



PARISH OFFICE:

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

Phone: 604-531-5739

Email: parish@starofthesea.ca

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*

First Sunday of Advent—December 3, 2023



ADVENT

WATCHING
WAITING
PREPARING

*“Watch therefore—for you do not know
when the master of the house will
come...what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”*

Mark 13: 35...37

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

PARISH STAFF:

PASTOR:

Fr. Augustine Obiwumma
(ext. 223)
aobiwumma@rcav.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

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ALCP/OSS (ext. 225)
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mylanan@starofthesea.ca

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(ext. 221)
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ACCOUNTING:

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lgrange@starofthesea.ca

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS:

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janiceh@starofthesea.ca

PREP OFFICE:

prep@starofthesea.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Trudi Stammer (ext. 222)
stammertrudi7@gmail.com

FACILITIES MANAGER:

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

Dear Parishioners,

The new Liturgical Year is upon us. The next four weeks are filled with anticipation. We need to wait in the proper way. What are we anticipating? For many, the answer could be a party, a gift we have wanted from a special person, or even the return of a loved one. All are good things. However, this season is not about waiting for good things. We are preparing ourselves for the best news ever proclaimed: "today is born to us a Saviour, Christ the Lord." The next four weeks are about preparing a place in our hearts for the One who will prepare a place for us with the Father.

How do we prepare ourselves worthily for the birth of Jesus? Some advocate a crash course in Advent spirituality. We pray more, eat less, quit smoking, give up alcohol and generally try to be kinder to those around us. There is much to commend about such a program. However, I would like to suggest a different approach. Namely, we should strive each day to love and live in the presence of God. We should continue to surrender ourselves into the hands of God in total freedom and love. Advent calls to persevere in our life of prayer and discipleship.

Advent is a time when we are called to intensify our consciousness of God's grace and presence in our lives. Advent is a call for us to persevere in centering our lives in Jesus. This is not an idle exhortation. It is more than some yearly routine that we have become accustomed to performing. The very disposition of our soul is at stake. Jesus, in our gospel reading, states the case clearly: "Be watchful. Keep awake." Jesus knew well how easy it is for us to turn from God and give our allegiance to lesser gods. We become easily attached to the things of this world that we provide no room in the inn of our hearts for the Saviour.

How do we know if we are persevering in the ways of the Lord? Are there any signs that we are preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus? Yes. Jesus tells us to pray constantly. There is no better sign concerning our relationship with God than our prayer life. A Christian should be a person whose whole life is "pleasing to God" and who is making still greater progress. The ability to pray, to love and to do good are indications that we are preparing our hearts for Jesus.

Finally, the season of Advent is the story of God's unbounded love for us. The challenge of Advent is to continue to live in, believe in and hope in that Love. This is not easy. The forces of darkness are strong. The world seeks to fill us up with idols in place of the Loving God. Let us pray that the grace of this season will help us to persevere until we see God as He is!
HAPPY ADVENT TO ALL!

continued on next page →



Last Sunday was an extra happy occasion for our parish when we welcomed new inquirers into the catechumenate and baptized candidates to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

The inquirers (those who are unbaptized) have since July heard the living God proclaimed, and they have encountered Jesus Christ, sent for the salvation of all. As a result of this initial conversion, they have begun to change their lives, and be transformed in the life of Christ. They are:

Akash Brar	Timothy Cao	Adam Marshall	Ashley Contreras Barrogan
Jim Mah	Dave Stranks	Carina Zhang	Emily Carlsen
Luiz Paiva	Wendy Vo	Griffin Snowden	Samantha Tanzler

The baptized candidates have also been journeying together for many months, and have been receiving instruction to complete their Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist. They are:

Chelsea Denton	Jason Cheung	Gabriele Ferreira	Shayennie Msampha-Walker
Carolina Paiva	Leah Hart	Debra Ridout	Shalyca Msampha-Walker
	Ellen Harvey	Tyler Ridout	Alejandra Alvarado Medina

Although many of us may not know it, we are all part of the Rite, for it is the entire Church – those in this community as well as the entire Body of Christ that is beyond the walls of this place – that accepts these inquirers and candidates



as persons who intend to become full members and surrounds them with special care and support as they prepare to be sealed with the gift of the Spirit in Confirmation, and take their place with us at the banquet of Christ's sacrifice.



Please pray for them as they continue on their journey towards the sacraments and grow as disciples of the Lord.

