

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

Third Sunday of Advent-December 17, 2023

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour... Isaiah 61: 1-2

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

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 17, 2023

PARISH STAFF:

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

An old Greek saying has it that to those whom the gods wish to make mad they give power. Human history would certainly attest to such an insight. From Nero to Hitler and all points in between, untold suffering death have been caused by those who loved power. No doubt power is a most attractive temptation. Jesus' temptation in the desert contained the offer of unlimited power if only he would bow down and worship Satan. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, there was a constant temptation to show his divine power in order to prove who he was. Many times the crowd wanted to make Jesus their king. Many times, Jesus rejected it and had to flee in order to be alone in prayer to the Father.

Temptation to power are not limited to the movers and shakers of world history. Each of us has a measure of power and each of us in under the power of others. Power provides a useful insight into character. We see what others (and ourselves) are made of us when we are given power, some control and responsibility.

With all of the above in mind, the figure of John the Baptist only grows in stature. John is clearly a man who does not allow his authority and role in salvation history to become raw power or self-righteous moralizing. In our gospel reading, John is asked a most important question: "Who are you?" What is John's identity in terms of God's work in history? John is not just another preacher. Yet the people are not sure who he is. Could he be the Messiah?

It would be easy for us to imagine John's answer running something like this: "Well, while I may not be the Messiah, I still have a big role to play. I am the voice, the one selected by God to do all the tough work of preparing for the coming Messiah. God chose me before I was in my mother's womb for this job. Clearly I have the right stuff and a good deal of clout with God. Hence, don't take me or my message lightly!" John offers no such answer. He is not the Messiah. He is not Elijah or one of the prophets come back to life. John has no illusions of grandeur. He does not need to pad his resumé. John feels no compulsion to impress others. John is "a voice in the desert, crying out: Make straight the way of the Lord." John is strong enough in his identity to know his place and play his part.

May the same be said of us. For we, Christians, are voices out in the wilderness of today. Our life of heralding God's gracious presence and future coming may be less dramatic than John's, but it is no less real. We too must resist the temptation of self-glory, self-righteousness and advancing of our own interest ahead of the gospel. Because we are so insecure, we often feel the need to become larger than life and more important in the eyes of others. We feel the pressure to be successful. Yet, God wants us, like John, to be faithful. For when we are faithful, we are most successful.

Fr. Augustine

This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Reading 1: <u>Isaiah 61:1–2</u>, <u>10–11</u> Psalm: <u>Luke 1:46–50</u>, <u>53–54</u> Reading 2: <u>1 Thessalonians 5:16–24</u> Gospel: <u>John 1:6–8</u>, <u>19–28</u>

The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent in Year B are a little surprising, because Year B in the church's liturgical cycle is dedicated to the Gospel of Mark, yet already on the third Sunday of this year we now switch over out of Mark into the Gospel of St. John. You may know that Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and Mark doesn't have an infancy narrative. And because Advent is slowly moving us toward the preparation for the birth and the coming of Christ, the Church supplements some of the aspects that are missing

from Mark's gospel with passages from other Gospels, and in particular with the Gospel of John. You'll see that later on in the year, when we get into ordinary time, there will actually be four or more Sundays that are taken from the Gospel of John 6, the Bread of Life discourse. So this is just part of Year B, Year B has a mix of Gospel readings.

There is another surprising aspect of today's readings: not only is the Gospel taken from John and not Mark, but the Responsorial Psalm is not taken from the Psalms, it is taken from the Gospel of Luke, and

in particular from the Magnificat of Mary, her famous song of rejoicing that she sings after Elizabeth greets her during the mystery of the visitation to Elizabeth. So, this gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on Mary's visitation to Elizabeth; this story connects us to **our Blessed Mother who was the first to share the Good News about her Son and who teaches us how to evangelize by presence, action, and word**.

