



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

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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:

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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

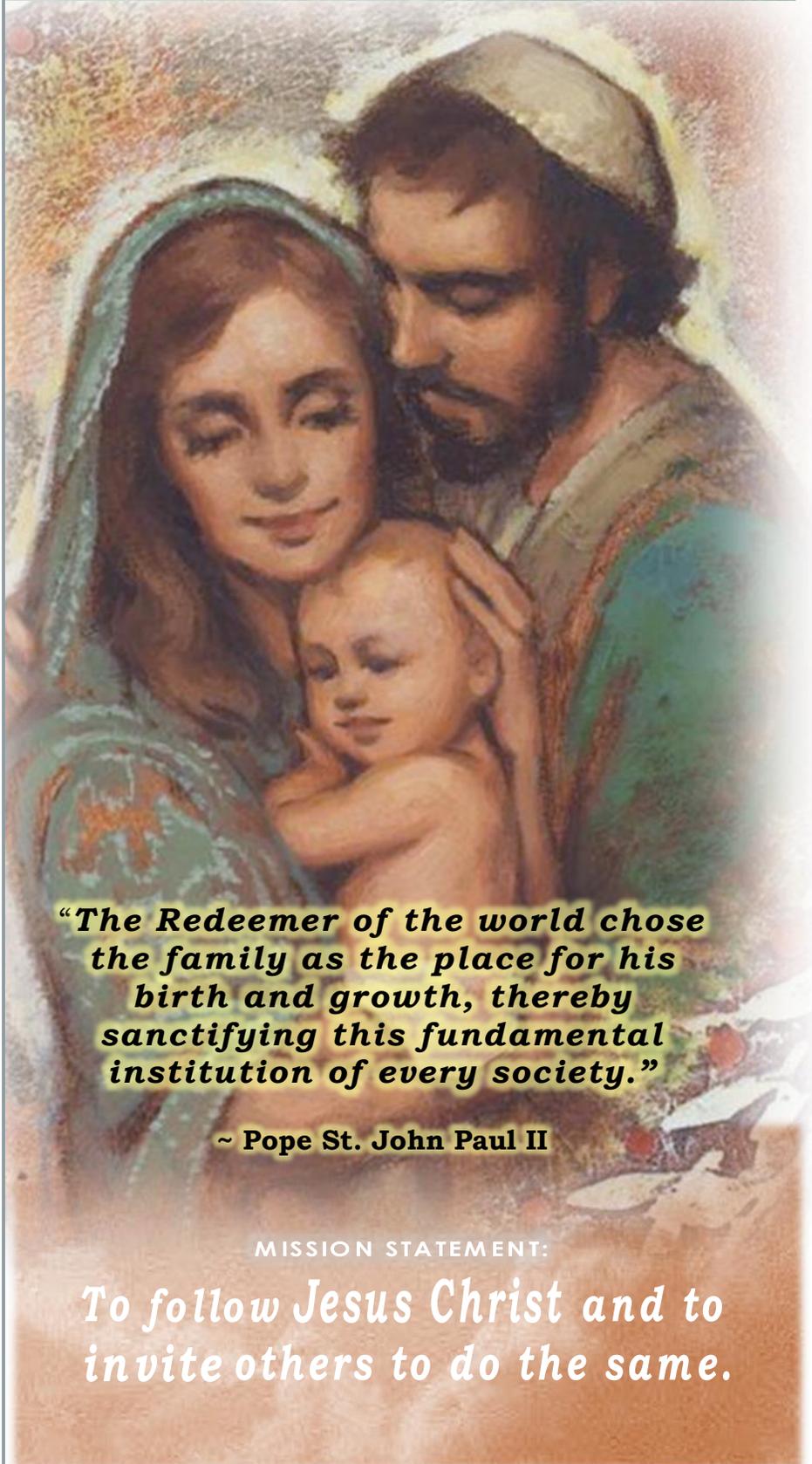
Sunday 10:30AM

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Welcome

Feast of the Holy Family—December 31, 2023

Solemnity of Mary—January 1, 2024



***“The Redeemer of the world chose
the family as the place for his
birth and growth, thereby
sanctifying this fundamental
institution of every society.”***

