

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Welcome
The Solemnity of
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Sunday, January 7, 2024



Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising...They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Isaiah 60: 1-3...6

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

PARISH OFFICE:

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Phone: 604-531-5739

FOR AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:

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Email: parish@starofthesea.ca

Website: starofthesea.ca

OPEN: Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
(closed Noon-1pm)



STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

1153 Fir Street
White Rock, BC V4B 4A8

Weekend Mass

Saturday 4PM
Sunday 10:30AM

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



PARISH STAFF:

PASTOR:

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stammertrudi7@gmail.com

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Tom Cremer (ext. 274)
tomc@starofthesea.ca

My Dear Parishioners,

My New Year's resolution is to take a leap of faith and begin this wonderful new year by being grateful and believing more firmly that our God is far more powerful than every challenge, every sickness and every misfortune that life can throw at us! It is not new news to you, my dear parishioners, that the year 2023 was a very trying year for me. It all started in August, when I underwent major abdominal surgery. When I thought that I was on the verge of making a full recovery, just before Christmas, I was rushed to Peace Arch Hospital with severe and unbearable abdominal pain. It was diagnosed to be pancreatitis— inflammation of the pancreas—a side effect of the surgery I had in August. Although the pain was excruciating, what pained me the most was that I could not celebrate Christmas and New Year with my parish family.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Fr. Francis and the parish staff who kept the parish going while I was away. I am also very grateful to all you parishioners who offered prayers and good wishes. I was deeply moved and humbled by all who visited me at the hospital. May God bless you all!

In the past few days, I have taken some time to reflect on the mystery of human suffering and sickness in the life of a believer. Some may expect that sickness or tragedy should bypass believers; it is tempting to expect that the hand of God would prevent illness to befall those who love Him. God can, and in many cases, He does, but God does not just promise us protection, He promises healing as well. To be healed, you must first be afflicted. It is important for us to remember this, as the Enemy will try to convince us that the presence of sickness is always the result of the absence of God.

But that is not true at all. Remembering the promises of God in our moment of sickness and weakness can give us the strength to wait on Him. It is God's desire that we live in peace and security that comes from trusting in Him. The devil will always try to rob us of our peace, smear our sense of security and make us doubt the goodness of God. My dear parishioners, renounce that lie of the devil—instead, trust God always. Cling to His promises and open your heart to receive the healing that comes from Him alone. God does not abandon us in our pain and sickness, even if it is self-inflicted. He invites us to return to Him in our hearts and receive not just healing but total restoration. This should encourage us and remind us of just how much love God has for us. He cares about even the smallest details of our lives. It is not God's desire that we should live in pain and with sickness.

Here are some Bible passages about God's promise to heal us that lifted my spirits when I was in extreme pain, may they bless you too:

Luke 6: 19, Luke 13:12, Luke 8:50, Matthew 10:1, Psalms 30:2, Psalms 41:3,
Jeremiah 33:6, Exodus 23:25, Jeremiah 30:17, Psalms 147:3

Fr. Augustine



This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Reading 1: [Isaiah 60:1–6](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–13](#)

Reading 2: [Ephesians 3:2–3, 5–6](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 2:1–12](#)

Homily of Pope Francis, Epiphany 2022

Read full text at: www.vatican.va

The Magi travel towards Bethlehem. Their pilgrimage speaks also to us, **who are called to journey towards Jesus, for he is the North Star that lights up the sky of life and guides our steps towards true joy.** Yet where did the Magi's pilgrimage to encounter Jesus begin? What made these men of the East set out on their journey? They were wise men and astrologers, famous and wealthy. Having attained sufficient cultural, social and economic security, they could have remained content with what they already knew and possessed.

Instead, they let themselves be unsettled by a question and by a sign: **"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star..."** (Mt 2:2).

They did not allow their hearts to retreat into the caves of gloom and apathy...not contented to just plod through life, but yearned for new and greater horizons. It was this spirit of healthy restlessness that led them to set out on their journey; it was born of *desire*—that was their secret: the capacity to desire. Let us

think about this. **To desire means to fuel the fire that burns within us; it drives us to look beyond what is immediate and visible. To desire means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us,** since life is not just here and now, but something much greater. It is like a blank canvas that cries out for colour. For that is the way God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars.

With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that enlarge our gaze and drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of habit, beyond banal consumerism, beyond a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good. In the words of Saint Augustine, "our entire life is an exercise of holy desire".

Brothers and sisters, as it was for the Magi, so it is for us.

