



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

<https://holyspiritnewwest.ca>

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PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR - REV. TOMSON EGIRIOUS



Second Sunday of Advent, Year B, 10th December 2023

'Prepare a way for the Lord!'

Advent is a sacred time of longing and preparation for the Lord; a time for waking up to listen to the Spirit calling deep within us.

The words of Isaiah (**First Reading**) bring to this Sunday's liturgy a cry of consolation for a people desperate for peace. As we make a straight path to welcome the Lord into our lives, he gathers us up into his arms like a shepherd tenderly holding his lambs.

Our world is thirsting for this peace now, the deep peace that only Christ can bring. The **Psalm** is a prayer that speaks to the longing and yearning that is within us all.

Christ is not slow to respond to our desire for this peace. Peter's letter (**Second Reading**) to the early Christian community teaches that the Lord wants no one to be lost: he desires for all to be gathered unto himself. Since we do not know the time of the Lord's return, our prayerful preparations will draw us nearer to the peace that he promises.

The **Gospel** of Mark that we follow throughout this coming year begins the revelation of the Good News with that same call of the prophet Isaiah that began our readings: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calls us to repentance and renewal. He baptises with water, but tells of the time when we will be made new by the Holy Spirit.



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."

stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

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

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. The PREP classes, Grades 3 to 7 are expected to attend along with their parents. There will be three priests present.

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
Wed 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.

**There will be no 7:00 PM Mass on Tuesday and Friday for the upcoming week.
Instead the Mass on both day will be at 9:00AM.**

2. The **Knights of Columbus** will be having their monthly meeting on Sunday, 10th, December, at 2:30 pm in the Parish Centre. All members are asked to make an effort to attend this last meeting before Christmas.

3. Christmas and New Year Mass schedules:

December

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

Please note the Regular Sunday 9 am and 11 am Mass are still on schedule

January

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

Giuseppe Dalla Valle's funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 11 at 10:30 AM.

Lidiya Deconti's funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday December 13 at 10:30 AM.

Prayers will be said on Tuesday December 12 at 7:00 PM.

4. 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 :

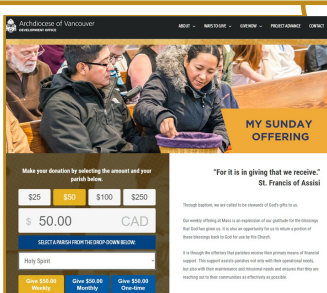
Bro. Fidel at 604 374 4429 fidelcarolina@gmail.com or **Sis. Mida** at 778 865 5929.



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Three Minutes with God: Strength in Suffering

Three Minutes with God features hundreds of inspiring reflections and prayers that will remind you to rejoice and praise God. Each day's entry includes a scripture passage, a thoughtful reflection, and a brief prayer to revive your spirit. Here are a few to get you started.

Prayer in Suffering

"In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me."
Psalm 86:7

We go through periods of suffering during our life. The suffering might be physical, emotional, or relational. It might be short-term or long-term. But perhaps it's really an invitation to turn our minds and hearts to God. It's an invitation to open ourselves to God's unconditional love for us personally. The best prayer is short but powerful. It's a one-word prayer: "Help!" Yes, just "Help!" Pray it with peace, calm, and trust. Then wait in silence and watch for God's response. Add on other words if you want. Help is on the way.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to see that my suffering is often a call to pray. Amen.

Renew Your Strength

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."—Philippians 4:13
How can you or I hasten through the day today and not grow weary? How can we go through life's paces and not grow tired? We find the answer in Isaiah 40:30–31: Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Start each morning and end each evening with a prayer of trust in the Father's love. You will find God's helping hand in each step. That trust will help you to walk and not stumble, to run and not grow weary.

Prayer:

Lord, I trust your love for me—increase that grace of trust. Amen.

Accept Your Weakness

"Whenever I am weak, then I am strong."—2 Corinthians 12:10
Jesus began his preaching by giving us the eight Beatitudes. The very first one is "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? It simply means "Blessed are those who know their need for God." They realize they are weak and finite, and they know that God's love is the infinite source of strength for them each day.

If you feel "poor in spirit," your human soul probably feels empty; maybe that's good. Maybe now there is room for a deeper relationship with God. St. Francis of Assisi repeatedly prayed, "Who are you, God, and who am I?" If we make room for this prayer in our poverty of spirit, we make room for the great truth of life: God is love, and we are his beloved.

Jesus clearly tells us that God loves us not in spite of our weakness, but because of our weakness. Being "poor in spirit," we become blessed because our spiritual poverty opens us up to true riches, God's riches. When you feel poor in spirit, thank God, for you are open at that moment to his mercy, grace, and joy. Yes, the kingdom of heaven is yours!

Prayer:

Lord, help me to realize that my weaknesses are open doors for you.
Amen.

Saints for December

December 08

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century.

In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.



In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

<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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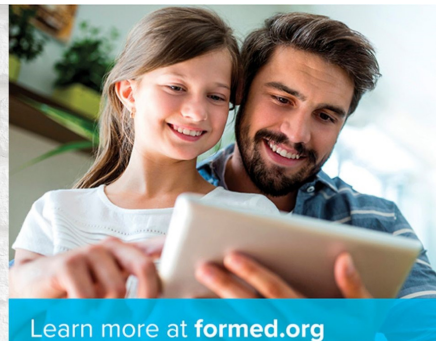
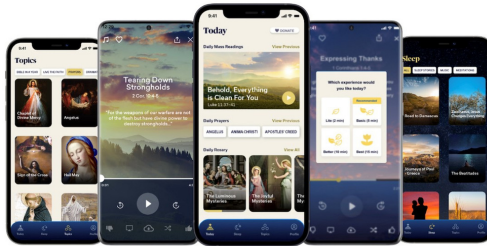


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