



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

<https://holyspiritnewwest.ca>

email: parish.hs@rcav.o

PHONE: 604-521-0334

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR - REV. TOMSON EGIRIOUS



Third Sunday of Advent, 'Gaudete' Sunday, Year B, 17th December 2023

'Rejoice! The Lord is near.'

The readings on this Gaudete ('Rejoice!') Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God's Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people.

Isaiah (**First Reading**) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives.

Mary's Magnificat is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. (Psalm)

St Paul (**Second Reading**) encourages us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do; we are to give thanks for all things to God, and to pray constantly. Paul urges us to be happy always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us.

The focus of the **Gospel** is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light': Jesus himself. John answers the priests' questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces that the Saviour they seek, Jesus, is already amongst them, though 'unknown to them'.

As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. Let's pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.

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



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**

ANOIDING 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. New Westminster Deanery - Advent Penitential Services Locations:

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.

2. 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

Please pick up your 2024 Sunday Offering Envelopes and calendar located at the back of the Church next to the side door.

We have some votive candles for sale at a discounted price of 25 cents each at the back of the church. If you like to add a donation, Santa would gratefully accept it.

3. 2024 Donation Envelope

If you need a 2024 Donation Envelope **please email the parish office** with your complete name & address. If you changed address in 2023 please email the parish office your new complete address for tax purposes.

parish.hs@rcav.org

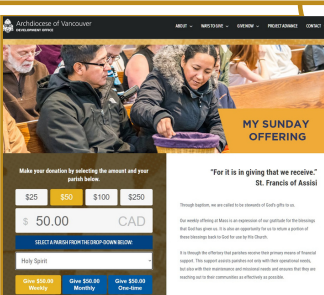
Have a Holy Christmas & a Blessed New Year!



Your gift to Project Advance will grow your parish and expand the reach of Christ's love to those who need it most.

#ProjectAdvance

Give online projectadvance.ca



You can make an online offering using your credit card or set up automatic weekly or monthly donations

Please visit our website:
holyspiritnewwest.ca



Three Minutes with God: Meditations on Hope

Will what I do during my lifetime make any difference? Maybe in the present, but what about years from now? Will the good fruit of love and justice I have borne really last?

Jesus gave us the answer to that question: Yes! If our life is connected by faith, hope, and love, we will bear “fruit that will last” (John 15:16). So, you and I do what we discern to be God’s will for us in each moment; we do our duties as best we can, and we do them as much as possible out of a motive of love for God and others.

God not only guarantees good, nourishing fruit from our labors, but fruit that, by his power, will last and nourish others in the years ahead.

Enjoy these reflections on hope!

**“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, preserve in prayer.”
—Romans 12:12**

Why do those people with real, genuine faith seem to be people of peace, people with peace? Because faith in God’s unconditional love gives them hope. What is real hope?

It’s trust that God is right there, close, involved in our lives. One of the saints wrote: “Faith brings what seems hopeless within our reach, then added, “The person of faith is not one who believes that God can do everything, but the one who believes that he or she can obtain everything from God.”

The Bible reveals the absolute unconditional and irrevocable love God has for his children. This is shown in Christ who both died and rose again for us. St. Paul wrote: “He loved me, and gave himself for me.” Through faith our hearts hold on to that truth and find great trust in God. The more I believe in his love for me, the more I enjoy God’s presence.

If you believe in God’s unconditional, personal love for you, then you believe you can obtain everything from God. That’s faith! Faith is the mother of hope, real hope, and from hope peace is born in the human soul.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my hope in you. Amen.

Love Breeds Hope

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”— John 15:12

We place some of our hope in other people—family members, friends, coworkers, or neighbors. That feeling of hope and expectation brightens our life. And others are also placing some of their hope, trust, or confidence in you and me.

Usually we know, or at least sense, what they hope for from us: a listening ear, compassion, a smile, or something we can actually give them. Our response to fulfill their hope is one word: **love**. Yes, it is love that moves our mind and heart to answer the hope they place in us. And if we can’t totally fulfill their hope, our love itself will fill the gaps. Love and pray for those who place some hope in you. They won’t be disappointed because they will sense your love for them.

Prayer: Lord, inspire me to love so that you can inspire the hope others need. Amen.

Saints for December

December 14

Saint John of the Cross’ Story

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: “of the Cross.” The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John’s life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John’s spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification.

Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly “of the Cross.” He died at 49—a life short, but full.


Reflection

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John’s message—like the gospel—is loud and clear: Don’t—if you really want to live!