Fr. Augustine

PRAYER FOR Catechumens & Candidates

Lord Jesus, we ask your blessings on these men and women who aspire to join your Church through our parish community. As they ponder your **Word** and share their stories, may the fabric of their lives become interwoven just as our lives are - into the very **Body of Christ**, your Church. As they grow in knowledge and understanding of the faith, so too may they continue to plumb the depths of their hearts and find the **awesome** goodness of you, God of all, in the hearts of others. As they hunger for you, may they also proclaim you, boldly and joyfully. Give to us, **Spirit of Love**, the grace to walk their journeys with them in faith. And, Creator God, may we all be one in you, as you are One - a Trinity of being in a continuously revolving circle, never-changing yet ever-changing, that cannot be comprehended but **only adored**.

Amen

This Sunday's Mass Readings:

Reading 1: [Isaiah 63:16–17, 19](#)
 Psalm: [Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19](#)
 Reading 2: [1 Corinthians 1:3–9](#)
 Gospel: [Mark 13:33–37](#)

Pope Francis at the Vatican Basilica—1st Sunday of Advent,
 29.11.20 <https://www.vatican.va>

Today's readings propose two key words for the Advent season: **closeness** and **watchfulness**. **God's closeness and our watchfulness.** The prophet Isaiah says that God is close to us, while in the Gospel Jesus urges us to keep watch in expectation of his return.

Closeness. Isaiah begins by speaking personally to God: *"You, O Lord, are our father"* (63:16). *"Never has anyone heard"*, he continues, *"[of] any God, other than you, who has done so much for those who trust in him"* (cf. 64:3). We are reminded of the words of Deuteronomy: who is like the Lord our God, so close to us whenever we call upon him? (cf. 4:7). Advent is the season for remembering that closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst. The prophet goes on to ask God to draw close to us once more: *"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!"* (Is 64:1). We prayed for this in today's responsorial psalm: *"Turn again... come to save us"* (Ps 80:15.3). We often begin our prayers with the invocation: *"God, come to my assistance"*. The first step of faith is to tell God that we need him, that we need him to be close to us.

This is also the first message of Advent and the liturgical year: **we need to recognize God's closeness and to say to him: "Come close to us once more!" God wants to draw close to us, but he will not impose himself; it is up to us to keep saying to him: "Come!"**

This is our Advent prayer: "Come!" Advent reminds us that Jesus came among us and will come again at the end of time. Yet we can ask what those two comings mean, if he does not also come into our lives today? So let us invite him. Let us make our own the traditional Advent prayer: *"Come, Lord Jesus"* (Rev 22:20). The Book of Revelation ends with this prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus". We can say that prayer at the beginning of each day and repeat it frequently, before our

meetings, our studies and our work, before making decisions, in every more important or difficult moment in our lives: Come, Lord Jesus! Let us say it in this Advent season.

If we ask Jesus to come close to us, we will train ourselves to be watchful. Today Mark's Gospel presented us with the end of Jesus' final address to his disciples, which can be summed up in two words: *"Be watchful!"* The Lord repeats these words four times in five verses (cf. Mk 13:33-35.37). It is important to remain watchful, because one great mistake in life is to get absorbed in a thousand things and not to notice God. When we are caught up in our own daily concerns and distracted by so many vain things, we risk losing sight of what is essential. That is why today the Lord repeats: *"To all, I say: be watchful!"* (Mk 13:37).

Having to be watchful, however, means it is now night. **We are not living in broad daylight, but awaiting the dawn, amid darkness and weariness. The light of day will come when we shall be with the Lord. Let us not lose heart: the light of day will come, the shadows of night will be dispelled, and the Lord, who died for us on the cross, will arise to be our judge.** Being watchful in expectation of his coming means not letting ourselves be overcome by discouragement. It is to live in hope. Just as before our birth, our loved ones expectantly awaited our coming into the world, so now Love in person awaits us. If we are awaited in Heaven, why should we be caught up with earthly concerns? Why should we be anxious about money, fame, success,

all of which will pass away? Why should we waste time complaining about the night, when the light of day awaits us? Why should we look for "patrons" to help advance our career? All these things pass away. Be watchful, the Lord tells us.

