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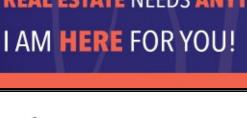


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St. Matthew's R.C. Parish

16079 88 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V4N 1G3 Tel: (604) 589-2448 Fax: (604) 589-2344 Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor ttran@rcav.org; frtientran9@gmail.com

Rev. Raffaele Salvino, Asst. Pastor rsalvino@rcav.org Dcn. Steve Potusek, spotusek@rcav.org Deacon Dcn. Patrick Le. Deacon ple@rcav.org

> 604-589-2083 Rectory

Office Hours:

Parish Admin:

Tuesday to Friday Saturday

604-589-2448 Ms. Caroline P. Mrazek

Mrs. Anna G. De Leon Bookkeeper: Mrs. Ma. Lourdes Tejada

P.R.E.P.: Mrs. Christine Maypa Maintenance: Mr. Lorne Ward

Elementary School: 604-589-7545

www.stmatthewselementary.ca

Preschool: 604-589-1222

REGULAR MASS TIMES

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sunday December 25, 2022

SATURDAY: Anticipated Mass - 5:30 PM

English Mass - 8:30 & 10:30 AM SUNDAY:

12:30 & 7:30 PM

Vietnamese Mass - 5:00 PM African - Last Sunday 12:30 PM (Mass in

English with African Choir)

WEEKDAYS: Monday to Friday (except TUESDAY) - 8:00 AM

Tuesday - 7:00 PM

Friday - 7:00 PM (Vietnamese) ***except First Friday (in English)

Saturday - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Weekend & Daily Masses: half an hour before each Mass

OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAYS **FOR CLEANING**



REGULAR DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary

20 minutes before daily Mass

Divine Mercy

Tuesday after the 7 PM Mass

Our Lady of Fatima

3rd Monday of the month 6:30-7 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday after the 9 AM Mass

First Friday

After the 8 AM Mass -Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12:00 noon Benediction

6:25 PM—Holy Rosary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Jan 8 World Youth Day Bottle Drive

(see details inside)



8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

parish.smat@rcav.org

prep@saintmatthews.ca

lorne@saintmatthews.ca

2023 Sunday Envelopes are now available for pick-up in the **Fireside Hall**

2023 Sunday Missal and Calendar are available at the Welcome Ctr / Parish Office Missal—\$5 Calendar—\$2

Please continue to pray for **Fr. Raffaele Salvino's** speedy recovery from his surgery. May God touch him with His healing hands and restore back his health.



BAPTISM:

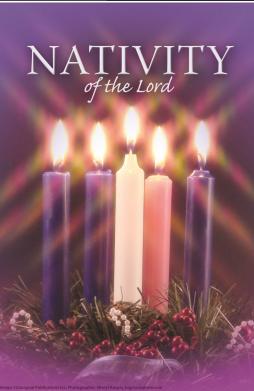
By appointment with a minimum of 2 months' notice (during pregnancy) so that instructions can be given to parents and godparents about the duties and responsibilities assumed in this Sacrament. Contact office@saintmatthews.ca.

MARRIAGE:

A minimum of 6 months' notice with one of the parties registered in the parish and practicing his/her faith. The Marriage Preparation course is mandatory. Please ask for "Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage".

FUNERALS:

Please call the parish office before making arrangements.



As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us

feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPi

Stewardship Reflection

Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of His name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of Him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow Him, I'm really not interested in hearing more."

Because in the end, our very lives are how we "announce His salvation" in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of His coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen Him? It's our job to show them.

- Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be. ©LPi

CONTACT LIST—ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH MINISTRIES

African Community Altar Servers Altar Women Bereavement Ministry **BLD Community**

Bible Study Catholic Women's League Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS) Choirs: Fri 7 PM

Sat5:30 PM

(last Sunday)

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

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Pro Life Ministry Parish Education Committee Parish Pastoral Council Proiect Advance

R.C.I.A. St. Matthew's Prayer Group

St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen St. Vincent de Paul Society Sports Ministry (Basketball) