



Welcome to Star of the Sea Parish

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 12, 2026

PARISH OFFICE:

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

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

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parish@starofthesea.ca

Website:
starofthesea.ca

FOR AFTER HOURS

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604-541-8036

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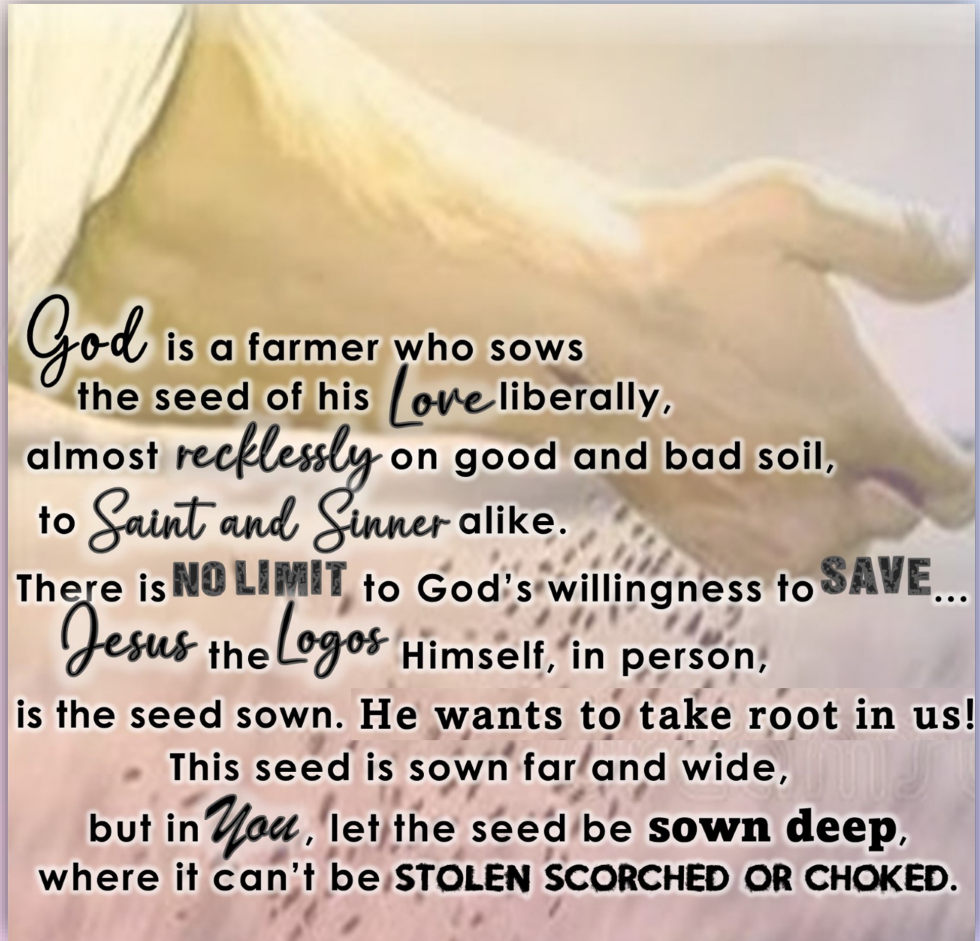
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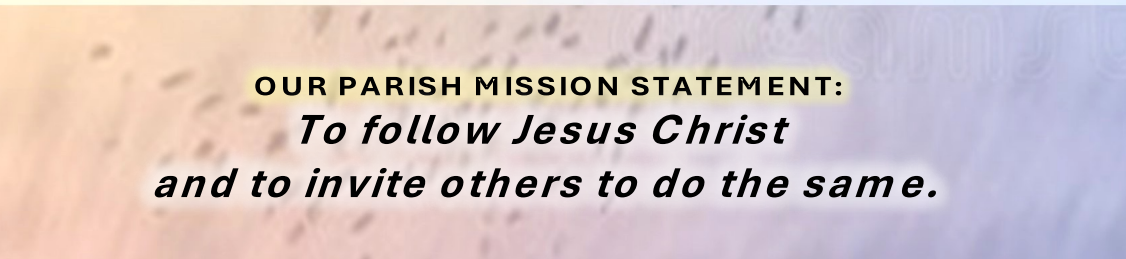
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FACILITIES:
Alex Leonardo
alexL@starofthesea.ca



God is a farmer who sows
the seed of his *Love* liberally,
almost *recklessly* on good and bad soil,
to *Saint and Sinner* alike.
There is **NO LIMIT** to God's willingness to **SAVE...**
Jesus the *Logos* Himself, in person,
is the seed sown. He wants to take root in us!
This seed is sown far and wide,
but in *You*, let the seed be **sown deep**,
where it can't be **STOLEN SCORCHED OR CHOKED.**



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

Dear brothers and sisters, I am pleased to welcome you in this, my first general Audience. Today I will resume the cycle of Jubilee catecheses, on the theme “Jesus Christ Our Hope”, initiated by Pope Francis.

Let us continue today to meditate on the parables of Jesus, which help us to regain hope, because they show us how God works in history. Today I would like to dwell on a parable which is somewhat peculiar, because it is a sort of introduction to all the parables. I refer to that of the sower (cf. *Mt 13:1-17*). In a certain sense, in this account we can recognize Jesus’ way of communicating, which has a great deal to teach us for proclaiming the Gospel today.

Every parable tells a story that is taken from everyday life, yet wants to tell us something more, to refer us to a deeper meaning. The parable raises questions in us; it invites us not to stop at appearances. Before the story that is told or the image that is presented to me, I can ask myself: where am I in this story? What does this image say to my life? In fact, the term “parable” comes from the Greek verb *paraballein*, which means *to throw in front of*. **The parable throws before me a word that provokes me and prompts me to question myself.**

The parable of the sower talks precisely about the dynamic of the word of God and the effects it produces. Indeed, **every word of the Gospel is like a seed that is thrown on the ground of our life.** Jesus uses the image of the seed many times, with different meanings. In

chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew, the parable of the sower introduces a series of other short parables, some of which talk precisely about what is happening on the terrain: the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, the treasure hidden in the field. **What, then, is this soil? It is our heart, but it is also the world, the community, the Church. The word of God, in fact, makes fruitful and provokes every reality.**

At the beginning, we see Jesus who leaves the house and gathers a great crowd around him (cf. *Mt 13:1*). His word fascinates and intrigues. Among the people there are obviously many different situations. **The word of Jesus is for everyone, but it works in each person in a different way.** This context allows us to understand better the meaning of the parable.

A rather unusual sower goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls. He throws the seeds even where it is unlikely they will bear fruit: on the path, on the rocks,

among the thorns. This attitude surprises the listener and induces him to ask: how come?

We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love! **The way in which this “wasteful” sower throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us.** Indeed, it is true that the destiny of the seed depends also on the way in which the earth welcomes it and the situation in which it finds itself, but first and foremost in this parable Jesus tells us that God throws the seed of his Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of ours: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life’s worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. **This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God’s generosity and mercy.**



Sower at Sunset, 1888 by Vincent Van Gogh

In telling the way in which the seed bears fruit, Jesus is also talking about his life. **Jesus is the Word, he is the Seed. And the seed, to bear fruit, must die. Thus, this parable tells us that God is ready to “waste away” for us and that Jesus is willing to die in order to transform our life.**

I have in mind that beautiful painting by Van Gogh, *The sower at sunset*. That image of the sower in the blazing sun also speaks to me of the farmer’s toil. And it strikes me that, behind the sower, Van Gogh depicted the grain already ripe. It seems to me an image of hope: one way or another, the seed has borne fruit. We are not sure how, but it has. At the centre of the scene, however, is not the sower, who stands to the side; instead, the whole painting is dominated by the image of the sun, perhaps to remind us that it is God who moves history, even if he sometimes seems absent or distant. It is the sun that warms the clods of earth and makes the seed ripen.

Dear brothers and sisters, in what situation of life today is the Word of God reaching us? **Let us ask the Lord for the grace always to welcome this seed that is his Word. And if we realize we are not a fruitful soil, let us not be discouraged, but let us ask him to work on us more to make us become a better terrain.**

Dear Parishioners,

Which parent among you haven't at least once in frustration, raised your voice at your children demanding: "Why aren't you listening?" Or for that matter, wife to husband or husband to wife! We've all had the experience not being heard or understood, as if what we are saying is falling on 'deaf' ears. Turning that around, can we ourselves look without seeing or hear without listening or understanding? I think the answer would be a resounding YES!



Jesus says in today's Gospel: **"To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand."** (Matthew 13:12-13) These verses come immediately after Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower to the crowds from a boat. In that parable, seed fell on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in rich soil. Only the seed on the rich soil grew and produced good fruit. Our Lord knew then and knows now that many who hear the Word of God and even were eyewitnesses to his miracles did not allow His teachings and miracles to produce faith in their hearts.

This Gospel passage is especially important for those who have been Catholics for many years but have become stagnant in their faith. When someone goes to Mass every week, listens to the Gospel and shares in the Eucharist but fails to continually grow in holiness and understanding of the Mysteries of Heaven, then they will slowly lose even the little faith they have. They become lukewarm Catholics who go through the motions but fail to produce the good fruit that comes from authentic faith. *Why?* Simply because faith is a gift! Like love, faith needs to be given away and shared in order to grow.

When you look at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Do you both see and perceive the action of God in your life and in the world around you? Are you actively engaged with the life of grace and find that you grow closer to God every day? Or, sadly, have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the *fruitful* practice of your faith?

My dear parishioners, our parish is offering many different opportunities (see next page) for you to respond to the Lord in faith so that the flame He put there at your baptism, can slowly by His Grace be fanned into a roaring fire!

This coming Tuesday, July 14 is our OCIA open house. Many of you witnessed all those who've had their lives changed because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who were brought into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Divine Mercy Sunday and at Pentecost this year. The Lord is doing mighty things in our parish! I urge you *not* to be a bystander, *not to look but do not see, hear but do not listen*. Extend yourself a little. Get involved — give to God what little you have, and watch Him do the multiplying!

Fr. Augustine



Tuesday, July 14, 2026

6:30pm—8:30pm

Good Shepherd Church

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!

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.



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CLP

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

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OUR NEXT CLP WILL START ON SATURDAY JULY 18

6:00 - 9:00 PM AND CONTINUES ON SUCCEEDING WEEKENDS

at GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Be part of a community that prays together, grows together, and serves together.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Noel Armea 778 387 0929

Marie 604 724 3518

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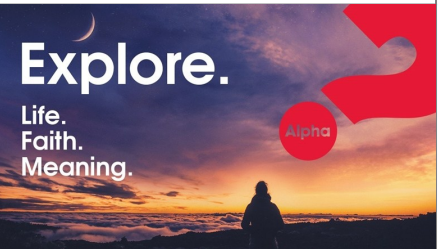
Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) faith studies— focused on Scripture, discipleship, prayer, and living the Gospel in everyday life.

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.

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

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring life, faith and meaning. 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. Saturdays 10:30am in Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room. Register at: holyjourney.ca/alpha/ or contact: nasrink@starofthesea.ca

Adoration Chapel Open 8AM-9PM 7 days a week

"You, Lord, are near to all who call upon you . . ." Psalm 145:18

Hours in need of a weekly adorer:

- Sunday, Noon-1pm Tuesday, Noon-1pm
Sunday, 1pm-2pm Tuesday, 4pm-5pm
Sunday, 5pm-6pm Wednesday, 1pm-2pm
Monday, 11am-Noon Thursday, 3pm-4pm
Monday, 2pm-3pm Friday, 9am-10am
Monday, 5pm-6pm Friday, 11am-Noon
Tuesday, 11am-Noon Friday, 1pm-2pm
Friday, 2pm-3pm

Hours in need of a Substitute:

- Friday, July 17, 24 - 6:00-7:00pm
Friday, July 31 - 2:00-3:00pm
Saturday, July 18, 25 - 9:00-10:00am
Saturday, July 18, 25 - 6:00-7:00pm

If you are able to offer ONE HOUR over the summer to fill in for those on vacation, or for more information, please call: Donna Sali 604 542 3070

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point as we explore the fundamental questions of our Catholic faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.



Good Shepherd Church 9:00am-10:30am TUESDAYS starting OCTOBER 6th

For more information or to register, contact Kayla or Mary-Ann openheartmoms@gmail.com

walking with purpose www.walkingwithpurpose.com

Thank you to all those who attended the Pro-life Mass & Prayer Vigil last Saturday, July 4 at Good Shepherd Church.

One of the fundamental answers to the culture of death in our society is prayer— only God can change hearts!

Please join your voice with others in the Archdiocese as we pray on the first Saturday of each month at a different parish for a new culture of life.



