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**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH**

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

**Weekday Mass**

Monday—Saturday 9AM

EVERY FRIDAY during Lent 6:30PM

followed by STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**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*

*Fourth Sunday of LENT—March 10, 2024*

St. Ambrose:

*The only reason for  
**Jesus** mixing clay  
with the spittle  
and smearing it  
on the eyes of the man  
born blind was to  
remind you that  
he who restored  
the man to health  
by anointing his eyes  
with clay is the very  
**One** who fashioned  
the first man out  
of clay. And that  
this clay is our flesh  
that can receive the  
light of eternal life through  
the sacrament of baptism....  
Let Christ wash you...  
and you too will be able to say,  
“I was blind and now I see.”*

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**PARISH STAFF:****PASTOR:**

Fr. Augustine Obiwumma  
[aobiwumma@rcav.org](mailto:aobiwumma@rcav.org)

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**FACILITIES MANAGER:**

Tom Cremer  
[tomc@starofthesea.ca](mailto:tomc@starofthesea.ca)

Dear Parishioners,

Those of you who attended the 11am Mass and 7pm Mass at Good Shepherd would have participated in the RCIA Scrutinies for the Elect—those in our parish preparing for baptism and initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil this year. There are three scrutinies, celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, and they are central to the Elect's spiritual preparation for initiation. The purpose of the scrutinies is "*to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect*" and "*to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good*" (RCIA, 141). The scrutinies hold significant power for both the elect and the baptized faithful, for as the elect celebrate the scrutinies in the midst of the community, the rites are meant to become a powerful experience that inspire the baptized (all of you!) to seek God's love and grace through the sacrament of reconciliation. In last week's bulletin, I published the additional Confession times and the Penitential Service coming up soon. Please take note and take advantage of these days of mercy.

As this time is a period of deepening conversion, not only for the Elect, but for everyone of us, I'm sharing here some testimonies written by those soon-to-be-Catholic on their recent experience at Holy Rosary Cathedral at the Rite of Election:

*In November 2022, I was blessed by an experience in a Catholic church in Mexico in which I felt I was being told to bring my son closer to God, and that this was the piece missing from our household and my parenting. Back home, I reached out to our local parish, Star of the Sea, to inquire about Catholicism and asked if I could be Baptized. Father Augustine and Janice explained about RCIA and invited me to take the classes. One year and four months later, I found myself shaking hands with our Archbishop Michael, as I passed from being a Catechumen to a member of the Elect. I have learned more about God in the last 6 months of RCIA than I had in my 40 years. I understand that God does indeed seek us out, and my fears of not being good enough to reach back out to Him were based in my lack of knowledge of the teaching within the Bible. As I journey through this season of Lent and the three Scrutinies, I see myself and my past reflected in these stories. How comforting to see that as a doctor comes to the sick, Jesus will accept me as I am and come to heal those deep wounds I have carried in silence for so long.*  
 ~ Ash

*As I look back on my journey to the Rite of Election, it's like finding a light in the darkness. Before, I didn't have any faith, didn't believe in anything beyond what I could see. But then, something changed within me. I started seeking, asking questions about the meaning of life and what lies beyond. Discovering the Catholic faith was like finding a treasure I never knew existed. The Rite of Election was a pivotal moment for me. Surrounded by others on the same journey, I felt a sense of belonging and purpose. It's like I finally found my place in the world. Now, as one of the Elect, I'm filled with a sense of wonder and excitement. The final steps before Easter are a time of preparation and reflection. Each day brings new discoveries and challenges, but I know I'm not alone. The support of my sponsors, my parish community, and the Church at large has been a guiding light. In conclusion, my journey from disbelief to faith has been a remarkable one. The Rite of Election is not just a ceremony but a symbol of my transformation. I'm grateful for this opportunity and eager to continue growing in my newfound faith as I prepare to embrace the sacraments of initiation.*  
 ~ Jack





*At the Rite of Election, a sense of reverence and solemnity fills my heart as I was officially called to the next stage in my journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Church. The ceremony was such a powerful symbol of the Church's embrace of us the seekers, who have spent months in preparation. As I stand before Archbishop Michael, I truly felt, through his warm smile and blessings, the acknowledgement and welcome into the community of faith with open arms.*

