Welcome to STAR OF THE SEA PARISH





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



STAR OF THE SEA Honour our Past and Go Forward on Mission

PARISH OFFICE:

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

Phone: 604-531-5739

Email: parish@starofthesea.ca

Website: starofthesea.ca

For After Hours Emergencies: 604-831-1162 or 604-541-8036

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

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, Dec 25 and Tuesday, Dec 26



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

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 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sat. 30th) - 4PM 10:30AM

New Years Day: Solemnity of Mary

Good Shepherd Anticipated (Sun, 31st) - 5PM 9AM, 11AM

Star of the Sea Anticipated (Sun, 31st) - 4PM 10:30AM Dear Parishioners & Friends,

May our Good God bless you and your families this Christmas. May the places of darkness in your lives be illumined and removed by the Light of Christ.

May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that Joy!

And thank you to everyone who brought in gifts and treats for us. We really appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Merry Christmas from all of us in the Parish Office,

Fr. Augustine

Fr. Francis

Mario Anne-Marie Jom Janice Jones Trudi

Pastor:

Fr. Augustine Obiwumma aobiwumma@rcav.org

PASTOR'S ASSISTANT:

Mario Ylanan mylanan@starofthesea.ca

ACCOUNTING:

Lorena Grange lgrange@starofthesea.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Trudi Stammer stammertrudi7@gmail.com

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

Fr. Francis Mallya, ALCP/OSS fmallya@rcav.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Anne-Marie D'Mello parish@starofthesea.ca

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS:

Janice Hamanishi (ext. 280) janiceh@starofthesea.ca

FACILITIES MANAGER:

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

Dear Catholic Faithful,

This week, the Vatican published the <u>Declaration on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings</u>, which reflects on the **theology of blessing** and, for the first time, sanctions clerical blessings of same-sex couples and mixed-sex couples in irregular unions. Not surprisingly, this has sparked no little controversy and a great deal of coverage in the news media. It is important to understand this declaration rightly as there is much misinformation and misinterpretation floating around. You are therefore, encouraged to read the document for yourself: https://www.vatican.va/roman curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc ddf doc 20231218 fiducia-supplicans en.html The hyperlink takes you to the official English translation of the document.

For now, we share with you an excellent email that Deacon Hilmar Pabel sent to members of <u>Courage and EnCourage ministries</u>:

"...I encourage you to read the document: first, because of its insightful and inspiring teaching on blessings, and second, because of what it says about blessing people who are a same-sex couple. The document helps us understand the different types of blessings and their importance. It also makes clear that the blessing imparted by an ordained minister (bishop, priest, deacon) to "couples in irregular situations" and to "couples of the same sex" should never be legislated as a liturgical ritual to avoid all confusion with the liturgical blessing imparted to a married couple.

The document points out the context of a pastoral blessing imparted to the above-mentioned couples: "Such a blessing may instead find its place in other contexts, such as a visit to a shrine, a meeting with a priest, a prayer recited in a group, or during a pilgrimage. Indeed, through these blessings that are given not through the ritual forms proper to the liturgy but as an expression of the Church's maternal heart—similar to those that emanate from the core of popular piety—there is no intention to legitimize anything, but rather to open one's life to God, to ask for his help to live better, and also to invoke the Holy Spirit so that the values of the Gospel may be lived with greater faithfulness" (no. 40).

The document presents the Church as community of inclusion: "the Church welcomes all who approach God with humble hearts, accompanying them with those spiritual aids that enable everyone to understand and realize God's will fully in their existence" (no. 32). And it ends with a beautiful expression of blessed inclusion:

"Taking the above points into account and following the authoritative teaching of Pope Francis, this Dicastery finally wishes to recall that "the root of Christian meekness" is "the ability to feel blessed and the ability to bless [...]. This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him [...] to bless." In this way, every brother and every sister will be able to feel that, in the Church, they are always pilgrims, always beggars, always loved, and, despite everything, always blessed" (no. 45)."

December 18, 2023



Archbishop's Statement on Blessings for Same-Sex Couples

This morning the Holy See issued the Declaration *Fiducia Supplicans*, approved by Pope Francis. This document seeks to "broaden" and "enrich" the concept of "blessing" in the Catholic Church.