~ Pope St. John Paul II

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

PARISH STAFF:

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FACILITIES MANAGER:

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

This Sunday, December 31st, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, this day is meant to bring us closer to the Holy Family by remembering their example of *love, sacrifice, and humility*. Despite facing potential ostracism by others, Mary and Joseph’s willing cooperation with God’s plan changed the course of humanity forever. Their example of love and sacrifice can inspire our families to grow closer and build stronger relationships through prayer.

Today, reflect on the ways that your own family can better model after the Holy Family:

For mothers, how can you grow more in humility and love to resemble the heart of Our Lady?

For fathers, how can you learn from St. Joseph regarding the virtues of self-sacrifice and courage?

How can we all honor our earthly parents and grandparents like Christ honored His Father?

Pope St. John Paul II writes: *“For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is an authentic school of the Gospel. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an intimate community of life and love; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small “domestic church” that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline and community asceticism and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.”*

Mother Theresa’s Prayer for The Family

Heavenly Father,
you have given us a model of life
in the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Help us, O loving Father,
to make our family another Nazareth
where love, peace and joy reign.

May it be deeply contemplative,
intensely Eucharistic and vibrant with joy.
Help us to stay together
in joy and sorrow through family prayer.

Teach us to see Jesus
in the members of our family,
especially in their distressing disguise.

May the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus
make our hearts meek and humble like His,
and help us to carry out our family duties
in a holy way.

May we love one another
as God loves each one of us,
more and more each day,
and forgive each other’s faults
as you forgive our sins.

Help us, O Holy Father,
to make our families one heart,
full of love, in the Heart of Jesus
through Mary.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
cause of our joy, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.
Holy Guardian Angels,
be always with us,
guide and protect us. Amen



Feast of the Holy Family—Sunday, December 31:

Reading 1: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14
Psalm: Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5
Reading 2: Colossians 3:12–21
Gospel: Luke 2:22–40

Solemnity of Mary—Monday, January 1:

Reading 1: Numbers 6: 22-27
Psalm: Psalm 67
Reading 2: Galatians 4: 4-7
Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

<https://saintandrewsabbey.com/homily/mary-mother-of-god-homily/>

Today, as so many in the world celebrate the beginning of a new year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Mother of God. It is the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy. It is also a feast uniquely appropriate to those of us concerned with new beginnings, with new resolutions, and renewed hopes.

To the consternation of many non Catholics, we sometimes let personal forms of piety towards Mary obscure the reasons behind our Church's devotion to her. Perhaps we, in our personal emotional involvement with Mary, even lose sight of her genuine place in our faith and Church, we run the very real risk of simply sentimentalizing her, and thereby trivializing Christ.

In fact there is very little in scripture that paints an historical portrait of Mary. What the church offers in its devotion towards her, however, is its own spiritual and prayerful experience, its reflections on her throughout the millennia. And this is, ultimately, to the good, because what we today understand of our Lady is a reflection of the Church's prayer and insight, of the Church being led by the Holy Spirit to develop an understanding of why Mary does in fact have a special role in our lives.

But we ought always to remember that development in the Church is about one thing only: that in our attempt to understand God, we grow in comprehension of the meaning of the Incarnation in our world and life. It is in this light that we must reflect on the Virgin Mary, Theotokos, Mother of God, mother of Jesus Incarnate. And just as Mary interpreted all things, pondered all things, in her heart, so does the Church reflect on her and the Incarnation through its liturgy, its writings and its faith. That is why her oldest feast is celebrated within the octave of Christmas, of Emmanuel, of God with us: for all devotion to Mary is a corollary to our devotion to, following of, and worship of Christ.

