



Welcome to Star of the Sea Parish

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time — June 28, 2026

PARISH OFFICE:

2250 - 150th Street
Surrey, BC V4A 9J3
604-531-5739

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

Email:
parish@starofthesea.ca

Website:
starofthesea.ca

FOR AFTER HOURS

EMERGENCIES:
604-831-1162 or
604-541-8036

PARISH TEAM:

PASTOR:
Fr. Augustine Obiwumma
aobiwumma@rcav.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR:
Fr. Edwin Kulling
ekulling@rcav.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
Anne-Marie D'Mello
parish@starofthesea.ca

ADMIN ASSISTANT:
Avryn Mendez
avrynm@starofthesea.ca

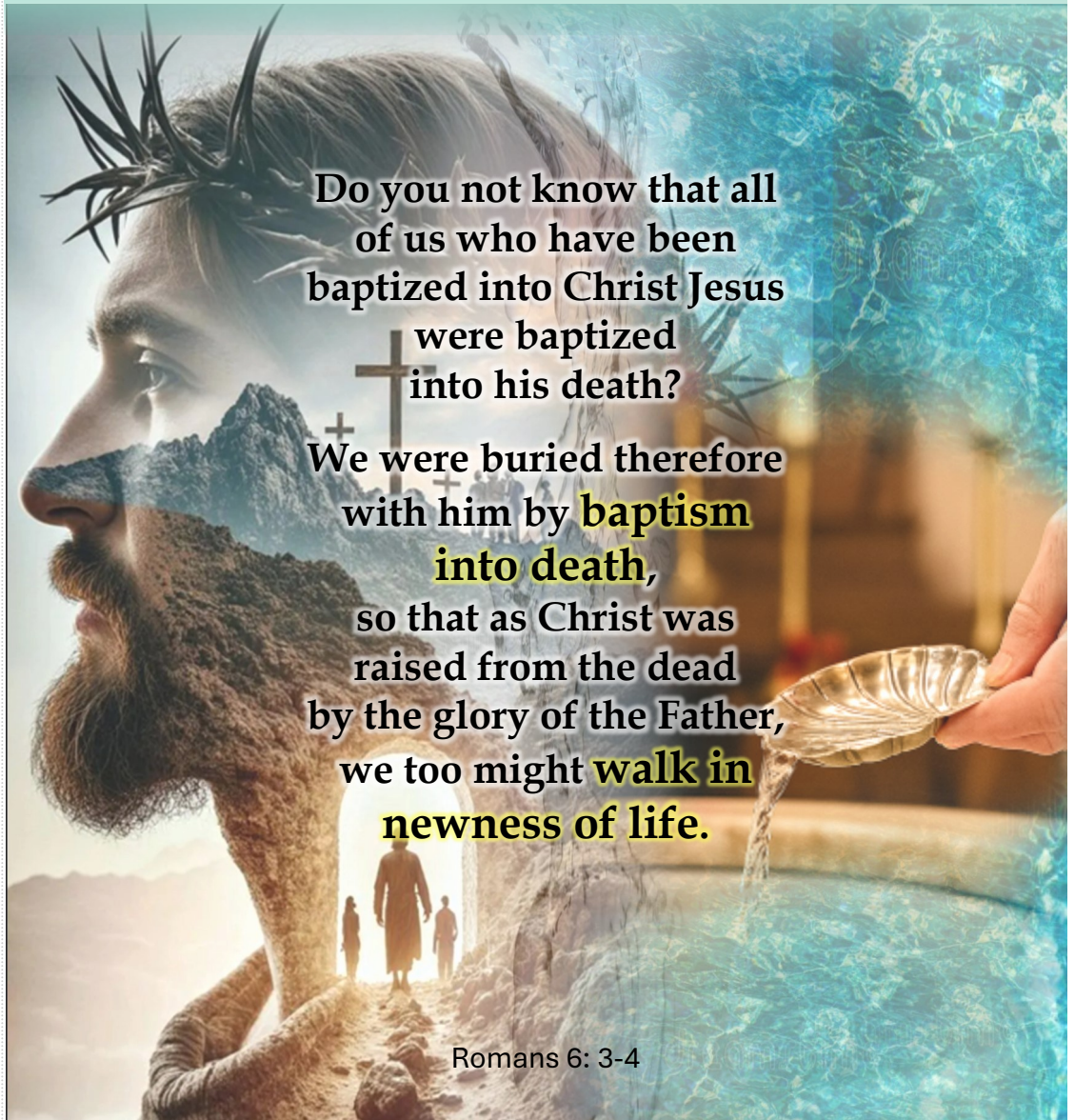
ACCOUNTING:
Lorena Grange
lgrange@starofthesea.ca

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS:
Janice Hamanishi
janiceh@starofthesea.ca

PREP:
Josephine Copon
prep@starofthesea.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY:
Trudi Stammer
stammertrudi7@gmail.com

FACILITIES:
Alex Leonardo
alexL@starofthesea.ca



Do you not know that all
of us who have been
baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized
into his death?

