

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

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|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
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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



In today's Gospel (Mark 1.29-39), we learn that Jesus "cured many who were sick with various diseases." One of Jesus' ministries is to bring healing to the sick. You might wonder if this ministry ended with His ascension, but the answer is no; this ministry continues through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament used to be called the "Last Anointing," "Extreme Unction," or "Last Rites."

Practically, this sacrament is administered by a priest, who uses oil blessed by a bishop—known as the Oil of the Sick—to anoint the forehead and hands of the person who is ill. This act is accompanied by prayers for healing, which ask God to grant the sick person physical and/or spiritual healing, peace, and courage to endure their suffering with grace. It imparts a special grace that unites the sick person more closely to Jesus' Passion, offering a gift of the Holy Spirit that renews confidence and faith in God while also forgiving sins if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the Sacrament of Confession.

The sacrament can be received in various settings: in a church, a hospital, a nursing home, or even at the person's home, making it accessible to those who need it. It is not only for those at the point of death but also for anyone who is seriously ill, undergoing major surgery, or burdened with the frailties of age, recognizing that such moments significantly impact one's spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Moreover, the Anointing of the Sick is not a one-time event; it can be received multiple times, reflecting the ongoing nature of human frailty and the need for divine grace at different stages of illness or different moments of suffering.

The practical application of this sacrament also underscores the community aspect of faith. The presence of family members and the faith community during the anointing (when possible) signifies the collective support and prayer of the Church for the individual. It is a vivid reminder of the Church's teaching that suffering is not borne in isolation but is shared and alleviated through the compassion and prayers of the faithful.

In essence, the Anointing of the Sick serves as a powerful sacramental sign of God's unwavering presence

and love in times of illness and suffering. It practically brings the grace of God into the lives of those who are afflicted, offering not just the hope of healing but also the profound comfort of belonging to a community that cares and prays for its members in their time of need.

On a chilly January night in Chicago, Fr. Bart Juncer, the dedicated pastor of St. Odilo Parish and the National Shrine of the Poor Souls in Berwyn, Illinois, received a frantic phone call from a family at Rush University Medical Center. Their 42-year-old son, battling cancer, had just been given a grim prognosis - he wouldn't make it through the night. Despite the freezing weather outside, Fr. Juncer hurried to the hospital to administer the Anointing of the Sick. As he left, a sense of sorrow hung over him, and he didn't anticipate any further contact with the family. However, life had an astonishing twist in store.

Four months later, on a sunny April morning, Fr. Juncer's phone rang again. The voice on the other end revealed a remarkable story: "Do you remember coming in January to give the Anointing of the Sick to a 42-year-old man with cancer?" "I remember that very well," Fr. Juncer replied. The caller's astonishing revelation left them both in awe: "I'm that man, and I'm still alive. What's more, Father, I just returned from the doctor, and they couldn't find any trace of the cancer. They can't explain how it vanished, but it's gone." Overwhelmed by this miracle, the man sent Fr. Juncer a detailed letter, ensuring that this extraordinary story would remain etched in their memories.



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOCATION LIVE-IN

There will be a Vocation Live-In on the weekend of February 10 -11 at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more information phone 604-826-8975 or email rector.minors@sck.ca

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.

MEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

In order for us as Catholic men, to fully live out what God is calling us to be and do, we must have a deep knowledge of, and relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Our lives can be transformed by encountering Him through the written word of God.

Then we may go out and share this Good News. Please join us for our delayed first session on Thursday, January 25th 7:00 - 8:30pm at St. Mary's church hall. Please bring your Bible.

Thanks, Keith Brind 604-886-4738.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN OUR PARISH....

Cory Fortier, Mary Nguyen, Grace Wilkinson, Amy Kashani, Mercedes Link, Josie Renaldis, Helen Gillis, Sharon Hofmann.

And pray for those who care for them.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

February 14, at 11:30 am

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (only one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not greater than a full meal, eating solid foods or snacks between meals is not permitted). In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This includes Fridays of Lent, although Catholics can substitute special acts of charity or piety (e.g., saying a Rosary) on these days. No one should consider this obligation lightly.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP

Our next gathering will include a light breakfast, the Liturgy of the Hours, and lively discussion. Please join us on Saturday, February 7th, 8:30am at St.

Mary's church hall.

Thank you, Keith Brind

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Gibsons are hosting a Luncheon for Seniors on Feb 9, 2024 at 12:30pm at St.

Mary's hall. We are inviting everyone specially the seniors to join us.



OLD BLESSED PALMS RETURNED

Please bring back your previously blessed palms from last year to the church. We will burn them and use the ashes for the upcoming Ash Wednesday.

VALENTINE SENIOR LUNCHEON

Join us for a heartwarming CWL Valentine's Luncheon at St. Mary's Catholic Church!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

at 12:30 PM

in the Parish Hall

All are welcome and bring a friend!

Questions?

Call Paula at 778-836-0980

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