First and most importantly, **Mary is the first evangelist because she carries within her the presence of Christ**. Long before the Church gave her the title, at that moment of encounter with Elizabeth, she is the *Theotokos*, the "God bearer," because of the presence of the Word made flesh in her womb. Long before St Paul declared "it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20), the truth of his words were seen in Mary in whom Christ was alive and living. By her visit to Elizabeth, Mary reminds us that mission begins not in actions and words, but by bearing Christ to others within ourselves as living tabernacles. Mary testifies to the primary importance of simply carrying Jesus even before there are words or deeds to show him and explain him. For us, this is a crucially important lesson. Before we ever try to speak or do anything in the name of evangelization, what must inspire our words and deeds is the indwelling of the Word within us. Mary was the first to bear Christ in a unique way, but we are also called to be Christ bearers and become walking tabernacles, carrying around the real presence of Christ, even though most of the time we are unaware of it. In our efforts to evangelize, we often focus first on what we need to do or say. But maybe

> the first thing we need to do is return to the well from which the water of actions and words are drawn: the real presence of the Lord within us, who has come and made his home in us (cf. John 15:4). And because he is present within us, it is Christ himself who mysteriously evangelizes through us in ways we often forget.

Second, Mary teaches us to evangelize by action. It was the presence of the divine Word within Mary that inspired her to "go in haste" and visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also with child. Being a living tabernacle of Christ's presence led to

her embarking on an adventure and leaving the safety of her home and to travel from Nazareth to a remote place outside Jerusalem. Immediately after she had given her "Yes" to God to be mother of his Son, Luke tells us that "Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah" (Luke 1:39), to be with her relative and friend.

Being committed to evangelization means that similar demands will be made of us. At her visitation, Mary is the archetype of the Church that is also called on mission. Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ will move us, uproot us, and often call us to leave the safety of familiar environments. This may mean us leaving our comfort zones by engaging our faith with friends, family, and the culture of our time. This going forth can be scary, but that is the nature of mission! The fear we feel is an invitation to greater trust and



Advent is a Season of Mercy

"Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God."

~ Blessed John Paul II – Sept 14, 1987 Homily



The purpose of this time is to allow Catholics to recognize the need for and availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. Confessions are available throughout the archdiocese. Go to: https://rcav.org/ christmas/confession

Advent Penitential services

Monday, Dec 18 at OLGC 7:00PM Tuesday, Dec 19 at IC Delta 7:00PM

Wed. Dec 20 @ Good Shepherd Church 7:00PM

Wed. Dec 20 @ Precious Blood 7:00PM Thursday, Dec 21 @ St. Bernadette 6:00PM

Simbang Gabi 2023

9-day Mass Novena Schedule

Friday, Dec. 157pm Good ShepherdSaturday, Dec 167pm Star of the SeaSunday, Dec 177pm Good ShepherdMonday, Dec 187pm Good ShepherdTuesday, Dec 197pm Good ShepherdWednesday, Dec 206pm Good ShepherdThursday, Dec 217pm Good ShepherdFriday, Dec 227pm Good ShepherdSaturday, Dec 237pm Good Shepherd

Snacks and refreshments will be shared after the Masses. continued from previous page...



asking the Holy Spirit to "grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness" (Acts 4:29). By going to the edges of society and culture, we are in communion with Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, but who also spent significant time with her in charity and practical support. **So let us not be afraid if**

God calls us into new pastures or the fire of his presence within us begins to move us in new directions. In the words of Pope Francis, we are called to be a "Church which goes forth . . . who takes the first step . . . who gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives . . . supportive, standing by people at every step of the way" (The Joy of the Gospel, 24). This is the spirit of Mary's visitation. May it be our spirit of mission as well.