Staying awake is not easy; it is really quite hard. At night, it is natural to sleep. Even Jesus's disciples did not manage to stay awake when told to stay awake *"in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn"* (cf. v. 35). Those were the very times they were not awake: in the evening, at the Last Supper, they betrayed Jesus; at midnight, they dozed off; at the cock's crow, they denied him; in the morning, they let him be condemned to death. They did not keep watch. They fell asleep. But **that same drowsiness can also overtake us. There is a dangerous kind of sleep: it is the slumber of mediocrity. It comes when we forget our first**

Let your Advent
 prayer be

**"Come,
 Lord Jesus!"**

– Pope
 Francis



love and grow satisfied with indifference, concerned only for an untroubled existence. Without making an effort to love God daily and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become mediocre, lukewarm, worldly. And this slowly eats away at our faith, for faith is the very opposite of mediocrity: it is ardent desire for God, a bold effort to change, the courage to love, constant progress. **Faith is not water that extinguishes flames, it is fire that burns; it is not a tranquilizer for people under stress, it is a love story for people in love!** That is why Jesus above all else detests lukewarmness (cf. Rev 3:16). God clearly disdains the lukewarm.

How can we rouse ourselves from the slumber of mediocrity? With the vigilance of prayer. When we pray, we light a candle in the darkness.

Prayer rouses us from the tepidity of a purely horizontal existence and makes us lift our gaze to higher things; it makes us attuned to the Lord. Prayer allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope. Prayer is vital for life: just as we cannot live without breathing, so we cannot be Christians without praying. How much we need Christians who keep watch for those who are slumbering, worshipers who intercede day and night, bringing before Jesus, the light of the world, the darkness of history. How much we need worshipers. We have lost something of our sense of adoration, of standing in silent adoration before the Lord. This is mediocrity, lukewarmness.

There is also another kind of interior slumber: the slumber of indifference. Those who are indifferent see everything the same, as if it were night; they are unconcerned about those all around them. When everything revolves around us and our needs, and we are indifferent to the needs of others, night descends in our hearts. Our hearts grow dark. We immediately begin to complain about everything and everyone; we start to feel victimized by everyone and end up brooding about everything. It is a vicious circle. Nowadays, that night seems to have fallen on so many people, who only demand things for themselves, and are blind to the needs of others.

How do we rouse ourselves from the slumber of indifference? With the watchfulness of charity. To awaken us from that slumber of mediocrity and lukewarmness, there is the watchfulness of prayer. To rouse us from that slumber of indifference, there is the watchfulness of charity.

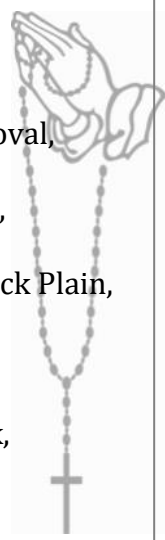
Charity is the beating heart of the Christian: just as one cannot live without a heartbeat, so one cannot be a Christian without charity. Some people seem to think that being compassionate, helping and serving others is for losers. Yet these are the only things that win us the victory, since they are already aiming towards the future, the day of the Lord, when all else will pass away and love alone will remain. It is by works of mercy that we draw close to the Lord. So, resolve to run forth to meet Christ with good works! Jesus is coming! And the road to meet him is clearly marked: it passes through works of charity.

Dear brothers and sisters, praying and loving: that is what it means to be watchful. When the Church worships God and serves our neighbour, she does not live in the night. However weak and weary, she journeys towards the Lord. Let us now call out to him. *Come, Lord Jesus, we need you! Draw close to us. You are the light. Rouse us from the slumber of mediocrity; awaken us from the darkness of indifference. Come, Lord Jesus, take our distracted hearts and make them watchful. Awaken within us the desire to pray and the need to love.*

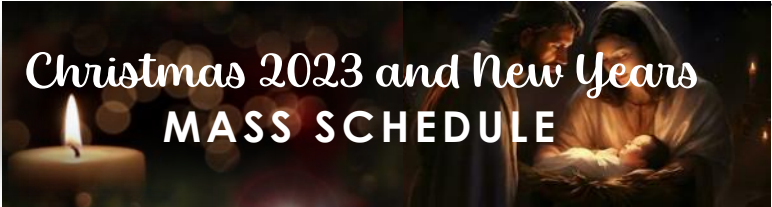
Please pray for

Delia Antunovich,
Julia Nadon,
Paul Tusnady,
Ken Prout,
Mercedes Sandoval,
Judy Nault,
Maria Kasprzyk,
Jola Melone,
Brian Hickey, Jack Plain,
Danilo Sonido,
Otto Witteveen,
Anne Law,
Dennis Capstick,
Charles Lefaive,
Anna Schott,
Laurie Schlase,
Peter Kingsland,
Nancy Murchison,
Stephanie Wideski,
Fern McCann,
Marilyn Wolfe,
Donia Siali,
Karine Tardif,
Angus Heaps,
Bob Keith,
Adward Drabik,
Rob McLellan,
Glenn Brooks,
Carmina Raponi,
Susie Bencherif,
Marci Nunez,
Adria Tate,
Helen McLellan,
Amelia Solomon,
Tad Brown,
Maxine Carpenter,
Wolf Mashohn,
heresa Kim,
Guilherme