Saint John of the Cross is the Patron Saint of: Mystics

<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.



Place your AD's here for only \$150 for minimum 6 months or \$275 for 12 months
get a digital business card free (only 15 Slots available)

<https://holyspiritnewwest.ca> email: parish.hs@rcav.org

PHONE: 604-521-0334



www.team3000realty.com

Bus: 778-297-3000
Fax: 604-677-5629
Email: gerritorres@gmail.com



Gerri Torres
Real Estate Professional
604.761.3464



Peter Tolentino
Personal Real Estate Corporation

778 239 2666
peter@ptolentinorealty.ca
www.ptolentinorealty.ca



GINA BACTOL

Mortgage Advisor

604.719.4765

www.mortgagearchitects.ca/GinaBactol
gina.bactol@mtgarc.ca



"Top Performer 2021" & "Top Producer 2020"



"Financial Independence For Everyone...
No Family Left Behind"



Evangeline Pagsanhan
MARKETING DIRECTOR



778 868 2780
epagsanhan01kzc@wfgmail.ca
<https://agents.wfgcanada.ca/evangeline-pagsanhan>
2025 Willingdon Ave. Unit 000, Burnaby, BC, V5C 0J3



Darly Capellan
Insurance Advisor

Suite 460, 628 - 6th Ave.
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 6Z1

Business: 604-515-0770
Facsimile: 604-515-0710

Cellular: 778-998-2086
Residence: 604-528-3855

darly.capellan@fddfinancial.com



SERVICE ABOVE ALL



Columbus Homes

Affordable homes for seniors in Greater Vancouver

For information call:
604-250-6444

www.colchar.org

Your story continues at Columbus Homes...



We are Here to Help
Pre-Planning



Kearney
FUNERAL SERVICES



Mike Garisto
m.garisto@kearneyfs.com
604-312-9799



Ethelyn David
ethelyn.d@kearneyfs.com
604-889-3842

Pre-Planning allows you to
make carefully-considered,
pressure-free decisions that
are the right choices for
you and your family.

Helping • Caring • Planning

Vancouver 604 736 0268 New Westminster 604 521 4881 Burnaby 604 299 6889 Cloverdale 604 574 2603



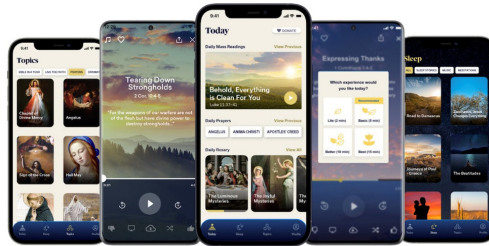
www.KearneyFS.com



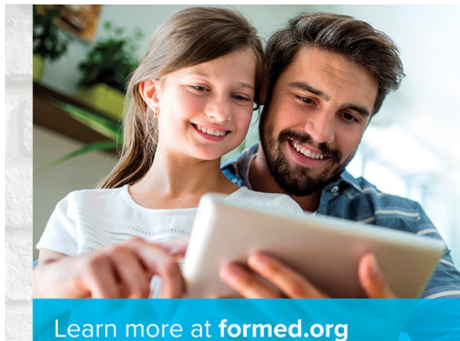
GARDENS OF

Gethsemani
CATHOLIC CEMETERY

604-531-2141
rcav.org
Surrey, BC



Amen
THE FREE CATHOLIC PRAYER APP



Learn more at formed.org

The best Catholic content.
All in one place.

It's EASY and FREE to register!

1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our parish zip or name **Holy Spirit-BC-V3M 5L1**
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others

RANDY'S SALON
Professional Hair Styling Services



RANDY
Barber



JANET
Stylist

Tel : (604) 520-0479 | Cell: (604) 767-7283
Instagram : @randys_salon

#155 - 23233 GILLEY ROAD, RICHMOND, BC V6V 1E6



Knights of Columbus

BLESSED JOSEPH ALLAMANO COUNCIL #11359
Knights of Columbus
Kofc11359@gmail.com

Learn More & Join Online
<http://www.kofc.org/secure/learn/join-the-knights.html>



604-812-7097

Thank you for your referrals

Elizabeth Morales Pagtakhan BA
Real Estate Consultant/ Mortgage Specialist
elizabeth@elizabethmp.com
www.grandcentralrealty.com



Grand Central
REALTY

<https://holyspiritnewwest.ca>

PHONE: 604-521-0334 Fax: 604-521-9518

email: parish.hs@rcav.org