

JAN 14TH, 2024

# 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

### 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](mailto:rector.minors@sck.ca)

### 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 has resumed! Join us after Sunday Mass.

### 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, Feb 4, 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



Andrew is one of the most attractive characters in the New Testament! For one thing, he simply couldn't keep the Good News of Jesus to himself; he had to share it with others, and he seemed delighted to introduce people to Jesus! The New Testament mentions Andrew three times, and each time he is introducing someone to Jesus: (1) He brings the boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fish to Jesus, and Jesus feeds 5000 people with the boy's gift! (2) He brings a group of inquiring Greeks who want to talk with Jesus. (3) He gets his brother, Simon, to meet Jesus!

In today's gospel (John 1.35-42), John the Baptist sees Jesus walking by and tells Andrew, "There is the Messiah, the Lamb of God!" Andrew and another disciple of John the Baptist follow after Jesus and ask, "Where are you staying?" Jesus invites them to "come and see," and they came and stayed with him that day! Imagine spending the entire day talking with Jesus and asking him questions. Andrew is convinced that Jesus truly is the Messiah, and he immediately runs to find his brother, Simon, to share the Good News! "We have found the Messiah," he excitedly tells Simon, and then the gospel says, "He brought him to Jesus!" This gospel is a perfect example of the most common type of "evangelization"—one based on the personal sharing of Good News with another; not one based on preaching or teaching someone "about" Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi explained the difference between the two types of evangelization when he said, "We are called to preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words!"

There is a true story about a very young "evangelist" named Josephine. She is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. Every day, the school bus picks her up and drops her off at home. In her case, when the bus drops her off, her brother Jimmy is always waiting for her by the fence surrounding their house. He is a year or so older than Josephine but doesn't go to school. Some of the students on the bus used to look for him, and when they saw him, they would laugh. They laughed at him because they somehow saw that he was "different" and they didn't know or understand why he was different. They would wave at him and sometimes call out to him, making him wave back and making them laugh even more. But when Josephine got off the bus, her brother would jump up and run to meet her. To the other kids' surprise, Josephine didn't seem at all embarrassed,

even though she knew the kids on the bus were having a great time. She would greet her brother, hug him, and then throw both arms around him. Hand-in-hand, the two of them would march into the house together.

At a young age, Josephine had learned the very human lesson of love and acceptance. When the other kids asked Josephine about her brother, she would simply say that her brother was "different" from other kids and that he would never be like them, but he was her brother, and she loved him. Over time, the other kids on the bus began to understand a bit more, and their "mocking" began to stop. They still continued to wave at Jimmy, but now it wasn't mockery; it was with a sense of kindness and compassion, and Jimmy would always wave back. What was it that changed the attitude of the kids on the school bus? It was the image of Josephine embracing her brother and accepting him the way he was. Through her love for her mentally handicapped brother, she was introducing those kids on the school bus to Jesus' love and his compassion. She truly was a little "evangelist" without even being aware of it. She was "preaching" the gospel of Jesus' love to them—just by her example. Words were not necessary. Her actions spoke volumes.



### MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass





## 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.

## 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.

Dear Archdiocese of Vancouver Parishes:

Happy New Year! Registration for the 2024 Bishop Thomas Lobsinger Bursary has just opened. We are offering 14 - \$1,000 bursaries to post secondary Catholic students in British Columbia up to the age of 25. I would appreciate it if you could add the attached announcement in your parish bulletin over the next few weeks, it would be much appreciated. Additional information including terms of reference can be located on our state website: <https://kofcbc.org/bishop-lobsinger-bursary-program/>

Please let me know if you have any further questions or if you prefer a PDF format document instead of the attached word document.

Christopher Chen  
State Treasurer, State Bursary Chairman  
Knights of Columbus  
BC/Yukon State Council

## PARISH CONTACTS

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