& Isaura da Ponte,
Lydia McGrann,
Manal Ibrahim,
Rolf May, Dirk Post,
Marian Nadelko,
Maureen McLaren



*Please pray for
the Repose of the
Soul* of: Evelyn Andru



Christmas 2023 and New Years MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

Good Shepherd	
Anticipated (Sat. 23rd)	5PM
Sunday 24th	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

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

Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 25

Good Shepherd	9AM, 11AM
Star of the Sea	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



Simbang Gabi 2023

Prepare for Christmas with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

9 DAY MASS NOVENA Schedule

Friday, Dec. 15	7pm Good Shepherd
Saturday, Dec 16	7pm Star of the Sea
Sunday, Dec 17	7pm Good Shepherd
Monday, Dec 18	7pm Good Shepherd
Tuesday, Dec 19	7pm Good Shepherd
Wednesday, Dec 20	6pm Good Shepherd
Thursday, Dec 21	7pm Good Shepherd
Friday, Dec 22	7pm Good Shepherd
Saturday, Dec 23	7pm Good Shepherd

Snacks and refreshments will be shared after the Masses.

On December 15th - 23rd, our Parish will be celebrating *Simbang Gabi*, the 9-day novena of Masses to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation of the celebration of Christmas, a uniquely Filipino Christmas tradition with its roots in the Philippines' Spanish heritage.

This novena of Masses expresses the love of the people of God through His Mother, Mary, as we gather in prayerful anticipation of the Christmas miracle. Many of the daily Mass themes are about the events surrounding Mother Mary at the time of Conception and child bearing. *Simbang Gabi* is recognized by the Vatican, and it is the only Mass that the Gloria is allowed to be prayed/sung during Advent, deviating from the standard Advent Mass. The readings, the prayers and the songs at Mass remind us all of our need for God in our lives and the necessity of taking time to reflect on our relationships with God and with one another at this special time of year.



Christmas Concerts at Good Shepherd Church

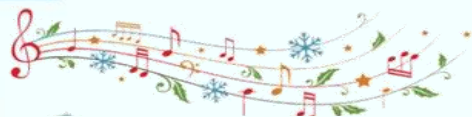


Saturday, Dec 16 7:30pm

Messiah in the Valley

Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra
and Bella Voci a capella ensemble

Tickets available: Youth \$10 | General \$45 | Seniors \$40 | Family \$100
<https://chilliwacksymphony.com/>



Sunday, Dec 17 3:00pm

Glory on a Christmas Morn

Stella Maris Christmas Chorale

Adults \$10 | Seniors & Students \$8.00
Family \$25.00

Tickets available at the Parish Office



Families Helping Families



Would you like to help us put presents under the tree for a few families needing a helping hand this year? If so, email or call the parish office for the Christmas Hamper Wish Lists
parish@starofthesea.ca
604-531-5739. Gifts due Dec. 17th



Jesse Tree Outreach

THANK YOU to those who have already dropped off gift cards to the parish office!

You too can participate by picking an 'ornament' from the 'Jesse Tree' when you're at church.



Each ornament is labeled with a store name for a gift card. Gift cards can be of any denomination and be from a variety of stores.

If you would like to donate \$50 or \$100 gift cards from Safeway/Thrifty's or Save-on-Foods, please consider purchasing **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS grocery cards** available after Mass or any time from the Parish Office.

We ask that you please write the amount on the gift card on the card itself and drop off your donation to the Parish Office or in the Sunday Collection Basket.

Thank you for your generosity and for reaching out to someone in need this Christmas!