The Declaration clearly affirms the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage between a man and a woman, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that could create confusion about the Sacrament of Matrimony. At the same time, taking account of very precise pastoral situations, it opens the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without, however, officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage.

We are now discerning how the Declaration might impact how we can serve all people in our Catholic community. This reflection process will take time. As highlighted in our Archdiocese's synodal process and at the recent Synod of Bishops, we are always striving, in keeping with the Gospel and Tradition, to become an ever more welcoming community. We pray that this Vatican document will open new doors through which we can share God's love and mercy.

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB
 Archbishop of Vancouver

4th Sunday of Advent—Mass Readings:

Hui Sunday of Advent—Mass Reading

Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8–11, 16 Psalm: Psalm 89:2–5, 27, 29 Reading 2: Romans 16:25–27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Nativity of the Lord—Mass Readings for during the Day:

Reading 1: Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6. Reading 2: Hebrews 1: 1-6

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
Midnight Mass at St Peter's Basilica—Saturday, 24 December 2022

What does this night still have to say to our lives? Two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, after so many Christmases spent amid decorations and gifts, after so much consumerism that has packaged the mystery we celebrate, there is a danger. We know many things about Christmas, but we forget its real meaning. So how do we rediscover the meaning of Christmas? First of all, where do we go to find it? The Gospel of Jesus' birth appears to have been written precisely for this purpose: to take us by the hand and lead us where God would have us go. So let us follow the Gospel.

It starts with a situation not unlike our own: everyone is bustling about, getting ready for an important event, the great census, which called for much preparation. In that sense, the atmosphere was very much like our modern celebration of Christmas. Yet the Gospel has little to do with that worldly scenario; it quickly shifts our gaze to something else, which it considers more important. It is a

small and apparently insignificant detail that it nonetheless mentions three times, always in relation to the central figures in the narrative. First, Mary places Jesus "in a manger" (Lk 2:7); then the angels tell the shepherds about "a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (v. 12); and finally, the shepherds, who find "the child lying in the manger" (v. 16). In order to rediscover the meaning of Christmas, we need to look to the manger. Yet why is the manger so important? Because it is the sign, and not by chance, of Christ's coming into this world. It is how he announces his coming. It is the way God is born in history, so that history itself can be reborn. What then does the manger tell us? It tells us three things, at least: closeness, poverty and concreteness.

Closeness. The manger serves as a feeding trough, to enable food to be consumed more quickly. In this way, it can symbolize one aspect of our humanity: our greed for consumption. While animals feed in their stalls, men and women in our world, in their hunger for wealth and power, consume even their neighbours, their brothers and sisters. How many wars have we seen! And in how many places, even today, are human dignity and freedom treated with contempt! As always, the principal victims of this human greed are the weak and the vulnerable. This Christmas too, as in the case of Jesus, a world

ravenous for money, hungry for power and pleasure does not make room for the little ones, for so many unborn, poor and forgotten children. I think above all of the children devoured by war, poverty and injustice. Yet those are the very places to which Jesus comes, a child in the manger of rejection and refusal. In him, the Child of Bethlehem, every child is present. And we ourselves are invited to view life,

politics and history through the eyes of children.



In the manger of rejection and discomfort, God makes himself present. He comes there because there we see the problem of our humanity: the indifference produced by the greedy rush to possess and consume. There, in that manger, Christ is born, and there we discover his closeness to us. He comes there, to a feeding trough, in order to become our food. God is no father who devours his children, but the Father who, in Jesus, makes us his children and feeds us with his tender love. He comes to touch our hearts and to tell us that love alone is the power that changes the course of history. He does not remain distant and mighty, but draws near to us in humility;

continued from previous page...

leaving his throne in heaven, he lets himself be laid in a manger.

Dear brother, dear sister, tonight God is drawing near to you, because you are important to him. From the manger, as food for your life, he tells you: "If you feel consumed by events, if you are devoured by a sense of guilt and inadequacy, if you hunger for justice, I, your God, am with you. I know what you are experiencing, for I experienced it myself in that manger. I know your weaknesses, your failings and your history. I was born in order to tell you that I am, and always will be, close to you". The Christmas manger, the first message of the divine Child, tells us that God is with us, he loves us and he seeks us. So take heart! Do not allow yourself to be overcome by fear, resignation or discouragement. God was born in a manger so that you could be reborn in the very place where you thought you had hit rock bottom. There is no evil, there is no sin, from which

Jesus does not want to save you.

