

DEC 31ST, 2023

# 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.



## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

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.

### 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**

### 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.

### SUNDAY COFFEE

Coffee Sundays will resume January 7th

### MEN'S BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP

We extend an invitation to all the men of our parish to join us for our first breakfast and fellowship of 2024! The time is 8:30am on Saturday, January 6, at St. Mary's church hall.

A full breakfast will be served, and the Liturgy of the Hours will be part of our get-together.

Keith Brind 604-886-4738.





## Sunday Reflection by Fr. Vincent



The Gospel for Christmas recounts that an angel of the Lord stood before the shepherds and said, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger... So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.” The significance of the baby lying in the manger was profound, as it symbolized that he was the nourishment for the world. The shepherds also hastened to Bethlehem, emphasizing that the only fitting way to seek the Lord is with haste.

They were seeking Jesus the Saviour but they found Mary and Joseph too, who were simply being with their child, much like the first Apostles called “to be with him.” Some forms of Christianity would push aside Mary and Joseph and focus solely on Jesus. This is not Catholic Christianity. Don’t ever be misled by people who say Mary and Joseph “distract” from Jesus or “take away” from him. When we seek Jesus we find him with Mary, and Joseph—the Holy Family.

Jesus came to Earth as a human child within a human family because that’s what God intended. He wanted and needed a family, and he doesn’t expect us to dismiss them. Our Savior’s face is that of a man standing between his parents, and just as Jesus honored his family, he wants us to do the same. If Jesus is our brother, then Mary is our Mother, and Joseph our father. We are all members of “the Family.”

As we gather around the altar, we join Jesus as a family, where he becomes present and feeds us with his Body and Blood. Some Catholics may choose not to attend Mass, claiming, “I want only Jesus – I can pray to him at home.” This is not true Christianity! True Christianity involves being part of Jesus’ family of faith—the Church. Those who want Jesus but not his Church are not fully embracing Christianity.

Fred Craddock tells the story of serving in an area where all the local pastors rotated turns as chaplain at the small, thirty-bed area hospital. During one of his turns, a baby was born. He went to the hospital and encountered

a whole family of folks gathered around the window of the nursery looking at the baby. He met the father who looked sort of worried, anxious, and dumbstruck all at the same time—that “new father” look. The baby’s name was Elizabeth. As they looked at the baby, she started to squirm and scream. The father looked worried, so Dr. Craddock said something about the baby not being sick but just clearing out her lungs like all newborns do. The father said, “Oh, I know she’s not sick. But she’s mad as the devil.” That took Dr. Craddock back a little, and he asked, “Why’s she mad?” The father said, “Well, wouldn’t you be mad? One minute you’re with God in Heaven, and the next minute you’re in Georgia!” Dr. Craddock asked, “You believe she was with God before she came here?” The father said, “Oh, yeah.” Then Craddock asked, “You think she’ll remember?” And he said, “Well, that’s up to her family. It’s up to the Church. We’ve got to ensure that she remembers, because if she forgets, she’s lost.” – Friends, it’s essential to treasure both our biological family and our spiritual family, which is the church, in our lives.



### MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass



## REMEMBER THE ELDERLY THIS CHRISTMAS

Pope Francis reminds us that our obligation to visit the elderly is more significant than ever as the number of elderly people grows. This Christmas consider visiting the seniors in our community who may be feeling lonely or isolated during this season. "Social isolation and loneliness are as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day," Jacques Lee, a Toronto-based emergency physician, told Global News.

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN OUR PARISH....

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

And pray for those who care for them.

## 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.



## PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office	Mercy Campbell	604-886-2447	parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org
Hall Rental	Mercy Campbell	604-886-2447	parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org
Hospitality	Paula Stewart	778-836-0980	pauladianestewart@yahoo.ca
Communion of the Sick	Lucette Brind	604-886-4738	lcbrind@gmail.com
Project Advance	Kenan MacKenzie	604-885-7810	kenan@kenanmackenzie.com
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Catholic Women's League	Mercy Campbell	604-741-7880	merc.vito@dccnet.com
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