

DEC 3RD, 2023

ST MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Bulletin



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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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.



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.

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



Today, we begin Advent, a season filled with anticipation and waiting. Advent, which means “coming,” is a time when we eagerly await the arrival of someone we deeply love. This season brings our focus to the anticipation of the Lord’s coming, the arrival of Jesus, and this waiting takes on a three-fold dimension. First, we remember that Jesus has already come in history. As we approach the week before Christmas, our waiting shifts towards the celebration of His birth. We reflect on the incredible moment when God became man, born in a humble manger. This historical arrival is a source of great joy and wonder. Second, we wait for His final coming at the end of times when He will gather all of us unto Himself. This aspect of Advent reminds us of our ultimate destiny and the promise of eternal life with Jesus. It’s a time to ponder our faith and how we are living in accordance with His teachings, knowing that one day, He will come again to fulfill His promise. Third, we experience His daily coming into our lives through the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and various events and individuals that touch our lives. Advent calls us to be aware of the constant presence of Jesus in our daily existence. It’s a reminder that He is with us always, guiding and supporting us through life’s ups and downs.

In today’s Gospel (Mark 13.33-37), Jesus calls his disciples to be spiritually vigilant, “Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.” This message was not only for His disciples at that time but is a timeless call to all believers throughout history. “And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” After more than two millennia, we must contemplate this command. Are we, as contemporary Christians, spiritually awake and vibrant, or are we succumbing to indifference and mediocrity? Does the Church require a renewal, a return to the humble, pure faith of ordinary believers? A spiritually dormant church lacks a future and relevance. We must rekindle our relationship with Jesus, infusing creativity, vitality, and joy into our Christian lives. As we journey through this Advent season, let us embrace the waiting, the anticipation, and the call to vigilance. Let us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, the hope of His final coming, and the joy of experiencing His daily presence in our lives. This season is an opportunity for us to reawaken our faith, to be watchful, and to let the love of Christ shine brightly in our hearts and in our communities.

Years ago, when 20th Century Fox advertised in the New York papers to fill a vacancy in its sales force, one applicant replied: “I am at present selling furniture at the address below. You may judge my ability as a salesman if you will stop in to see me at anytime, pretending that you are interested in buying furniture. When you come in, you can identify me by my red hair. And I should have no way of identifying you. Such salesmanship as I exhibit during your visit, therefore, will be no more than my usual workday approach and not a special effort to impress a prospective employer.” From among more than 1500 applicants, this man got the job. – Jesus encourages us to be as prepared as the man in the story. Since we don’t know when He will return, it’s essential to live a life that is continually pleasing to Him.



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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