We were buried therefore
with him by **baptism**
into death,
so that as Christ was
raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might **walk in**
newness of life.

Romans 6: 3-4

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

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

Weekday Mass

Monday to Saturday 9AM

First Friday 6:30PM

Benediction and Adoration
follows First Friday Masses

Weekend Mass

Saturday 5PM

Sunday 9AM 11AM 7PM



LIVESTREAM Mass 11AM
[@SOSParish](https://www.youtube.com/@SOSParish)

Weekly Confessions at Good Shepherd

Wednesdays 6:30PM

Saturdays 10AM

STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

1153 Fir Street, White Rock, BC V4B 4A8

Weekend Mass

Saturday 4PM

Sunday 10:30AM

Happy Retirement!



Dear Parishioners,

Today is my last Sunday as Music Director for Star of the Sea Parish. It has been the most wonderful 27 years as Music director including 5 years as Youth ministry co-ordinator. It has been the best gift I have been given to be able to do this.

I would like to thank you—the congregation—for your support and participation in the music every Sunday and other liturgical events. I would also like to thank the many members of our Parish music community- the choirs, the instruments, the musicians, for their ongoing commitment and support of music ministry. Without them we would not have the full music program that we have in our parish.

The Hoing family has been a huge supporter of sacred music and sacred art and for this I am grateful. I would also like to thank our priests, past and present, who have supported this ministry and in particular, me.

Most importantly I thank God for giving me this gift and for giving me the opportunity to use it for Him in service of His people.

Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth:

Praise Him with songs and shouts of joy! Play music on the harps!

Blow trumpets and horns and shout for Joy to the Lord, our King.

Trudi



**SCHOOL DISMISSED...
FOREVER!**

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO:



Mrs. Sharon Pollock



Ms. Dorita Gaspar

Mrs. Sharon Pollock

After 28 years of faithful service at Star of the Sea, Mrs. Sharon Pollock is retiring. A devoted Catholic educator, music teacher, and Eucharistic Minister, Sharon has shared her deep faith, kindness, and love of learning with generations of students. We thank her for her many years of service and wish her God's abundant blessings in retirement.

Ms. Dorita Gaspar

After 40 years of faithful service at Star of the Sea, Ms. Dorita Gaspar is retiring. Through her leadership in physical education and athletics, and her unwavering commitment to every student, she has inspired generations of young people. Her joyful witness to faith and dedication to our school community will be deeply missed. We thank her for her remarkable service and wish her God's blessings in retirement.

<https://stbenedictchurch.org/homily-library/>

Jesus is either the Son of God or a madman! Jesus, the preacher and teacher of love, the one who gave us the two great commandments of love, today says, "**Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**" Who would demand such an absolute allegiance? Also, doesn't this contradict the 4th Commandment God gave to Moses to Honor thy father and thy mother?

The words of Jesus today are shocking to our ears and would have been an attention grabber in Matthew's day as well. However, in the Semitic mind of the time, the community would have understood Christ's bold statement to be a message about commitment, observing priorities, and allegiance. **In other words, God must be first in our lives.**

Many, if not most, in the crowds that followed Jesus around were not really committed; just as many aren't in our churches today. They were simply curious to see if this person who called Himself the Son of Man was the real thing. There was no cost to listen and observe. They came just close enough to see what He would do next. In today's language we would call them groupies or fans...well, Jesus doesn't want groupies or fans... **He wants to awaken half-hearted followers to the consequences of not being prepared to follow Him—in other words, to be a disciple.**

To understand this Scripture more fully, we need to look through the Middle Eastern eyes of the time to grasp the message as the people would have understood it. Matthew was writing to a community who were largely, but not exclusively, converts from Judaism. There was some tension in the community about the difference between the God of the Torah and this Jesus, the Messiah, the one sent from God who claimed to be God. They were familiar with the Old Testament and the practices of piety and now had to expand their horizons to understand the teachings of Jesus... teachings that appeared to be radical. Matthew presents the words and deeds of Jesus as guides for the conduct of Christian disciples.

God looked upon us who rejected His friendship, and instead of rejecting us in return, He developed a plan to win us back. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that plan. Jesus is God, come to earth, to win back our friendship, to restore the right relationship with God. Mathew calls upon the Christian community to identify with Jesus;

Jesus who is caring and tender to the poor and needy; caring and tender to the sinner and the outcast-but who is severe toward the proud and self-righteous, especially those who put their material possessions before the service of God.