*It was a profound and moving experience that marks a pivotal moment in my life as I took another step in answering the call of the Lord and embracing my faith. I will believe in Him, worship Him and follow Him in the new chapter of my life. ~ Alex*

*After my first time at the Rite of Election, I felt a strong sense of belonging and importance. The ceremony was serious, with others like me, and the community made me feel really included, leaving a lasting impression on me. When they said I was 'chosen', I felt humble and thankful. Knowing I'm not alone on this journey but part of a bigger group of believers was really comforting. Making the commitment to follow the Catholic faith felt real and meaningful. The Rite of Election was a big moment, signalling the start of getting ready for Easter more seriously. Looking forward to Easter now comes with a fresh sense of responsibility and happiness as I keep going on this changing faith journey. ~ Siming*

Please continue your prayers for our Elect and Candidates and all those seeking our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I encourage anyone who wants to evangelize and bring others to Christ and His Church through our parish's RCIA, Religious Ed and Faith Formation programs to please come speak to me or contact Janice directly at: [janiceh@starofthesea.ca](mailto:janiceh@starofthesea.ca) All of us, not just the ordained or staff, have the responsibility of bringing others to a saving relationship with our Lord, through His Church.

*Fr. Augustine*

## Second Scrutiny Mass Readings:

Reading 1: Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm: 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Reading 2: Ephesians 5: 8-14; Gospel: John 9: 1-41



BENEDICT XVI ANGELUS—2 March 2008 <https://www.vatican.va>

On these Sundays in Lent the liturgy takes us on a true and proper baptismal route through the texts of John's Gospel: last Sunday, Jesus promised the gift of "living water" to the Samaritan woman; today, by healing the man born blind, he reveals himself as "the light of the world"; next Sunday, in raising his friend Lazarus, he will present himself as "the resurrection and the life". Water, light and life are symbols of Baptism, the Sacrament that "immerses" believers in the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Christ, liberating them from the slavery of sin and giving them eternal life.

Let us reflect briefly on the account of the man born blind (Jn 9: 1-41). According to the common mentality of the time, the disciples take it for granted that his blindness was the result of a sin committed by him or his parents. Jesus, however, rejects this prejudice and says: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him" (v. 3). What comfort these words offer us! They let us hear the living voice of God, who is provident and wise Love! **In the face of men and women marked by limitations and suffering, Jesus did not think of their possible guilt but rather of the will of God who created man for life.** And so he solemnly declares: "We must work the works of him who sent me.... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (v. 5).

And he immediately takes action: mixing a little earth with saliva he made mud and spread it on the eyes of the blind man. This act alludes to the creation of man, which the Bible recounts using the symbol of dust from the ground, fashioned and enlivened by God's breath (Gn 2: 7). In fact, "Adam" means "ground" and the human body was in effect formed of particles of soil. **By healing the blind man Jesus worked a new creation.**

But this healing sparked heated debate because Jesus did it on the Sabbath, thereby in the Pharisees' opinion violating the feast-day precept. Thus, at the end of the account, Jesus and the blind man are both cast out, the former because he broke the law and the latter because, despite being healed, he remained marked as a sinner from birth.

**Jesus reveals to the blind man whom he had healed that he had come into the world for judgement, to separate the blind who can be healed from those who do not allow themselves to be healed because they consider themselves healthy. Indeed, the temptation to build himself an ideological security system is strong in man: even religion can become an element of this system, as can atheism or secularism, but in letting this happen one is blinded by one's own selfishness.**

Dear brothers and sisters, let us allow ourselves to be healed by Jesus, who can and wants to give us God's light! Let us confess our blindness, our shortsightedness, and especially what the Bible calls the "great transgression" (cf. Ps 19[18]: 13): **pride**. May Mary Most Holy, who by conceiving Christ in the flesh gave the world the true light, help us to do this.