Today's readings help clarify this devotion, because they so intimately hint at the essential connection between Mary and her Son.

Paul's Letter to the Galatians tells us that by **being born of a woman, born under the law, the son of God fully participates in the human condition. He is one of us, because of Mary. The very fact of Mary's physicality, her embodiedness, her fleshliness, and therefore Jesus' own body, is the saving link between God and humanity.** Through this link Paul

writes that we become heirs of Christ, and intimately understand God as Abba, the way her Son understood His Father. **It is Mary's profound human kinship with Jesus that allows us to see in her a pledge of the destiny that God has promised all his children.** Mary becomes the measure of who we are and who we are to be, and are even now becoming through grace in our lives as she, full of grace,

was. The great 14th century English mystic Dame Julian of Norwich wrote that in Mary "our Lord speaks to all mankind as [if he] were [speaking] to one person,... [saying] 'Do you want to see in Her how you are loved?'" **In effect, in understanding Mary we begin to understand ourselves as loved by God.**

The gospel we have heard today is almost an exact repeat of what was read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas. It is worth noting that in this gospel the shepherds, considered among the marginalized, the poor, the outsider, are those first informed of Christ's birth, and who first visit the infant Jesus. **It is the outsider who bears the good news of what the angels have announced: that the Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born. It is the outsider that helps Mary to deeply know her Son.**

In Luke, Mary represents the ideal believer, for she hears the good news and ponders it in her heart,

and fully responds to it. **Her heart becomes the place of discovering Jesus, and who he truly is. As our own hearts must become that place of response. Mary's entire life, and the Church's entire life, is centred on that process of pondering who that child now born to us really is.** Mary in contemplating her son becomes the Church reflecting on the Incarnation. It is this aspect of Mary's motherhood that is most important for our new year, a year in which we continue our own journey of the heart towards God.

We make a major mistake if we think that from the moment of the Annunciation, Mary completely knew, or understood, the full significance of her Son. Mary pondered on who that child would be from her "Yes" at the Annunciation, when the first cells of God incarnate began to grow and divide within her, to his birth and squalling infancy, his youth, maturing, leaving home; her hearing about him from others, hearing about what he had said, what he had done; the healings and exorcisms, the confrontations, the *via crucis*, seeing him nailed to the cross, her holding his dead body, the body that had been within her.

And each step of the way, she had to re-assert that "Yes" of the Annunciation, ever and more deeply understanding what her response meant. She spent her life pondering the visible Word of God that was and is her Son. She grew in knowing him, in comprehending the mystery of God Incarnate.

And as Mary pondered that visible Word, we too must ponder that Word in scripture, that Word in each other, that Word in the created world around us. We too are asked to incarnate Jesus in our lives. This is needed by all of us in this new year, in this strange, confusing and dangerous age. And I must especially say to my monastic brethren, this seems to me to be the purpose of our life, why we live in a monastery: that we in times of silence face the Word of God, and let it shine upon us, and that we make Christ visible in our community life, in our work, in our very souls. For in incarnating Jesus in our hearts we discover ourselves.

Reflection calls for response. And Mary's response to God ought not to be thought of as simply a choice between right and wrong, good or bad, some sort of ethical or moral decision. Nor should our choices be only that. Mary gives us an example of what our choice as Christians really implies: that each genuine choice we make reveals who we are and is not simply what we do. In our choices we act out of our self, and tell of our self. Christian, human, freedom of choice is not about choosing which film we will go to see, or what we will wear, or what we will own: it is about how we reveal and define ourselves on that journey to God.

Mary's choice was not right or wrong, it stemmed from who she was and knew herself to be as a daughter of Israel, a child of God.

She is blessed of all women, and we are told in the great Aaronic blessing from the Book of Numbers in today's first reading, that God will smile upon those he loves and who love him, that his face will shine upon them. And today, this New Year's day, we know that the face that smiles upon Mary as she holds him in her arms. presenting Him to His Father in the Temple, is that of her new-born Son Jesus. This is the face we yearn to see, the face of God made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary.