Invitation to Parish Seniors

Seniors Luncheon & School Christmas Presentation



Wednesday, Dec. 20th

Good Shepherd Church

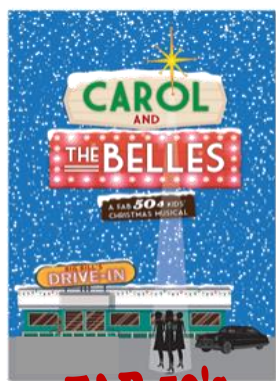
Mass at 10:30am

Lunch at 11:30am

followed by 1:00pm Christmas Presentation in the School Gym.

Tickets \$5.00 each are available at the Parish Office and includes a delicious lunch, Christmas treats and the Christmas presentation by all the students of Star of the Sea School.

Please note that we have a limited number of tickets are available. Drop in at the parish office for yours today!



a **FAB 50's**
KIDS CHRISTMAS
MUSICAL



ADORATION CHAPEL OPEN Every Day 9AM-9PM

Following Our Lord's example, invite someone to Adoration this Advent!

This season of Advent is a time of preparing to meet Jesus. Many people don't know Jesus, but they do know us. We can be another (St.) Andrew for them. Like Andrew, we have been given special access to the Lord (see Ephesians 2:18; 3:12; Romans 5:2).

Bring people to Jesus this Advent.

Hours needing a weekly adorer:

Sunday, 9:00am-10:00am
Sunday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
 Sunday, 2:00pm-3:00pm
 Sunday, 6:00pm-7:00pm
Monday, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Monday, 5:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
 Thursday, 2:00pm-3:00pm
 Thursday, 4:00pm-5:00pm
 Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm
Friday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm
 Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Saturday, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Hours in need of a Substitute:

Mon., Dec. 25, Jan. 1
 - 2:00-3:00pm
 Wed., Dec. 13 - 4:00-5:00pm

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



KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS Annual

Christmas Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 16

Star of the Sea Hall Chambers

Cocktails at 6pm.

Dinner at 7pm.

Tickets (\$50/each) are available from the Parish Office.



ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH are invited to our **Election** and **Christmas Potluck**

evening on **Tuesday, Dec. 5** in Good Shepherd Church Foyer. Please be there between 4:30pm-5pm with your potluck contribution and Food Bank item if you can. The ELECTION MEETING will begin approx. 5:15pm, and we hope to start DINNER by 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, and paid CWL members are eligible to VOTE. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 5th!



**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



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

Dads & Kids Friday Gym Nites



Join other dads of the parish and their school-age children (5 years +) **every Friday 6:45-8:00 PM** in the school gym for sports and fellowship!

Last Gym nite of 2023 is Friday, December 22. Back on January 12, 2024.

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

Book Chat

What have you been reading?
We want to know!

Join us on **THURSDAY**

December 7

7:00pm—8:00pm

at Good Shepherd Church

Come to share, or just come to listen, find out what's new in our Parish Library and meet others who love to deepen their faith through reading.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Feel free to bring a friend.

email: library@starofthesea.ca

Vigil Candles

The purpose of vigil lights (from the Latin *vigilia*, which means "waiting" or "watching") accompanied by prayers is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered. At Good Shepherd Church, the vigil candles located at the **Pietà** statue and at the portrait of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** burn for 1 week each.

Suggested donation is \$10.

Please make arrangements to 'sponsor' a vigil candle thru the Parish Office.



Elizabeth Ministry

offers support after loss of a baby during pregnancy, at birth, in infancy and toddlerhood. Our Elizabeth Ministers journey with, support and pray for you. Masses and receptions lead by the Pastor are held annually in remembrance of such loved ones. Contact: Brittany Garisto b.garisto@outlook.com

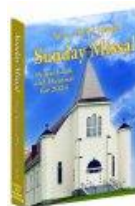
Prison Ministry is seeking donations of 2024 Calendars and unused Christmas Cards

for prison inmates. Please ensure donations are of a modest theme, suitable for prison chapels. Drop of donations at Good Shepherd Church. Thank you!



Sunday Missal for this new liturgical year is available now at Star of the Sea Church and Good Shepherd Church.

