is easy enough for religious people to speak of love in an abstract manner, but to love means to will the good of the other. Therefore, it is dense, real, particular, something that shows up. And heaven—that ultimate joy that we long for—is nothing other than love, love in the fullest possible sense, love without limit. Aguinas says that in heaven, faith will fade away (since we will see God face to face) and hope will disappear (since we would have attained what we hoped for), but love will remain (since heaven is love). So, when we love someone here below, in even the simplest way, we anticipate our return to the homeland, we stir our craving for heaven.

So, as we move into the spiritual space of John the Baptist in this season of Advent, we should pray, we should let go, and we should perform the works of mercy. Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 10, 2023



Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

Good Shepherd Anticipated (Sat. 23rd) Sunday 24th

5PM 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sat. 23rd) 4PA Sunday 24th 10:3

4PM 10:30AM

Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary (New Years Day) both fall on a Monday this year. Both are Holy Days of Obligation. All Catholics should be made aware that they need to attend Mass for Sundays AND Christmas and New Year's. And that one mass cannot count for both the Sunday obligation and the Christmas or New Year's obligation.

Christmas Eve: Sunday, Dec. 24

Good Shepherd	5PM, 7PM 10PM 'Midnight' Mass
Star of the Sea	4PM

Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 25

Good Shepherd 9AM, 11AM Star of the Sea 10:30AM

Sunday, Dec. 31 Feast of Holy Family

Good Shepherd Anticipated (Sat. 30th) 5PM Sunday 31st 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sat. 30th) 4PM Sunday 31st 10:30AM

New Years Day: Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary

Good Shepherd Anticipated (Sun, 31st) 5PM New Years Day 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sun, 31st) 4PM New Years Day 10:30AM



To qualify for your 2023 Tax **Receipt:**

Parish Donations must be received by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 4:30pm. Sunday Offerings received during Mass on Dec 30th and Dec 31st also qualify. As per Canada Revenue Agency, all cheques must be dated on or before December 31, 2023.

For credit card donations, go to support.rcav.org/parishes/ parish-offertory/sunday-offering/

Project Advance 2023

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge this year. In order to qualify for the 2023 Project Advance parish rebate, pledges must be received by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4:30pm.

Project Advance credit card donations, go to support.rcav.org/project-advance-2023/



King's Banquet Tuesday Soup Kitchen

seeks committed helpers ONE **TUESDAY A MONTH** 12:00 - 3:30pm for food prep or 3:30-7pm for serving/clean up Home Bakers also needed! Please contact Carolyn cawharton@shaw.ca or phone 778.277.2533

Congratulations to those recently **Baptised**:

Daniel Xu Easton Medved **Remington Medved**

Please pray for

Jason Eddleman, Delia Antunovich, Julia Nadon, Paul Tusnady, Ken Prout, Mercedes Sandoval, Judy Nault, Maria Kasprzyk, Jola Melone, Brian Hickey, Jack Plain, Danilo Sonido, Otto Witteveen, Anne Law, Dennis Capstick, Charles Lefaive, Anna Schott, Laurie Schlase, Peter Kingsland, Nancy Murchison, Stephanie Wideski, Fern McCann, Karine Tardif, Angus Heaps, Bob Keith, Adward Drabik, Rob McLellan, Glenn Brooks, Carmina Raponi, Susie Bencherif, Marci Nunez. Adria Tate. Helen McLellan, Amelia Solomon, Maxine Carpenter, Wolf Mashohn, Guilherme & Isaura da Ponte. Lydia McGrann, Theresa Kim, Manal Ibrahim, Rolf May, Dirk Post, Marian Nadelko. Maureen McLaren

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



Messiah in the Valley Saturday, Dec 16 7:30pm Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra

and Bella Voci a capella ensemble Tickets Youth \$10 | General \$45 Seniors \$40 | Family \$100 https://chilliwacksymphony.com/

Christmas Concerts at

Good Shepherd Church

Glory on a Christmas Morn Sunday, Dec 17 3:00pm

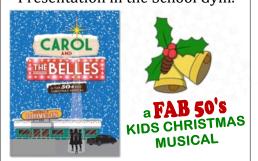
Stella Maris Christmas Chorale Tickets: Seniors & Students \$8.00 Adults \$10 | Family \$25.00 Tickets available at the Parish Office or at the door on Dec 17

Invitation to Parish Seniors:



Seniors Luncheon & School Christmas Presentation

Wednesday, Dec. 20th **Good Shepherd Church** Mass at 10:30am Lunch at 11:30am followed by 1:00pm Christmas Presentation in the School Gym.



Tickets \$5.00 each are available at the Parish Office and includes a delicious lunch, Christmas treats and the Christmas presentation by all the students of Star of the Sea School. Please note that we have a limited number of tickets are available. Drop in at the parish office for yours today!

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 10, 2023

St. Thérèse Widows Group



Our last meeting of the year is **Monday**, **December 11** in the Fireside Room following the 9 am Mass. Afterwards we are meeting for lunch at the Roadhouse Grille at 11am. We're looking forward to seeing you!

For more info. contact Marlene Johnston -604 538 5899 Mimi Bower-604 535 6288



Jesse Tree Outreach

You can

participate by picking an 'ornament' from the 'Jesse Tree' - each ornament is labeled with a store name for a gift card. Gift cards can be of any denomination and be from a variety of stores.

