

FEB 18TH, 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.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Sunday Bulletin	Dan Tsuji	604-989-7474	dan@dantsuji.com

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



Last Wednesday, we began the season of Lent. As a church we have set out on a forty-day journey which will end at Easter Sunday. Today's gospel reading ([read here](#)) tells us that "the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the Angels waited on him."

We can consider wild beasts and angels as two opposing forces. The wild beasts could be seen as agents of Satan, putting Jesus' relationship with God to the test, enticing him to put himself rather than God at the centre of his life. The angels, in contrast, are servants of God, supporting Jesus in his time of struggle, giving him the strength to stand firm in the test, to withstand the onslaught. There is some parallel between where Jesus found himself in that wilderness at the very beginning of his ministry and our own lives. We too can find ourselves caught between wild beast and angels. We too can find our best convictions, our deepest values, being put to the test. The values of the gospel are not always in harmony with the world in which we live. The pressure to compromise with those values can be very strong.

Insects and flies are drawn to the sweet scent of flowers, often finding themselves ensnared and unable to escape the overpowering pollen. Similarly, humans, like bees, can be lured by enticing temptations. While temptation typically carries a negative connotation, it can also disguise as something good, leading us astray. The attractiveness of the goal determines the strength of the temptation, regardless of whether the path is arduous or littered with distractions.

Examples from the Gospels illustrate how seemingly good intentions can divert us from our true purpose. The rich young man declined Jesus' invitation to discipleship due to his attachment to wealth, while Martha's preoccupation with hospitality prevented her from fully engaging with Jesus. Even those who declined an invitation to a banquet did so for seemingly valid reasons, yet they missed out on the opportunity. Jesus' parable of the sower highlights how worries and worldly desires can choke our spiritual growth, despite not being inherently evil. Therefore, we must be vigilant, as the allure of apparent goodness can be more insidious than outright evil.

Temptations, often disguised as friendly offers or appealing opportunities, require wisdom and strength to resist, especially when they appear good. Ultimately, the most challenging decisions often involve discerning between what is merely good and what is truly best for our spiritual well-being.

Experiencing marital problems, a Christian couple sought out the advice of a marriage counselor. After numerous sessions, it became quite evident that their problems centered on monetary issues. "You both have to quit spending money foolishly," he said. "The next time you feel tempted, just forcefully say, 'Get behind me Satan!'" They both agreed that this would work. Within a week, things were getting back to normal in their household. The husband quit making his weekly stop at the tool section in the local hardware store, and his wife, who was a chronic spendthrift obsessed with purchasing the latest fashions, ceased buying dresses every time she went out to the mall. Whenever they felt the urge to spend money, they would both repeat the words the counselor had told them: "Get behind me Satan." However, by the third week, the woman succumbed to her weakness and bought an extremely expensive evening gown. Her husband was furious. "Why didn't you say, 'Get behind me Satan?'" "I did," replied his wife, "but when I did, I heard a response." "Yeah, and what was that response?" growled back her husband. "Well, I heard him say, 'Actually, it looks better from the back than it does from the front!'"



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

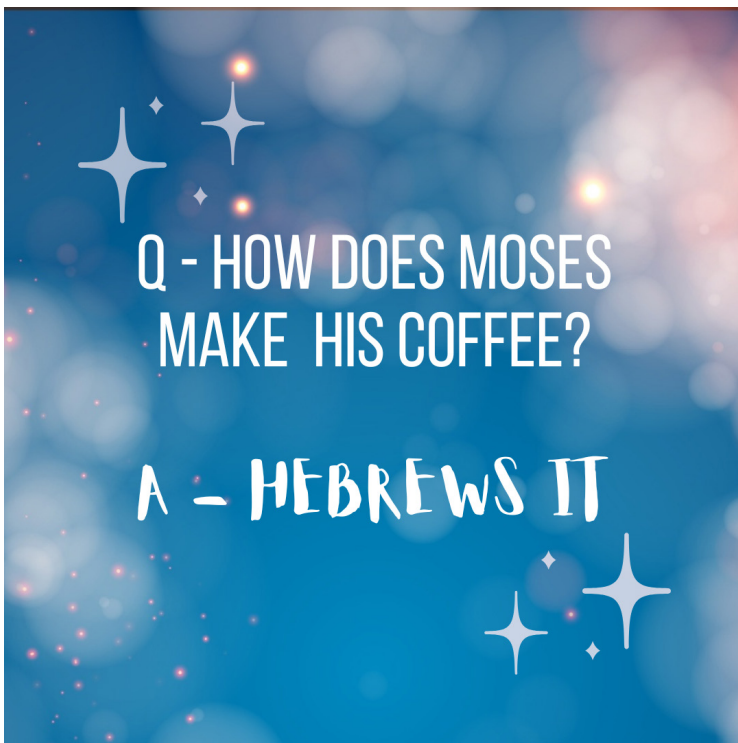
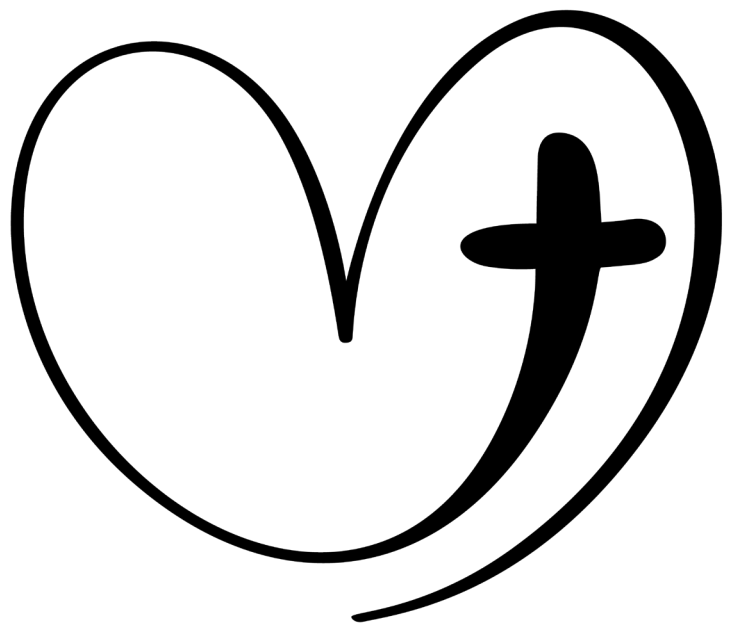
During Lent, the Stations of the Cross are celebrated after Mass on Wednesdays.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection this weekend for St. Joseph's Society, which supports our retired priests who have dedicated their lives to serving our local communities. Your donation will express your gratitude to them.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We continue with the next session of the Men's Bible Study on Thursday, February 22, 7:00-8:30pm at St. Mary's Hall. Please contact Keith at 604-989-1676 for more information.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN OUR PARISH....

Cory Fortier, Mary Nguyen, Grace Wilkinson, Amy Kashani, Mercedes Link, Josie Renaldis, Helen Gillis, Sharon Hofmann and Christine Hughes
And pray for those who care for them.

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