\$5.00 each while



OPEN HOUSE

ST. JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

invites all interested parents and students to attend their Open House on **Thursday, Dec. 7th**, 6:30pm at Star of the Sea Parish Centre. The school will be accepting applications for students in Grades 8 -12 for the 2024-25 school year. Please RSVP at skelly@sjp2academy.com

King's Banquet Tuesday Soup Kitchen

Do you have any spare time on Tuesdays that you could commit to helping at our parish soup kitchen? Please let us know if 12:00 - 3:30 (food prep) or 3:30 - 7 pm (serving/clean up) shifts would work for you and which **Tuesday each month** you can commit to volunteering for this worthy cause. Contact: Carolyn cawharton@shaw.ca or phone 778.277.2533

GARDENS OF

Gethsemani



Rosary Walk on Thursday December 7th, 2023 @10am:

Join us for a time of remembrance and prayer as we do a rosary for our intentions and the souls of those laid to rest while walking along our beautiful gardens. This is a monthly event that happens on the 1st Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Memorial Mass & Tree of Remembrance on Sunday December 17th, 2023

at 12:30pm/2:30pm: Bring your family to celebrate the last memorial mass of 2023, where we will be honouring our loved ones in this Advent season by personalizing a Christmas ornament that will be placed on our Tree of Remembrance at the altar of our Evangelist Chapel. This is also a monthly event that takes place the last Sunday of each month, but in the month December it happens earlier.

Advent & Christmas

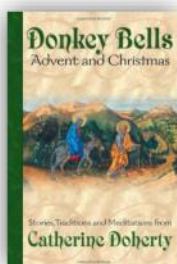
Your Parish library has both informative and inspirational reading to help keep you grounded in the true meaning of Advent and Christmas, no matter how busy the world around us gets.

The Season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us--to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Jesus in whatever form He may come to us. At Christmas, he comes as a little child, small, helpless, and in need of his mother and all that a mother's love can give. His mother's humility enabled her to serve. If we really want God to fill us, we must empty ourselves through humility of all the selfishness within us.

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Learn about Catholic traditions for Advent and Christmas in ***Celebrating a Merry Catholic Christmas: A Guide to the Customs and Feast Days of Advent and Christmas*** (263.2 Sau 2018). It provides both the historical roots of our customs and spiritual reflections and suggestions to enrich your family's Christmas. ***Around the Year with the von Trapp Family*** (263 von 2018)

includes 68 pages of Advent and Christmas traditions. ***Donkey Bells, Advent and Christmas*** (263.2 Doh 2013) includes stories, customs and traditions like the 'O' Antiphons

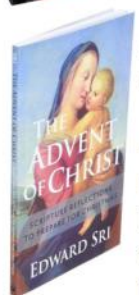


and the Blessing of The Christmas Tree.

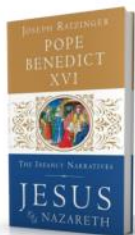
Find peace and inspiration with one of our advent mediations. A few examples follow, and more are on display in the library. ***Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Padre Pio*** (263.2 Chi 2005); ***Behold, He Comes:***



Mediations on the Incarnation (263.2 Gro 2001); ***Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Pope John Paul II*** (263.2 Kru 2006) and ***The Advent of Christ: Scripture Reflections to Prepare for Christmas*** (263.2 Sri 2013).



Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives (232.1 Ben 2012) is the final book in Pope



Benedict's trilogy. It draws from the hope found in Jesus's birth and the surrender and service embodied in Joseph and Mary. It is a story of longing and seeking, and is a story for today, that speaks to the restlessness of the human heart searching for the sole truth which leads to profound joy. ***Cradle of Redeeming Love: The Theology of the Christmas Mystery*** (263.2 Saw 2021 & **FORMED** e-book) addresses the mystery of Christ's Incarnation with Church traditions and the writings of Christian mystics. Dr. Michael Barber provides a series of reflections on **FORMED** that supplement his book, ***The True Meaning of Christmas: The Birth of Jesus and the Origins of the Season*** (263.2 Bar 2021).

Our fiction collection includes a new addition, ***The Test of the Magi*** (Ber 2014). The author uses the history of the eastern Roman Empire to imagine the Three Wise Men in the context of their turbulent times. This story explores why and how these mysterious figures braved such dangers and survived such fearsome challenges that they have endured in our minds and culture for two thousand years.

We have a large collection of children's books on display in the library, including our newest addition, ***The Christmas Light*** (263.2 Mca 2021), which tells the story of the innkeeper's daughter and her encounter with newborn Jesus.



FORMED has some new offerings this year, including ***Rooted***, 22 seven-minute episodes with a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. In each week of Advent, Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR will use Franciscan spirituality to guide you to becoming closer to God in ***Prepare Your Heart***. Children will enjoy the nine-episode ***Marcam's Advent & Christmas Special***. Find more digital resources by searching for "Advent" and "Christmas" on **FORMED**.

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