And he can. Christmas means that
God is close to us: let confidence
be reborn!

The manger of Bethlehem speaks to us not only of closeness, but also of *poverty*. Around the manger there is very little: hay and straw, a few animals, little else. People were warm in the inn, but

not here in the coldness of a stable. Yet that is where Jesus was born. The manger reminds us that he was surrounded by nothing but love: Mary, Joseph and the shepherds; all poor people, united by affection and amazement, not by wealth and great expectations. The poverty of the manger thus shows us where the true riches in life are to be found: not in money and power, but in relationships and persons.

And the first person, the greatest wealth, is Jesus himself. Yet do we want to stand at his side? Do we draw close to him? Do we love his poverty? Or do we prefer to remain comfortably ensconced in our own interests and concerns? Above all, do we visit him where he is to be found, namely in the poor mangers of our world? For that is where he is present. We are called to be a Church that worships a Jesus who is poor and that serves him in the poor. As a saintly bishop once said: "The Church supports and blesses efforts to change the structures of injustice, and sets down but one condition: that social, economic and political change truly benefit the poor". Certainly, it

is not easy to leave the comfortable warmth of worldliness to embrace the stark beauty of the grotto of Bethlehem, but let us remember that it is not truly Christmas without the poor. Without the poor, we can celebrate Christmas, but not the birth of Jesus. Dear brothers, dear sisters, at Christmas God is poor: let charity be reborn!

We now come to our last point: the manger speaks to us of *concreteness*. Indeed, a child lying in a manger presents us with a scene that is striking, even crude. It reminds us that God truly became flesh. As a result, all our theories, our fine thoughts and our pious sentiments are no longer enough. Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor; he did not so much talk about poverty as live it, to the very end, for our sake. From the manger to the cross, his love for us was always palpable, concrete. From birth to death, the carpenter's son embraced the roughness of the

wood, the harshness of our existence. He did not love us only in words; he loved us with utter seriousness!

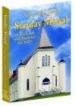
Consequently, Jesus is not satisfied with appearances. He who took on our flesh wants more than simply good intentions. He who was born in the manger, demands a concrete faith, made up of adoration and charity, not empty words and

superficiality. He who lay naked in the manger and hung naked on the cross, asks us for truth, he asks us to go to the bare reality of things, and to lay at the foot of the manger all our excuses, our justifications and our hypocrisies. Tenderly wrapped in swaddling clothes by Mary, he wants us to be clothed in love. God does not want appearances but concreteness. Brothers and sisters, may we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good. Since it is his celebration, his birthday, let us give him the gifts he finds pleasing! At Christmas, God is concrete: in his name let us help a little hope to be born anew in those who feel hopeless!

Jesus we behold you lying in the manger. We see you as *close*, ever at our side: thank you Lord! We see you as *poor*, in order to teach us that true wealth does not reside in things but in persons, and above all in the poor: forgive us, if we have failed to acknowledge and serve you in them. We see you as *concrete*, because your love for us is palpable. Jesus, help us to give flesh and life to our faith. Amen.

Please pray for

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, Otto Witteveen, Anne Law, 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, Amelia Solomon, Maxine Carpenter, Wolf Mashohn, Guilherme & Isaura da Ponte. Lydia McGrann, Theresa Kim, Manal Ibrahim, Rolf May, Dirk Post, Marian Nadelko, Maureen McLaren



We have a few **Sunday Missals**(Dec 3, 2023—Nov 24, 2024) left at Good
Shepherd Church.

\$5.00 each while supplies last.

2024 Liturgical Calendars available at Good

available at Good Shepherd Church. \$2.00 each while supplies last.



ADORATION CHAPEL

OPEN Every Day 9AM-9PM

"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15

Like the shepherds of long ago, come with faith and humility to experience Jesus in a new and special way.

