



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

244 Lawrence Street, New Westminster, BC. V3M 5L1

<https://holyspiritnewwest.ca>

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PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR - REV. TOMSON EGIRIOUS



**First Sunday of Advent, Year B, 3rd December 2023**

**'Stay awake! Be ready!'**

As we begin the season of Advent, the readings continue to focus (as in recent weeks) not just on the coming of Christ at the end of time, but also on his coming in our own lives. The people of Israel, newly returned from exile, find the task of rebuilding their land difficult, and ask God their Father to come and help them. They have done penance, and now trust that he will return **(First Reading)**.

The **Psalms** continues this theme, appealing to God 'the shepherd of Israel' to come to the help of his people.

In the **Second Reading**, Paul writes to the Corinthians of his gratitude for the graces they have received. Their strong Christian witness and the gifts of the Spirit they have been given will stand them in good stead when the Lord returns on the last day.

In the **Gospel** Jesus uses images familiar to his audience to warn them to remain alert and awake, as a doorkeeper would. In this way they will not be caught unawares when the Lord comes again.

So we, too, pray to enter this season of Advent trusting that the Lord will come: as he came in history at Christmas; as he comes in our hearts if we keep our door open; and as he will come at the end of time. **We pray for all those in the world who are waiting with longing and hope for freedom from oppression and peace.**

## MASS TIMES

### Weekend Mass

Saturday 9 am & 5 pm  
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

### Weekday Mass

Monday, Wednesday  
& Thursday - 9 am  
Tuesday & Friday - 7 pm

### Sacrament Of Confession

Saturday 9.30 am - 10am  
4 pm - 4.30 pm  
or by appointment

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

### Tuesday To Friday

10:00am - 4.30pm  
Lunch Break 12pm - 1pm

### Saturday

10.00am - 12:00 noon

**Office is closed on  
Monday**

[stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com)



In his intention for December 2023, Pope Francis prays:  
"We pray that people living with disabilities: may they be at the center of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."

## Parish Ministries, Organization & Services

### Altar Servers Ministry

### Be The Light Ministry

Coordinator: Noli Pangilinan

### Catechetical Ministry

PREP Winnie Bernardo

### Catholic Women's League

President : Cecile Cartago

### Knights Of Columbus

Robert Yang

### Legion Of Mary

Fidel Carolino

### Ministry Of Hospitality

Coordinator: Jose Cruz

### Ministry Of Lectors

Coordinator: Armando Cordova

### Music Ministry

Dr. Audrey Zylmans  
Ana Marie Avendano  
Noreen Nicolas

### Project Advance Team

Art & Violet Tonido  
Jun & Liezel Javier

### Building Committee

Theo Vanden Hoven

### Fund Raising Committee

Ruth & Jeric Alvarez

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

**BAPTISM:** Call the parish office to register for the Baptism Preparation Course. This is for parents and godparents. It is held every 1st Saturday of the month from 1pm to 3pm. Baptism is every 3rd Sunday of the month at 1pm

**MARRIAGE:** Arrangements are to be made through the pastor at least six months prior to your wedding date. A marriage preparation course is a requirement of the Archdiocese. Secure a spot at all Marriage Prep courses. Go to registration webpage: <http://rcav.org/m-prep/>

**CONVALIDATION:** If your marriage was not celebrated as a Sacrament and you wish your marriage to be recognized by the Church, then call the parish office to make an appointment to see **Fr. Jack**

**ANointing OF THE SICK :** Call the parish office to request a hospital visit or for communion to the sick at home.

**FUNERALS:** Please contact the office before making any arrangements with the Funeral Home.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Did you know, Catholics can "offer" Mass?

We do so for multiple reasons such as thanksgiving, for another person/s such as a birthday, graduation or wedding anniversary or as is most common, for the repose(peace) of the soul of someone who has died. Mass Offering envelopes are available at the back of the Church

## Parish & Archdiocesan Events

1. The Advent Penitential Service for our parish will be held on December 15, Friday at 7 PM. There will be three priests present. There will be no 7PM Friday Mass.

There will be no Simbang Gabi at Holy Spirit Parish  
Interested Parishioners who want to pray the Novena,  
St Peters and Our Lady Of Mercy may host Simbang Gabi.

Advent Penitential Services at other churches.

New Westminster – Advent Penitential Services Location:

Thu Dec. 14 – St. Cyril and Methodius at 7 PM  
Fri Dec. 15 – Holy Spirit Parish, Queensborough at 7 PM  
Mon Dec.18 – St. Michael's Burnaby at 7 PM  
Tue Dec. 19 – St. Peter's New Westminster at 7 PM  
We Dec. 20 – St. Francis de Sales, Burnaby at 7 PM  
Thu Dec. 21 – Our Lady of Mercy, Burnaby at 7 PM

Information about additional Penitential Services can be accessed via the Archdiocese website.