Congratulations to those recently Baptised:



Callum Stewart McDougall

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 Lefave, 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,
Marcy 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

ADORATION CHAPEL
OPEN Every Day 9AM-9PM

*"And the Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us."*
John 1: 14

Hours in need of a weekly
Adorer:

Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am
Sunday, 5:00pm-6:00pm
Monday, 9:00am-10:00am
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, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Friday, 8:00am-9:00am
Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm
Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Friday, 5:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Saturday, 3:00pm-4:00pm
Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm

Hours in need of a Substitute:

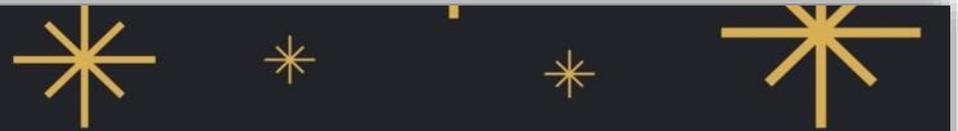
Mon., Jan. 1 – 9:00-10:00am
Wed., Jan. 3 – 4:00-5:00pm
Sat., Jan. 6, 13, 20 – 4:00-5:00pm

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



2024 Liturgical Calendars

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION



On Sunday, December 31st, the Adoration Chapel
WILL BE **OPEN ALL NIGHT** into the **NEW YEAR.**



Extreme Weather Shelters

The Shelter is open for those experiencing
homelessness, at South Surrey
Recreation Centre on Extreme Weather
nights only.

Urgently Needed Right Now:

Weatherproof Men's Gloves, and Weatherproof Jackets
(Perhaps you've received new ones and don't need the old ones;
or you see something at your favourite Thrift Store)

Also needed are **men's socks** and **new boxer underwear.**

No women's clothing needed at this time.

***after Jan 2nd, please take your donations to the Office of
Peace Portal Alliance Church (15128 27b Ave, South Surrey)
Monday-Friday, 9-4pm

**First Friday
Devotion to
the Sacred
Heart of
Jesus**



First Friday of each month

January 5, 2024

9AM Holy Mass followed by
**Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Benediction**
6:30PM Holy Mass



**CHRISTMAS
TREE CHIPPING**

BY DONATION - in support of Knights of
Columbus Community Charities



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

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

**Please remove ALL decorations,
wires and tree stand.**

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

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



**St. Thérèse
Widows Group**

Next gathering: is
Monday, January 8

in the Fireside Room at
Good Shepherd Church.

For more info. contact
coordinators:
Marlene Johnston -604 538 5899
Mimi Bower-604 535 6288



**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
Jan 16, 23, 30

and
Fridays 10am-11:30am
Jan 26, Feb, 23, Mar 22



For dads of the parish and
their school-age children (5yrs +)

Fridays 6:45-8:00PM
Star of the Sea School Gym

First Gym Night of 2024 is on
January 12th.

Contact Joseph Myers
Joseph.myers.j@gmail.com
604-866-7887 for more info

*coffee
conversation
connection*

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

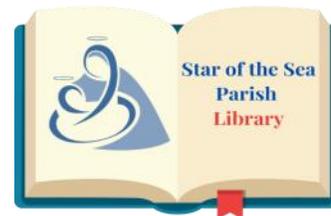
First Parent Connection
Monday of 2024 is on
January 8th

Next **SENIORS &
FRIENDS CAFÉ**



is on **Friday, January 19**
after the 9am Mass in the foyer of
Good Shepherd Church

Everyone welcome!



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It is expected for all who attend Mass at
Good Shepherd Church and Star of the Sea
Church on a regular basis to consider this
as their parish. Registration forms are
available in the foyer of both churches
and can be dropped in the Sunday Collection basket.
Thank you!

2024

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