Hours in need of a weekly adorer: Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am Sunday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Sunday, 7:00pm-8:00pm Monday, 9:00am-10:00am Monday, 12:00pm-1:00pm Monday, 1:00pm-2:00pm Monday, 2:00pm-3:00pm Monday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Tuesday, 8:00am-9:00am Tuesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm Thursday, 8:00am-9:00am Thursday, 4:00pm-5:00pm Friday, 8:00am-9:00am Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm Friday, 3:00pm-4:00pm Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm Saturday, 3:00pm-4:00pm **Saturday**, 4:00pm-5:00pm

Hours in need of a Substitute: Sun., Dec. 31, Jan. 7 – 5:00-6:00pm Mon., Jan. 1 – 9:00-10:00am Wed., Jan. 3 – 4:00-5:00pm Fri., Dec. 29, Jan. 5, 12 – 3:00-4:00pm Sat., Dec. 30, Jan. 6, 13 – 4:00-5:00pm

For more information or to schedule a Holy Hour of adoration please call:
Kathy McAuliffe 604 805 1874
Susan Gain 604 531 3235

Donna Sali 604 542 3070

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS



To qualify for your 2023 Tax Receipt:

Parish Donations must be received by <u>FRIDAY</u>, <u>DECEMBER</u> 29, 4:30pm. Sunday Offerings received during Mass on Dec 30th and Dec 31st also qualify. As per Canada Revenue Agency, <u>all cheques must be dated on or before December 31, 2023</u>.

For credit card donations, go to <u>support.rcav.org/parishes/</u> <u>parish-offertory/sunday-offering/</u>



BY DONATION - in support of Knights of Columbus Community Charities

Saturday, January 6 9:00am - 4:00pm and Sunday, January 7 Noon - 4:00pm

at Good Shepherd Church Parking Lot (east side, in the overflow parking)

Please remove ALL decorations, wires and tree stand from your Christmas tree.



Next Flea Market is on **Saturday**, **January 6 8AM** — **1PM**

at Star of the Sea Hall, 15262
Pacific Ave, WRock
Contact Bill for more info
fleamarket@starofthesea.ca



We are so grateful to have the support of our advertisers to offset the costs of printing our bulletin.

Please thank them by giving them the support of your business, and mention that you saw their ad in this bulletin!

For 2024 ADVERTISING

opportunities please contact janiceh@starofthesea.ca at the parish office

ALTERNATIVES" FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Before you make any decisions, call us to see why we are truly...

DIFFERENT, ON PURPOSE,

604-596-2215 MyAlternatives.ca

3070 275 A St., Langley, V4W 3L4





Happiness at Home Health Care Inc.

Connecting and Nurturing Seniors at Home

Call us today at 604-538-0200 for home care support

www.happinessathome.ca

Your Local Realtor

Bringing Hands-On Excellence in Every Detail



Analsa

Cleaning Services \$35.00 per hour/person

10% discount on first service (minimum 4

Ana Isabel López (778) 317 08 10 Anaisa71@hotmail.com



Mary Lynn Ghinzel Realtor® 604.312.7294



marylynn@macrealty.com | www.team-mcknight.com



Complete Church Funeral Package (with Rental Casket, Memorials, Cremation & Urn) \$4,225.00 Church Funeral Mass (w/ Burial) from \$2,698.88

Serving Vancouver & entire BC Lower Mainland Vancouver 1209-207 West Hastings Street

Coquitlam 925 Sherwood Ave

604.831.3023 (24 Hours/7 Days) www.amherstcremation.com

Reverse Mortgage

No payments until you sell!

The key to your financial freedom

TAX FREE MONEY! For more facts about Canadian reverse mortgage, call me

604-812-7097

Elizabeth Pagtakhan Mortgage Specialist email: elizabethmp26@gmail.com



Homer Reyes

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR 604.374.1486



thoughtful real estate

RENNIE.COM/HOMERREYES

rennie



Dignity

NOEL ARMEA Funeral and Cemetery Advisor

Cell: 778-387-0929 E-mail: noel.armea@sci-us.com

Jeff Rivett, CFA



Investment Management

(604) 643-2765 jeff.rivett@nbc.ca





Oliveira Funeral Home

Arrangements in the Family home or at our offi Personalized and Affordable Services Our Family is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to serve you better

The Oliveira Family Prides themselves in being able to serve many communities with the Highest of Standards in the Industry

www.oliveirafuneralhome.com info@oliveirafuneralhome.com 604-942-7920

2657 Shaughnessy St, Port Coquitlam

Serving the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley





We are grateful to our Advertisers for their continued support. Please help us thank them by giving them the support of your business.