2. Christmas and New Year Mass schedules:

### December

Sun Dec. 24 – 9 AM, 11 AM and 7 PM  
Mon Dec. 25 – 9 AM and 11 AM  
Sun Dec 31 – 9 AM, 11 AM and 7 PM

### January

Mon Jan 01 – 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM  
Sun Jan 07 - Epiphany Sunday - CWL Coffee Services after 11 AM Mass

The Sunday Collection Counters have noticed a marked reduction in the number of folded bank notes in the collection since they asked you not to fold them. This has been a big help to the Counters and they send a big **THANK YOU** to you.

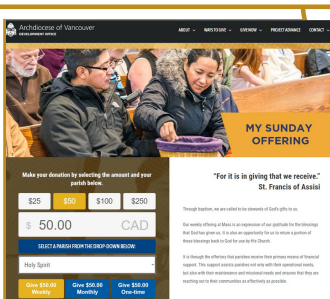
3. The **Legion of Mary in our Parish**, is inviting members to join them after the Saturday 9:00 AM Mass in the Parish Centre every week. Anyone who is 18 years of age or older with a desire to serve Mother Mary is also warmly invited and indeed encouraged to Join them.

For more information please contact :

**Bro. Fidel** at 604 374 4429 fidelcarolina@gmail.com or **Sis. Mida** at 778 865 5929.

### Bequest Clause The bequest can be added to your existing Will as codicil...

"I give and bequeath to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, incorporated under a special Act of Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, and whose offices are located in Vancouver, British Columbia, for the benefit of **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH** 244 Lawrence St. New Westminster, BC V3M 5L1 the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_% of the estate, or the total of the residue of the estate."



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### Three Minutes with God: Love Eternal

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and given the Medal of Freedom by President Reagan in 1985.

She was canonized a saint in 2016. She spent her life loving the poorest of the poor. She never criticized people, governments, or individuals for faults that might have contributed to sickness or poverty. She once said: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

If I feel like criticizing someone, that person probably needs my help, my love, and maybe my prayer. Love helps; judging negatively doesn't. Prayer helps—and prayer works! Instead of judging someone, take the time to love that person. That attitude of love will help that person—and help you as well.

#### Love's Challenge

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."—John 15:12-13

The word love is used a lot. We hear it every day. Love your neighbor, love your country, and for Christians, love even your enemies. We all need to be loved; we all need to love because others also need to be loved. But what is love?

Love is a choice, a decision to go out of oneself and look at what would be best for someone else instead of what appears to be best for me. That's true love, and we all know that. Don't worry about those positive feelings; they will soon be there in a deeper and long-lasting way.

St. John Paul II had an interesting description of love: "Love is a challenge God throws to us." But why would loving my spouse, or child, or friend, or a stranger be a challenge? Because love, as John Paul defined it, is the sincere gift of oneself to another. I must forget myself or my schedule, my needs, or my comfort in favor of someone else. That's the challenge God throws at us. Ultimately, by loving others in this way, we are showing God how much we love him. Choose to go outside yourself today for another person. You and they will be better and happier for it!

#### Prayer:

Lord, I need your Holy Spirit so I can love as you love. Help me to choose the best for others. Amen.

Monsignor Frank Bognanno

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



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## Saints for December

### Saint Francis Xavier December 03



Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ.

Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

#### Reflection

All of us are called to "go and preach to all nations—see Matthew 28:19.

Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another.

The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis Xavier gave his to others.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>

#### Mission

*Holy Spirit Parish is a community demonstrating that God is known and loved through living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ taught by the Roman Catholic Church through Word, sacrament and service with certain hope that all who repent and believe will have eternal life*

#### Vision

1. We see a parish that is diverse, Spirit-filled and vibrant, joyously worshipping together.
2. We see a parish generously caring for each other with our time, treasure and talents.
3. We see a parish with relevant, active and well-led ministries that are mission-oriented.
4. We see a new parish hall built in the next 3-5 years that serves as a gathering space for parishioners to learn, connect, grow and celebrate our faith.







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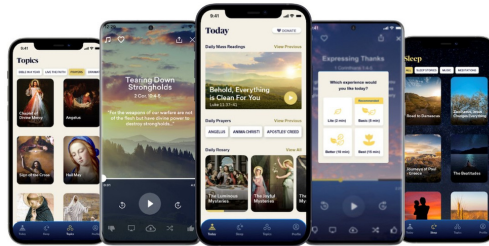
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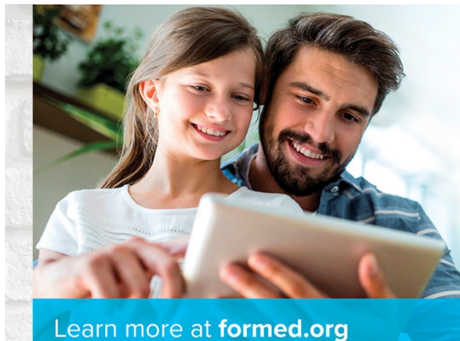
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