

ST MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Bulletin



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 956 GIBSONS WAY, GIBSONS, BC V0N 1V7

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Welcome to St. Mary's.
Visitors are always welcome. If you're looking for a new parish to call home, we would love to have you join our family.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office	Mercy Campbell	604-886-2447	parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org
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Catholic Women's League	Mercy Campbell	604-741-7880	mercy.vito@dccnet.com
Sunday Bulletin	Dan Tsuji	604-989-7474	dan@dantsuji.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat Vigil Mass 6:00PM
Sun 11:30AM
Wed & Fri 11:30AM
CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass

Sunday Reflection by Fr. Vincent



The Bible is the most popular, most well-known, and most loved book in the world. The New Testament is the most loved part of the Bible. The Gospels are the most loved books in the New Testament. The Gospel of John is the most loved Gospel. And its most loved verse is chapter three, verse 16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” So John 3:16 is the most loved sentence in the world. This verse was once described by a theologian as a “gospel in miniature” because it proclaims in the briefest and simplest manner the ineffable love of God. For that reason, many scholars have suggested that if all the Bible texts were lost and if that verse were the only one to survive, nothing of the good news of salvation would be lost or lacking. This verse, frequently seen on bridges and signs at sports events in the south of the border, encapsulates the essence of Christianity, proclaiming God’s profound love for humanity, expressed through the sacrifice of his Son for eternal life.

The concept of God sending His Son to offer salvation is astounding, demonstrating the depth of God’s love. This act, symbolized by Jesus dying on the cross, is a testament to God’s love, which is boundless and self-sacrificing. This act of love challenges our understanding; why would God love us so much? The answer lies in the nature of God, which is pure love, giving everything without reservation. When Jesus came, he gave us everything, all of himself, on the cross, demonstrating the extent of this love. It’s not about deserving or earning salvation; it’s a gift freely given to all, regardless of their past. So, how do we receive this gift of eternal life? It’s not about being good enough or meeting certain criteria; it’s about accepting and believing in Jesus Christ, our Savior. This belief isn’t just an intellectual one but a personal relationship with God. It involves acknowledging our sins, repenting, and living a life pleasing to God. In essence, John 3:16 encapsulates the core message of Christianity—the unconditional love of God, demonstrated through the sacrifice of His Son, and available to all who believe.

The famous Bible verses given in today’s Gospel reading (John 3.14-21), John 3:16 and John 3:17, took on an extra special meaning for many Christians when they were

displayed in an astronaut program on TV a few years ago. Space engineers were shown designing space suits for the command module pilot and the lunar module pilot. A part of the design of each space suit was an umbilical cord, consisting of a long flexible tubing. Its purpose was to supply oxygen to the astronauts when they walked in space or passed from one module to another. The suit receptacle into which the command pilot’s cord fit was called J 3:16 and that of the lunar pilot was called J 3:17. Designer Frank Denton said that he named the two suit receptacles after the two gospel passages, John 3:16 and John 3:17. His reasoning for doing so went like this: just as J 3:16 and J 3:17 supply the astronauts with what they need to survive in their journey from one module to another, so John 3:16 and John 3:17 supply us with what we need to survive in our journey from earth to heaven.

What is my purpose?
Is Jesus still relevant?
Is God present in my
loneliness?
How can I have hope?

Where can
I ask these
questions?

Alpha provides a space to ask all your questions about life, faith, and meaning in a friendly environment with people who, like you, want to explore.

Each Alpha session includes a short video, time to connect, and plenty of time to discuss.

Join us!

- March 12, 2024
- 6:30 pm
- St. Mary's Church Hall, Gibsons
- email Deacon Kenan at kmackenzie@rcav.com



Try Alpha





THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONVENIENT E-TRANSFER DONATIONS FOR PARISHIONERS

Parishioners can now donate to St. Mary's by sending an e-transfer to "parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org." Even though the recipient's name is displayed as "The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver (Sechelt)," the funds will be deposited into St. Mary's account.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross are celebrated after Mass on Wednesdays.

VOLUNTEERS

The parish is currently looking for volunteers. Any help is appreciated and we are looking for heads for the following tasks:

- Watering the trees and plants
- Trimming the trees and hedges

If you can help out, please contact the parish at parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org

CHORAL EVENSONG

Every year in March, Choral Evensong is held at St Hilda's in Sechelt. This year's edition (on St Patrick's Day!) features works by renaissance composers John Sheppard (c.1515–1558) and Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656), early twentieth-century composer Edward Bairstow (1874–1946), and present-day composer Tim Pratt (b.1958). The congregation will sing along to two popular passion-tide hymns and prayers will be offered for our war-torn world.

All are invited to experience some respite from modern society by plunging into slowness of the past, contemplating the beauty still extant today, and hoping for brightness in the future to overcome the dark.

Choral Evensong
Sunday 17 March 5:00 PM

St Hilda's Anglican Church (5838 Barnacle St, Sechelt)
coastvespersong@gmail.com

LENTEN CONFESSION

Tuesday, March 12, 5 - 6:30 pm
Fr. Mark Schwab will be our guest confessor.

NORAH BELLMAN

Pray for the repose of the soul of Norah Bellman. The Sunday mass on March 17 will be offered for this intention. There will be some family members attending the mass and an opportunity to offer them our condolences after.

ROGER LEGASSÉ

Please join us in welcoming Roger Lagassé as the local rep for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada for Holy Family Church.



This is not the first time we have called for a ceasefire and an end to all fighting in Gaza; we have been doing so continuously since October, along with many other religious authorities, foremost among them the Holy Father. Our latest appeal comes precisely because we are in contact with our population in Gaza; **we are aware of how the situation is becoming more and more terrible every day.**

Cardinal Pizzaballa
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

**CEASE
FIRE
NOW**



PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN OUR PARISH....

Cory Fortier, Mary Nguyen, Grace Wilkinson, Amy Kashani, Mercedes Link, Josie Renaldis, Helen Gillis, Sharon Hofmann, Christine Hughes, and Camelle Manuel. And pray for those who care for them.

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