

DEC 10TH, 2023

ST MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Bulletin



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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.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST

Each Friday after the 11:30am Mass there will be an Exposition of the Eucharist as follows:

First Friday - 1 hour and Subsequent Fridays - 30 min

ADVENT CONFESSION

Tuesday, December 12, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Guest Confessor: Fr. Mark Schwab of St. Stephen's Parish in North Vancouver.

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.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - 10 pm

Christmas Day - 11:30 am

New Year's Eve - 6 pm

New Year's Day - 11:30 am

Please be aware that attending Mass on Sundays is a distinct obligation from attending Mass on Christmas or New Year's. It's important to note that one Mass cannot fulfill both the Sunday obligation and the obligation for Christmas or New Year's.



Sunday Reflection by Fr. Vincent



Sunday Reflection by Fr. Vincent: John the Baptist is a waiting figure, God's watchman, but his waiting is anything but passive. He does not go into the wilderness to sit in solitude and wait for the one who is to come; rather, he calls the people of Israel to a radical change of heart in readiness for the coming of the Lord. From the wilderness his voice has a powerful reach: it attracts a people who have grown accustomed to the silence of God. It is worth noting that since the death of the last of the writing prophets, the voice of God had not been heard in the land for 300 years. That long silence is broken when John speaks, and this is what gives John his unique authority. Through him the silence of God is ended: the spirit of prophecy is alive again as it was in the days of old. That is why all Judaea and all Jerusalem make their way to John: in him the people hear the living word of God.

The purpose of John's preaching is to prepare for the One who is to come. And we know that "One" to be Jesus of Nazareth. Yet, at first, the people are filled with expectation, and all are questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John humbly answers all of them by saying, as we see in today's Gospel (Mark 1.1-8), "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals." John understands his own powerful place within the larger context of God's plan and this frees him to defer to the One who is to come. Jesus' greatness does not diminish John's importance; John is important precisely because of who Jesus is.

John's way is a challenge to all of us: to foster the greatness in others without feeling threatened about the value of our own contribution; to be free to celebrate the importance of others because we have a sense of our own worth and value before God. John manages to do all this, and, not surprisingly, Jesus will return the compliment when he speaks about John to the crowds, telling them that there is no greater mother's son than John the Baptist. As the relationship between John and Jesus teaches us, the generosity in recognizing the goodness in others can help them call out the good that is in ourselves.

In 1878, when the Salvation Army was really beginning to make its mark, men and women from all over

the world began to enlist. A man who had once dreamed of becoming a bishop in another denomination crossed the Atlantic from America to England to enlist in the Salvation Army instead. His name was Samuel Brengle. Brengle left a fine pastorate to join William Booth's Army. At first General Booth accepted his services reluctantly and grudgingly. Booth said to Brengle, "You've been your own boss too long." So in order to instill humility in Brengle, he made him work by cleaning the boots of other trainees. Discouraged, Brengle said to himself, "Have I followed my own fancy across the Atlantic in order to black boots?" Then, as in a vision, he saw Jesus bending over the feet of rough, uneducated fishermen. "Lord," he whispered, "you washed their feet; I will black their shoes." Samuel Brengle went on to establish the Salvation Army in America. At the time of his death, the Salvation Army was thriving in both the United States and in Canada. Just before his death Brengle sent out a short memo to all of his top leaders. This memo had one single word written on it: "Others."

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat Vigil Mass	6:00PM
Sun	11:30AM
Wed & Fri	11:30AM

CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass



The Sunshine Coast Filipino-Canadian Association would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported and volunteered to the Dinner and Karaoke

Night. The event was a success and we raised \$2000 for the Christmas Community Dinner. Thank you!!!



Paula, Lucette and Delma, members of the Christian Life Community (an Ignatian Spirituality group) would like to invite you to attend an Advent Series offered



on four Wednesdays – November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th from 10 AM until 11:30 AM. Please join us to pray with scripture, reflect and share our reflections. A sign-up sheet will be available at the front of the church.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISM:

Contact parish office. A preparation class for parents is required.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

If you are interested in learning about or being initiated into the Roman Catholic Church, please contact Fr. Vincent or the parish office for information.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the priest at least 6 months before the date of marriage.

Premarriage course is mandatory.

VISITS TO THE SICK

If you cannot come to Mass because of illness, please notify us or have a family member contact us that we might minister to you either at home, in the hospital, or a nursing care facility. Confidentiality issues prevent us from contacting you so it is necessary that you personally request a visit.



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.



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