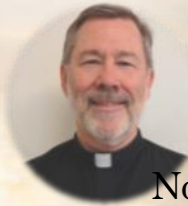
## Men's Lenten Retreat

**Saturday, March 16**

**10:00AM—4:00PM**

at Star of the Sea Church and Hall  
15262 Pacific Ave, White Rock

# LIAR? LUNATIC? LORD! WHO IS JESUS CHRIST FOR ME AS A MAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY



**Retreat Speaker:**

**Fr. Mark Gazin, CSB**

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<https://beholdvancouver.org/events/men-s-retreat-at-star-of-the-sea>



## *Please pray for*

Ivan Felipe Aragon, Jean Guy Tardif,  
Trudy Bishop, Theresa Desrochers,  
Margaret Benoit, Maria Lee,  
Givon Santos, Rose Cruz,  
Byrne Turner, Claude Vézina,  
Bernie Karoway, Murray Carpenter,  
Patrick Hamilton, Marilyn Wolfe,  
Jason Eddleman, Delia Antunovich,  
Julia Nadon, Ken Prout,  
Mercedes Sandoval, Judy Nault,  
Maria Kasprzyk, Jola Melone,  
Brian Hickey, Jack Plain,  
Danilo Sonido, Otto Witteveen,  
Charles Lefaive, Anna Schott,  
Peter Kingsland, Fern McCann,  
Nancy Murchison, Karine Tardif,  
Stephanie Wideski, Angus Heaps,  
Bob Keith, Edward Drabik,  
Rob McLellan, Glenn Brooks,  
Carmina Raponi, Susie Bencherif,  
Marci Nunez, Adria Tate,  
Wolf Mashohn, Amelia Solomon,  
Guilherme & Isaura da Ponte,  
Lydia McGrann, Theresa Kim,  
Manal Ibrahim, Dirk Post,  
Marian Nadelko, Maureen McLaren

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

of: Jennie Slovick



Next Sunday, **March 17th** is **Share Lent Sunday** (Solidarity Sunday). This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's **Create Hope: Reaping our Rights** campaign calls you to stand with small-scale farmers and peasant communities who feed the world while

caring for the Earth. You can do this by:

- Learning more by reading the Mini-magazine available at both Good Shepherd & Star of the Sea Churches and other resources available at [devp.org/lent/resources](http://devp.org/lent/resources).
- Donate online at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give) ; or
- Give to the Solidarity Sunday (2nd) collection on the weekend of March 16 & 17. Your generosity helps support over 73 projects in 36 countries around the world!



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES

**MONDAY, MAR 25:** Good Shepherd Church 9AM

**TUESDAY, MAR 26:** Good Shepherd Church 9AM

**WEDNESDAY, MAR 26:** Good Shepherd Church 9AM  
(No regular 6:30PM Confessions; priests at Chrism Mass)

### **HOLY THURSDAY, MAR 28**

**Stations of the Cross:** Star of the Sea Church 9:55AM  
(with SJPII Academy School)

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** Good Shepherd 7:00PM  
Adoration until Midnight

### **GOOD FRIDAY, MAR 29**

**Stations of the Cross :** Good Shepherd 9:00AM and 6:30PM  
Star of the Sea Church 11:00AM

Confessions at Good Shepherd Church: 10AM

**The Passion of the Christ Movie**  
at Good Shepherd: Showtimes: 12Noon and 4PM

**Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday**  
Good Shepherd 3:00PM  
Star of the Sea Church 3:00PM

### **HOLY SATURDAY, MAR 30**

(No regular 10AM Confessions on Holy Saturday)

**Blessing of Easter Food** Good Shepherd Church 12:00PM

**Easter Vigil** Good Shepherd Church 8:00PM

### **EASTER SUNDAY, MAR 31**

Good Shepherd Church 9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:00PM  
Star of the Sea Church

## **St. Thérèse Widows**

**Group** Next Meeting is on  
**Monday March 11** 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

## **INTERDENOMINATIONAL LENTEN LUNCH** on **THURSDAYS 12pm-1pm**

**Mar 14 Star of the Sea Catholic**  
**15262 Pacific Ave, WRock**

**Mar 21 St. John's Presbyterian**  
**1480 George St, WRock**

Lunch is by donation, with proceeds going to charities. Everyone welcome.