Join Praise & Worship at Good Shepherd Church on the 3rd Sunday of each month, **4:00-6:00pm**

July 19, August 16

Protecting Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

We are in the process of updating our **Safe Environment Policies**, ensuring that our parish adheres to the thorough process for volunteer screening and strict guidelines for reporting abuse as set out by our Archdiocese. These policies require all clergy, employees, and volunteers in high-risk roles to pass a BC Criminal Record Check (CRC) with a Vulnerable Sector and receive proper Safe Environment Training. High-risk roles include:

- anyone in children’s ministries
- anyone in contact with those who are susceptible to abuse or exploitation by virtue of his/her mental or physical impairment
- anyone visiting the homebound/hospitalized

If you have received an email requesting that you obtain a CRC, please follow the steps to obtain a valid clearance. There will be Safe Environment Training Day scheduled soon for your participation. Thank you for helping us adhere to these policies. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions at this time:
604-531-5739

email: avrynm@starofthesea.ca

Please pray for:

Jack Koning, John McMillan, Joseph Russell, Mary Miekelson, Norman Landry, Inge Nasato, Michael Askin, Elsie Hoday, Anthony & Joyce Jongedijk, 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: Henri Casalles
John McNamee
Chelsie Ricci



2026 Pro-life Mass & Prayer Vigil

+ Aug. 1, 2026, at 9 a.m.
St. Pius X
1150 Mt. Seymour Road, North Vancouver

+ Sept. 5, 2026, at 9 a.m.
Immaculate Conception
3778 W 28th Ave, Vancouver

+ Oct. 3, 2026, at 9 a.m.
St. Helen
3860 Triumph Street, Burnaby

+ Nov. 7, 2026, at 9 a.m.
St. Michael
9387 Holmes Street, Burnaby

+ Dec. 5, 2026, at 9 a.m.
St. Joseph
1612 E 18th Avenue, Vancouver

The Next **Baptism Preparation Class** for parents wanting Baptism for their child(ren) is on **Saturday, August 15, 10AM—Noon** in **Good Shepherd Church**



This class is mandatory for parents/godparents. Please register for the class by contacting the parish office 604-531-5739 parish@starofthesea.ca

Stronger Together

PROJECT
ADVANCE
2026

STEWARDSHIP IN THE EYES OF GOD

True success in the eyes of God isn't measured by our material goods, but by how we use them to draw closer to Him.

God calls us to share what we have to help others. This year, your gift to Project Advance will directly support various programs of evangelization, helping us share the Gospel and build a vibrant community of faith.

By supporting vital Church ministries, Project Advance offers everyone a beautiful opportunity to exercise Christian stewardship.

Your gift directly strengthens our parish and supports Archdiocesan charities, youth programs, and Catholic education.

Thank you so much for your generous and prayerful support!

Ways to Give:

By Phone: Call 604-683-0281

In-Person: Drop by our parish office

Online: Use QR Code



Donations matched
until July 14

Following the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, please consider donating to Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. Donations will support its local partner, **Caritas Venezuela**, in providing urgent help to affected communities, including food, water, shelter, clothing, hygiene supplies, medication, and other emergency assistance. **Every dollar donated for Venezuela until July 14 will be matched by the Government of Canada, doubling the impact of your gift.** Give at: devp.org/en/make-a-don



Let us know by emailing parish@starofthesea.ca if we can help you make connections within other members of our big parish family.

Car Wanted A parishioner is looking for a dependable vehicle with a low cost of ownership. If you have one or know of a friend selling one, please let the parish office know.

White Rock Condo For Rent

1500 sq-ft Condo in the Five Corners area of White Rock. It has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a den and an underground secure parking spot. Rent \$3000 per month includes heat and gas For more information call 778-549-0856

Plots For Sale at Gardens of Gethsemani: Two rare, difficult to come by side-by-side upright marker burial plots in St. Anthony's Garden at the Gardens of Gethsemani Cemetery. Call or text 604-653-2986 and ask for John if interested. Price open to negotiation.

Valley View Memorial Gardens Burial Plot For Sale The plot accommodates either 1 casket or 4 urns in the Garden of Nativity section. A bench and shaded tree are next to the plot in a quiet and peaceful area of the cemetery. Market value = \$21,000 before tax; Selling for \$10,000 + transfer fee of approx. \$315 to be paid to Valley View by the buyer at the time of sale. Please email/call mtnjenn63@yahoo.com 604-997-3057



BURSARIES FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Knights of Columbus Council 7015 are pleased to award 4 bursaries of \$1000 to PARTICIPATING members of the Star of the Sea Parish who have been accepted to post secondary education. An essay (800 words) describing what they have done or are doing to encourage Christian Leadership must accompany the application form which can be found at: <https://sosknights.ca/educational-bursaries> Attach the essay to the "Other Relevant Information" page of our application form.

Applications must be received in the Parish office by October 31, 2026

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