If you would like to donate \$50 or \$100 gift cards from Safeway/Thriftys or Save-on-Foods, please consider purchasing



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS grocery cards available after Mass or any time from the Parish Office.

Drop off gift cards at the Parish Office or in the Sunday **Collection Basket.**

Thank you for your generosity and for reaching out to someone in need this Christmas!

TRUE LIFE IN GOD **Prayer Group** invites you to pray the Holy Rosary with meditations.

visit: <u>www.tlig.org</u>

Meetings in Good Shepherd Church, Fireside Room on: **Tuesdays** 10am-11:30am Dec 19, Jan 16, 23, 30 and Fridays 10am-11:30am Ian 26, Feb, 23, Mar 22

Parent Coffee Connection Mondays 9:30am-10:30am

after school drop-off in the Welcomina Area at Good Shepherd Church.



Last date in 2023 is Dec 18 and first date back is Jan. 8, 2024

Dads & Kids 5 years +) **Gym**



Every Friday 6:45-8:00 PM in the school gym Last Gym nite of 2023 is Friday, December 22. Back on January 12.2024.

Prison Ministry Cards & Calendars

Catholic Charities Justice Services (CCJS) is seeking donations of 2024 Calendars and unused Christmas Cards for prison inmates. Please ensure donations are of a modest theme, suitable for prison chapels. Drop of donations at Good Shepherd Church. Thank you!



ADORATION CHAPEL OPEN Every Day **94M-9PM**



NOTICE to all weekly scheduled adorers: If you are going to be absent over the Christmas Season, please let us know as soon as possible. We thank you for faithfully making

vour Holv Hour of praver each week before the Blessed Sacrament.

Anyone willing to help cover an hour of adoration in the chapel on Christmas Day or any other day over the **Christmas Season please call** the number below. Thank

vou! Warmest wishes to everyone for the blessings of faith, joy and peace this Advent & Christmas Season.

Hours in need of a weekly visitor:

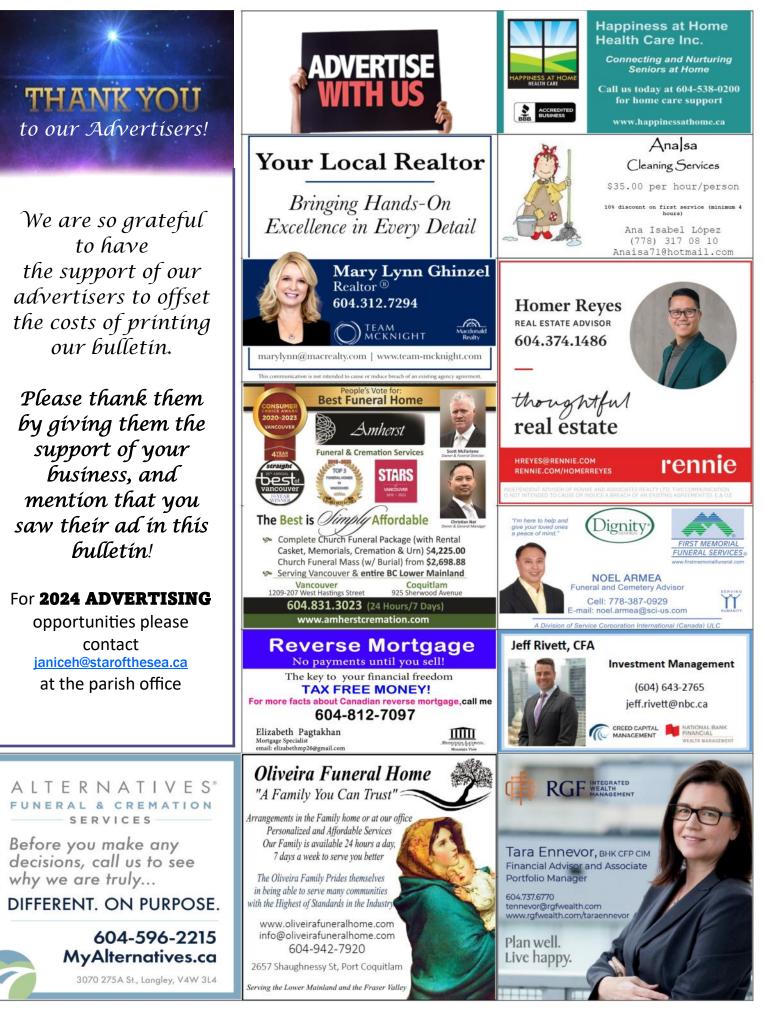
Sunday, 9:00am-10:00am Monday, 2:00pm-3:00pm Monday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Thursday, 12:00pm-1:00pm Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm Friday, 3:00pm-4:00pm Friday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm Saturday, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Substitutes needed for **Christmas:**

Mon., Dec. 25, Jan. 1, 8 - 2:00-3:00pm Mon., Dec. 25 – 4:00-5:00pm Mon., Dec. 25 – 8:00-9:00pm

For more information or to schedule a Holv Hour of adoration please call: Donna Sali 604 542 3070

First Sunday of Advent ~ December 3, 2023



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