Jesus doesn't pull any punches, He never does. He knew that the people of His time wrestled with the same issues we wrestle with today: keeping God above everything else... even when the world wants to pull us in other directions.

Everyone has priorities. Some have never chosen or experienced the right ones and need to redefine them. Others have known the right priorities and merely need to rediscover them. Perhaps we've allowed ourselves to drift away from them. We've replaced fellowship with entertainment, giving with buying, and family time with hi-tech entertainment, social media, and other distractions. These distractions can be unhealthy blinders we put on because it is more comfortable to not look beyond our own little corner of the world.

For some of us worship has become an obligation. We arrive at Mass late; we leave Mass even before the priest does. One hour of Mass seems so long and any extra minutes at Mass prompt a flurry of complaints. Spending time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament does not fit into our routine. And we all know the sad statistics, less than 33% of Catholic Christians believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

If we don't read today's Gospel carefully, we might get the wrong impression of what Jesus is saying. **Jesus, the Prince of Peace is telling us that in loving us so completely, God expects us to return that love. He expects us to receive His love completely and return it to Him. Next, He expects us to love ourselves and love one another. Jesus invited His disciples, and He invites us to value unity with Him above and before all other unions.**

Jesus is not saying we are to turn our backs on our families and friends. He is not saying that we should not enjoy the good things in life. Instead, **we are asked to think of what sacrifices are we willing to make to be people of God.** What is the cost to us of being a Christian? Has our fidelity to the Gospel ever cost us money, friends, opportunity, or family harmony?

The negative press and the adverse comments the Church is subjected to are actually signs of hope. They tell us that what we have to say is not met with indifference. They tell

reflection continued on next page...

us that our lives and our faith have something to say about the world we live in. When people oppose the teachings of Christ and the inclusion of God in their lives, we know we have hit a nerve. **To follow Jesus is to set our faith on fire so that we can burn brightly for all to see.** Let our faith light up the darkness right here where we live: in our homes, in our workplaces, in our community, and in our church. Let our faith reach out across the world as we ease the burdens of others.

No, Jesus does not preach hate. Jesus wants us so connected to God that we radiate His love.

And since God is love... **that love can only come if He is the focal point of our lives. And the key to making Him the focal point of our lives is prayer.** ... conversation with Jesus. Whether it be structured prayer or straight up talking, this is how we look at Jesus and this is how Jesus looks at us.

Dominican priest, Father Peter John Cameron, the founding editor of *Magnificat* writes extensively on prayer and its value in drawing us closer to Christ. He says, *"to pray, is to be held in the loving gaze of Jesus Christ, and how lost we would be without it."*

The spiritual effects of Christ's gaze are boundless. Even our sins can't stand in the way of the transforming gaze of Jesus. Pope Francis tells us, *"Jesus' gaze always uplifts us, it raises us. His is a gaze that makes us develop. It encourages us because it makes us feel His love. When we feel His love, He gives us the courage we need to follow Him. When we let the Crucified Jesus gaze on us, we are recreated, we become a new creation."*

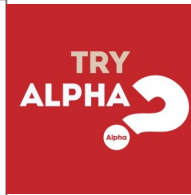
There are four things we find in the gaze of Jesus:

First, **Christ's gaze is always a gaze of love.** Christ sees us as we are, and He still loves us.

Next, **Christ's gaze calls us to give a response.** It asks something of us, namely, will we love Him back?

Third, **Christ's gaze asks us to be humble, to recognize our sinfulness.** It doesn't have to be a hopeless recognition, because in the same gaze we are also able to recognize His mercy and compassion.

Finally, **Christ's gaze calls us to mission.** If we have responded to Christ's gaze by recognizing His love, by loving Him back, and by repenting of our sins, then Christ gives us the mission of becoming saints, and of setting the world ablaze with His love. Never underestimate the gaze of Jesus. St. John Paul II tells us *"God is present where the eyes meet."*



Alpha is a welcoming space to explore life, faith, and meaning through conversation, community, and honest discussion. Each session includes food, a short video, and open discussion in a relaxed environment.

Perfect for anyone curious about Christianity, returning to faith, or wanting to invite a friend.

Join us **Saturdays** at **10:30am** in Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room

Register at: <https://holyjourney.ca/alpha/> or contact: nasrink@starofthesea.ca

Teen Helpers Needed!!

Our Alpha program is looking for 2–3 responsible teenagers to assist with childminding during Saturday sessions at Good Shepherd.