The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal. Sometimes we live in a spirit of a 'parking lot' - parked, without the impulse of desire that carries us

forward. We do well to ask: **where are we on our journey of faith? Have we been stuck all too long, nestled inside a conventional, external and formal religiosity that no longer warms our hearts and changes our lives? Do our words and our liturgies ignite in people's hearts a desire to move towards God, or are they a "dead language" that speaks only of itself and to itself? It is sad when a community of believers loses its desire and is content with "maintenance" rather than allowing itself to be startled by Jesus and by the explosive and unsettling joy of the Gospel. It is sad when a priest has closed the door of desire, sad to fall into clerical functionalism, very sad!**

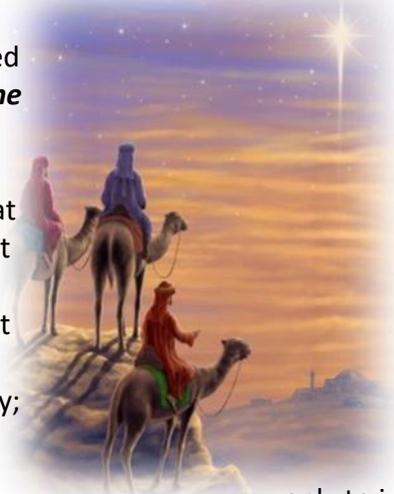
The crisis of faith in our lives and in our societies also has to do with the eclipse of desire for God. It

is related to a kind of slumbering of the spirit, to the habit of being content to live from day to day, **without ever asking what God really wants from us.** We peer over earthly maps, but forget to look up to heaven. We are sated with plenty of things, but fail to hunger for our absent desire for God. **And we find ourselves living in communities that crave everything, have everything, yet all too often feel nothing but emptiness in their hearts.** Indeed the lack of desire leads

only to indifference, disengaged parishioners, to stale communities, lifeless priests...

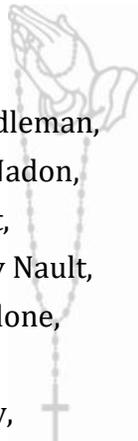
Let us look first to ourselves and ask: How is the journey of my faith going? This is a question that we can ask ourselves today, each one of us. Is my faith parked or is it on the move? Is it stale and monotonous, doing the same tiresome thing over and over, inspiring no one. **Faith, if it is to grow, has to begin ever anew.** It needs to be sparked by desire, to take up the challenge of entering into a living and lively relationship with God. **Does my heart still burn with desire for God?** Or have I allowed force of habit and my own disappointments to extinguish that flame? Today, brothers and sisters, is the day we should ask these questions. Today is the day we should return to *nurturing our desire.*

Want to know how to concretely RE-IGNITE (or IGNITE FOR THE FIRST TIME) that 'fire', and desire for God? **We can help**—contact the parish office.



Please pray for

Elizabeth van Zanten,
 Marilyn Wolfe, Jason Eddleman,
 Delia Antunovich, Julia Nadon,
 Paul Tusnady, Ken Prout,
 Mercedes Sandoval, Judy Nault,
 Maria Kasprzyk, Jola Melone,
 Brian Hickey, Jack Plain,
 Danilo Sonido, Anne Law,
 Otto Witteveen, 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,
 Maxine Carpenter,
 Wolf Mashohn, Amelia Solomon,
 Guilherme & Isaura da Ponte,
 Lydia McGrann, Theresa Kim,
 Manal Ibrahim, Rolf May,
 Dirk Post, Marian Nadelko,
 Maureen McLaren



ADORATION CHAPEL

OPEN Every Day 9AM-9PM

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Matthew 2:2

Come, O Come, let us adore Him!
 Come adore His very Presence.
 Kneel down and glorify Him in
 thanksgiving, prayer and
 jubilation, Our Emmanuel, our God
 with us!

The following hours are in need of
 a weekly visitor. Will you give
 Jesus an hour of adoration each
 week?

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

Hours in need of a Substitute:
 Sun., Jan. 7, 14, 21 – 8:00-9:00pm
 Mon., Jan. 8 – 1:00-2:00pm
 Mon., Jan. 15, 21, 28 – 2:00-3:00pm
 Sat., Jan. 27 – 4:00-5:00pm

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



CWL notice for meeting Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Our CWL Parish Executive is
 pleased to **invite all ladies** at Star
 of the Sea Parish to come and see
 the **new opportunities** within the
 CWL. Your presence is requested
 as we take this opportunity to
 showcase the new structural
 changes focused on our 3 pillars:
Faith – Service – Social Justice

The Catholic Women's League
 is active in the present and
 looks to the future with
 enthusiasm. For more than 100
 years, members have been
 making a difference nationally
 and even internationally as a
 member of World Union of
 Catholic Women's
 Organisations. The future
 needs you!

This meeting will be packed
 with introduction to your new
 Executive, socializing (with
 tasty treats), and looking
 forward. We are eager to hear
 new ideas and offerings, as we
 continue to harness both our
 traditions and rich legacy.

Our meeting will be held
Tuesday, January 9th,
 beginning at **6:30pm** in the
 Meeting Room at Good
 Shepherd Church. **Join us and
 find out more!**



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

In February, the Parish Office will be working
 on your **INCOME TAX RECEIPT** mailouts. And
 typically, we get a lot of returned mail!