And then Mary speaks. Her words flow from the Word made flesh within her and her gift of deep faith. What can we as missionaries learn from the gracious words of her wonderful Magnificat? First, that what we say comes from a place of humility as we seek every opportunity to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." It's not about our glory but God's glory and his kingdom. Second, we speak as believers whose lives have been touched by God's transforming goodness and joy, for "the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name." Everything we say exhibits a desire to share that joy so that others can know it too. Third, our words proclaim the presence and action of God in every situation and in everyone's life. This is what Mary does in her hymn of praise to God, and his action that reverses order by humbling the proud and exalting the lowly. Fourth, that the words we use to evangelize are prophetic—that they point to the God who keeps his promises throughout the history of Israel and the Church, from the time Abraham right up to the present day. Mary's awareness of the living Tradition of faith is evident in her Magnificat. She is firmly rooted in this Tradition and invites us to join her in thinking, feeling, and speaking in communion with our faith in the God of Abraham who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For a Church community called to mission, this episode from Luke's Gospel is a spiritual gem that deserves much prayer and contemplation. It connects us with the first disciple of Jesus and the first evangelist, who teaches us how to be missionaries by presence, action, and word. On this day may we join our Blessed Mother as she bursts into praise of the Lord in a spirit that overflows with missionary joy!

> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord And my spirit exalts in God my saviour...





Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

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

5PM 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sat. 23rd) 4PM Sunday 24th 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

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

Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 25

Good Shepherd Star of the Sea

9AM, 11AM 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

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

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/parishoffertory/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/

We have a few **Sunday Missals**

(Dec 3, 2023—Nov 24, 2024) left at Star of the Sea Church and Good Shepherd Church. **\$5.00** each while supplies last.



2024 Liturgical

Calendars available at Good Shepherd Church. \$2.00 each while supplies last.





Are you a registered parishioner?

It is expected for all who attend Mass at Good

Shepherd Church and Star of the Sea Church on a regular basis to consider this as their parish. Registration forms are available in the foyer of both churches and can be dropped in the Sunday Collection basket. Thank you!

Please pray for

Jason Eddleman, Delia Antunovich, Julia Nadon, Paul Tusnady, Ken Prout, Mercedes Sandoval. Judy Nault, Maria Kasprzyk, Iola Melone, Brian Hickey, Jack Plain, Danilo Sonido, Otto Witteveen, Anne Law, Dennis Capstick, Charles Lefaive, Anna Schott, 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:

Otto Rulofs

Join other **Dads** of the parish and their **school-age Kids** (5 years +) **every Friday 6:45-8:00 PM** in the school gym for sports and fellowship. Last Gym nite of 2023 is <u>THIS</u> <u>FRIDAY, DEC 22</u>. Back on January 12, 2024.

For more information, please contact Joseph Myers at Joseph.myers.j@gmail.com or 604-866-7887 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



TRUE LIFE IN GOD Prayer Group is inviting you to pray the Holy Rosary with meditations. visit: www.tlig.org

Meetings in Good Shepherd Church, Fireside Room on:

Tuesdays 10am-11:30am Dec 19, Jan 16, 23, 30 and **Fridays** 10am-11:30am Jan 26, Feb, 23, Mar 22

Parent Coffee Connection Mondays 9:30am-10:30am after school drop-off

in the Welcoming Area at Good Shepherd Church.



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

It's not too late to participate in Jesse Tree Outreach.

Pick an 'ornament' from the Jesse Tree and donate the item labeled on each ornament. Gift cards can be of <u>any denomination</u>. 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 in the Sunday Collection Basket or at the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity and for reaching out to someone in need this Christmas! *Our parish has already provided some of your donations to our Christmas Family Hampers!*

ADORATION CHAPEL OPEN Every Day 9AM-9PM

Are you ready for a powerful encounter with Christ this Advent?

Hours in need of a weekly visitor:

Sunday, 9:00am-10:00am Sunday, 5:00pm-6:00pm **Monday, 2:00pm-3:00pm** Monday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Tuesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:00pm Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm **Friday, 8:00am-9:00am** Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm **Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm Friday, 3:00pm-4:00pm Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm**

Substitutes needed for Christmas:

Sun., Dec. 24, 31 – 5:00-6:00pm Mon., Dec. 25 – 4:00-5:00pm Mon., Dec. 25 – 8:00-9:00pm Fri., Dec. 29 – 2:00-3:00pm

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



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