Lloyd Litke CFP, CLU, CHFC Charissa Keech BA, PFA, CFP

Holistic Financial Planners helping people achieve their:

- √ Financial Goals
- √ Retirement Income Objectives
- √ Tax Efficient Estate Plans

778-294-0018 www.familytreefinancial.ca



- Window Cleaning
- **Pressure Washing**
- **Exterior Gutter Cleaning**
- Landscaping

Telephone: 604-916-7910 Email: magiccleanwindows@gmail.com Website: www.magiccleanwindows.com

gethsemani



PEACE STARTS WITH AN APPOINTMENT

604-531-2141 / rccav.org 15694 32nd Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3Z 9V1

Russell Avenue Dental

301-15261 Russell Avenue Dentistry in White Rock

Phone **604 531 9181**

New patients welcome!

Dr. Gianni Pisanu, DMD, B.Sc Star of the Sea Parish Parishioner Knight of Columbus since 2000

Kitchen & Bath Design Inc.

Gerard & Ruth Hall, Owners

Phone: 604.576.6433

SUNWOOD

Raincoast Funeral and Cremation Services Ltd. Local, Independently Owned and Operated Have you considered Pre-arrangements?

As a fellow parishioner, I am personally here to answer all of your questions.

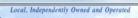
Our Newest Location Here to Serve You in South Surrey! 604-385-6996

Call 24 hours

Compassionate, Professional and Affordable Services

www.raincoastfuneral.com







Creating Quality Monuments and Markers since 2008

For a Free Quote, Call: 604-560-2518

Visit: www.raincoastmemorials.com

Provided at: 101-15585 24th Avenue, South Surrey, BC Main Showroom; 116-618 E. Kent Avenue South, Vancouver, BC





GLOBAL DEC-K-ING SYSTEMS

SUNDECKS / ROOF DECKS Waterproof & Durable Vinyl Deck Membranes Tel: 778-571-3000 5250 185A Street, Surrey www.globaldecking.com



J.B. NEWALL MEMORIALS

family owned since 1820

604.327.1312 WWW.JBNEWALL.COM



gerardhall@shaw.ca

www.signmagic.ca

E & M Sign Magic Ltd

www.sunwoodkitchens.com

- Decals Banners Vinyl Letters
- Signs for Construction & Real Estate
- Vehicle Graphics Magnetics
- Large Format Printing
 Custom Signs

Please visit our website/facebook for our complete list of products 604.594.3636 signmagicItdsurrev@gmail.com



1321 Johnston Road White Rock, BC 604-536-5002

Call or email us today!







Dr. David Wilkie Dr. Heather Dagenais Family Dentistry #102-1647 140th 604-535-4499

www.southsurreyfamilydentistry.com



Osteopathic Resolutions Pamela Rogers

Osteopathic Manual Practitioner Physiotherapist

rogersphysio@shaw.ca Russell Professional Building, Unit 303 15261 Russell Ave, White Rock

778-294-5949



604-812-7097 elizabeth@elizabethmp.com Real Estate Consultant/ Mortgage Broke

You deserve a home!

Grand Central

Elizabeth Morales Pagtakhan



Book your Dream Vacation

Expedia Cruises in Ocean Park We do it all. Air, Land & Sea



Call, Click or Come In - Yvonne & Rollie Blanchette

(604) 542 7447

1659 128th St., White Rock, BC www.ExpediaCruises.ca/OceanPark



Mike Crean



Ryan Crean



Serving Our Catholic Community Since 1908

Kearney Cloverdale

604 574 2603 17667 57th Ave.





Ethelyn David Mike Garisto 604-889-3842

Pre-Need Advisor Pre-Need Advisor 604-312-9799

We truly believe that proper funeral pre-planning is an important part of having your affairs in order, so we are dedicated to extending our care by helping families plan.

604 299 6889

New Westminster 604 521 4881 219 6th St.



We offer translation and services in various languages.