## **TRUE LIFE IN GOD**

### **Prayer Group**

is inviting you to pray the  
Holy Rosary with  
meditations. visit: [www.tlig.org](http://www.tlig.org)



Meetings in Good Shepherd Church,  
Fireside Room on:

**Tuesdays** 10am-11:30am  
March 12 & 19, April 2 & 9  
**Fridays** 10am-11:30am  
March 22, April 12

Next **SENIORS & FRIENDS**  
**CAFÉ** is on **Friday, March 15** after  
9am Mass at Good Shepherd Church  
*Everyone welcome!*

coffee  
conversation  
connection

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



**Fridays 6:45-8:00PM**  
**Star of the Sea School**  
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Contact Joseph Myers  
[Joseph.myers.j@gmail.com](mailto:Joseph.myers.j@gmail.com)  
604-866-7887 for more info

## **2024 First Holy Communion and Confirmation Dates**

First Holy Communion  
is on **Sunday, May 5**  
**2:00pm**

Good Shepherd Church

Confirmation is on  
**Friday, May 31**  
**6:30pm**

Good Shepherd Church





# Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

*Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.*  
- Saint John Paul II

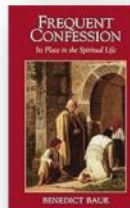
**The Untapped Power of the Sacrament of Penance: A Priest's View** (234.4 Wal 2005) will help you understand how priests cherish the sacrament of reconciliation as a powerful movement of God's healing love. If you have abandoned the confessional out of fear or apathy or the conviction that you don't have any "real" sins to confess, this book will put you back on track.

## **Frequent Confession: Its Place in the**

**Spiritual Life** (234.4 Bau 1984) explains the purpose of frequent Confession and shows how frequent

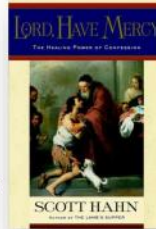
Confession can help you conquer sin (including venial sin), imperfections, self-love, and lukewarmness as well as improve your prayer life and give you growth in sacramental grace.

**7 Secrets of Confession** (234.4 Fly 1986) addresses a concern that any Catholics see confession as a means to an end: cleaning us up from sin so we can receive Communion, instead of seeing it as part of a journey to healing and holiness. If you do not yet look forward to Confession in the same way you look forward to Communion, this will change your life. **FORMED** has a discussion with the author under the same title.



## **Lord, Have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession**

(234.4 Hah 2003) Scott Hahn explores the sacrament of reconciliation and shows why it is the key to spiritual growth, particularly in these times of intense anxiety and uncertainty. Drawing on the history, the writings of the early Church, and the lives of the saints, he reveals the Church's teachings on penance, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

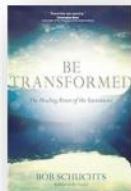


## **How to Make a Good Confession: A Pocket Guide to Reconciliation with God**

(234.4 Kan 2001) This practical guide shows you how to transform your confessions from embarrassing moments in a dark room into profound experiences of God's love. It will help you renew your sense of God's mercy and examine your conscience to bring your life into greater conformity with the light of the gospel.

## **In Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments**

(234 Sch 2017) Bob Schuchts explains how all our sacraments can fuel your emotional and spiritual healing and bring you closer to God, including how reconciliation restores purity and releases us from shame.



**FORMED** has several digital options including **Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession**, a video series that explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows

how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. It is available in both Spanish and English versions. Fr. Mike Schmitz's audio presentation, **Could God Ever Love Someone like Me?**, debunks the lies we often believe about not being good enough to approach Jesus for reconciliation. Other audio-only talks include **Freedom through Forgiveness: The Sacrament of Confession**, which provides examples and insightful stories, **Confession: Answering Common Objections**, which responds to objections to this sacrament, and **The Sacrament of Penance** which reminds us that confession is the ordinary means for the forgiveness of mortal sins after baptism and a veritable treasury of graces and spiritual strength.

Brother Francis will help you introduce this sacrament to your children with the video **Forgiven: The Blessings of Confession**

available on both **FORMED** and in the children's DVD section (234.6 Fra 2012).



Contact us at [library@starofthesea.ca](mailto: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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