Time: Saturdays, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

If you enjoy spending time with children and would like to be part of supporting families in our parish, please contact Nasrin at nasrink@starofthesea.ca



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GROWTH

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COMMISSION

Join us for **Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) faith studies** focused on Scripture, discipleship, prayer, and living the Gospel in everyday life.

Open to adults at all stages of faith who desire to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus, become more confident in sharing their faith, and respond more fully to God's call to go forth and make disciples.

Whether you are seeking renewal, deeper formation, or a stronger sense of mission in your faith journey, all are welcome.

Mondays 6:30pm Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room. Register at: <https://holyjourney.ca/cco-2/> or contact: nasrink@starofthesea.ca

Please pray for:

John McMillan, Joseph Russell,
Mary Miekelson, Norman Landry,
Inge Nasato, Michael Askin,
Anthony & Joyce Jongedijk,
Elsie Hoday, Jean-Guy Tardif,
Josh Pereira, Lola Kennedy,
Rollin Theabeau, Maria Passerelli,
Clare Marshall, Nancy Murchinson,
Julia Nadon, Diane Val.Camp,
Desrey Lennon, Ray Weber,
Amber O'Connor,
Baby Natalie Hohmann,
Ken Wharton, Jose Coelho,
Paulie Tomé, Norah Jode,
Aurelio Ralar Jr., Melissa Kisielius,
Sr. Glenys, Therese Desrochers,
Bill Rivard, Ewald Stammer,
Donna Usselman, David Usselman,
Rory Usselman, Manal Ibrahim,
Monika Kessler, Dolores Alvarado,
Wade Carpenter, Marie Hosseini,
Corrie van den Boogaard,
Nicole Larouche, Odette Slezas,
Maria Seo, Anita Perrault,
Elizabeth Armas, Lynn Carruth,
Ed Wingenbach, Shirley Riehl,
Vanessa York, Glenn Brooks,
Ann Conte, John Becher,
Christine Algard, Margaret Benoit,
Lorne & Cathy Houldson,
Jack Plain, Marian Nadelko,
Carmina Raponi, Marilyn Wolfe

*Please pray for the
Repose of the Souls*

of: Pascal Del Guercio



Pro-Life Mass

The Archdiocese of Vancouver hosts monthly Pro-Life Masses to pray for the sanctity of human life on the first Saturday of each month. For July, the Pro-Life Mass will be at:

Good Shepherd Church
Saturday, July 4, 9AM
with light reception to follow.

Everyone is welcome.



OCIA is the official process by which adults and older children (16 years +) enter or complete their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church.

Who is OCIA for?

The OCIA is primarily designed for the unbaptized who wish to be baptized in the Catholic faith; as well as Christians baptized in other denominations who want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church

I'm a baptized Catholic, is OCIA for me?

If you have been baptized as an infant, but have not received further formal instruction in the Catholic Faith nor the sacraments of Confirmation or the Eucharist, OCIA is indeed for you. If you are a fully initiated Catholic who wishes to deepen your faith, there is also a place for you to learn and grow.

How long does it take to become Catholic?

Becoming Catholic is a life-long commitment. However, the Christian initiation process typically lasts for several months or longer in order to prepare to take this step. Participants in the initiation process meet at least once a week, plus Mass on Sundays. The initiation of individuals who are ready to make the commitment to become new members of the Catholic Church usually takes place at Easter.

Come to the **Open House on July 14th and see** what OCIA can offer you! Contact Janice by email at janiceh@starofthesea.ca for more information.



For ALL PARISH YOUTH
(Grade 6 and up)

SUNDAY, JULY 5th
Starts at 5PM
at Good Shepherd Church

The PS 98 Youth Encounter is a time of praise and worship, sharing reflections on God's word to build a community of young people. Come meet other youth in the parish and enjoy pizza together! 🍕

Tuesday, July 14,
2026

6:30pm—8:30pm
Good Shepherd Church

SUMMER Vacation Bible Camps

PLEASE REGISTER by July 2nd

Keep children engaged this summer with two exciting themed weeks of faithful lessons, interactive activities & fun games.

**Monday to Friday, 9AM–1PM
at Good Shepherd Church**

Blaze into some Wild West Fun as 'outlaws' for God from **July 6-10**

Travel into space for a Cosmic Quest while discovering God's Great Universe from **July 13-17**



These camps support children's faith formation by capturing their attention & focus through fascinating bible stories, and getting them involved with interactive games in a safe & fun environment.

Register now by completing the form and submitting to the parish office **by July 2nd**. Forms can be found on our parish website www.starofthesea.ca. Hardcopies available on the PREP bulletin board in the foyer of Good Shepherd Church and from the parish office.

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