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE
 HAS YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS.**



St. Thérèse Widows Group

Happy 2024 everyone! Our first meeting of the year will be on **Monday January 8th** in the Fireside Room after the 9am Mass. Looking forward to seeing you all.



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

Next **SENIORS & FRIENDS CAFÉ**



is on **Friday, January 19** after the 9am Mass in the foyer of Good Shepherd Church

Everyone welcome!



For dads of the parish and their school-age children (5yrs +)

Fridays 6:45-8:00PM
Star of the Sea School Gym

First Gym Night of 2024 is on
January 12th.

Contact Joseph Myers
Joseph.myers.j@gmail.com
604-866-7887 for more info

*coffee
conversation
connection*

Mondays after school drop-off, **9:30am-10:30am** in the Welcoming Area at Good Shepherd Church

First Parent Connection
Monday of 2024 is
on January 8th.

Join the Star of the Sea School Family



New Applicant Evening

is on

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

at **6:30pm** in Star of the Sea
Elementary School Gym.

Applications for the 2024-25
school year will be available
starting that evening.

Application deadline is
February 2nd.

SAVE THE DATE



FR. ROB GALEA PRESENTS:

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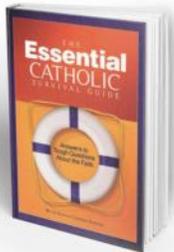
APOLOGETICS



To engage in apologetics is to defend your Faith by offering your understanding of Catholic doctrine and morals, and to knowledgeably respond to objections to them. All Catholics should be able to do this at some level, and your Parish library can help you prepare for these discussions. General books about apologetics are in section 239, and you can find other resources on specific topics throughout the library and on [FORMED](#).

Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3: 15

We have many options for learning how to respond to common questions about and arguments against the Church. **Essential Catholic Survival Guide:**

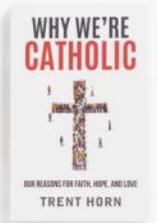


Answers to Tough Questions about the Faith

(239 Cat 2005) answers questions about Catholicism to help you navigate any conversation about your Faith.

Why We're Catholic: Our Reasons for Faith, Hope, and Love

(239 Hor 2017) will help you explain why we believe in anything at all and to answer common objections to the



Catholic Faith—both doctrinal and moral.

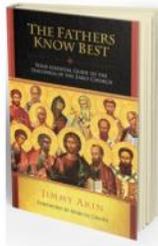
The New Apologetics: Defending the Faith in a Post-Christian Era

(239 Nel 2022) Features more than forty essays from leading Catholic apologists, theologians, and philosophers that appeal to both the head and the heart.



The Fathers Know Best: Your Essential Guide to the Teachings of the Early Church

(270 Aki 2010) introduces the teachings of the first Christians in a well-organized, accessible book.

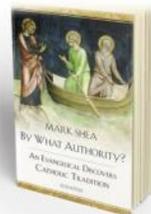


Meeting the Protestant Response: How to Answer Common Comebacks to Catholic Arguments

(239 Bro 2022) shows how typical protestant responses don't disprove the Catholic argument, and offers biblical, logical ways to defend our doctrines and practices.

By What Authority?: An Evangelical Discovers Catholic Tradition

(239 She 1996 and [FORMED](#) audio book) is an intellectual and spiritual awakening that will show you how a former protestant came to his belief that Tradition, as explained by the Catholic Church, is the truth of the



revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Eucharist: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics

(234.3 Pac 2013) shows the connection between the Eucharist and the Scriptures and answers many common questions.

Pope John Paul II was respected by many people around the world, even outside of the Church.

In his bestseller **Crossing the Threshold of Hope**

282 JP11 1994) he speaks from his heart about God; the dignity of man; pain, suffering, and evil; eternal life and the meaning of salvation; hope; the relationship of Christianity to other faiths and that of Catholicism to other branches of the Christian faith. C.S. Lewis is another author that even the non-religious will know.

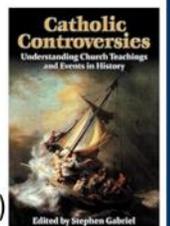


His **Mere Christianity**

(230 Lew 1952) makes Christian belief accessible and finds a common ground on which all those who have Christian faith can stand together.

Catholic Controversies: Understanding Church Teachings and Events in History

(270 Gab 2010) corrects common misunderstandings and myths perpetuated by the media, professors and the uninformed.



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...Library Feature continued

Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church (262.5

Bri 2021) clears up misconceptions about the council and reveals how—when properly understood and applied—it fosters a richer experience of being in the Church .

Contact us at

library@starofthesea.ca to join our newsletter list. Six times a year you will receive lists of new books & DVDs, spotlight topics, recommendations, links of interest and more!

The library is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday and after Mass on Saturday and Sunday. All items can be borrowed for one month.



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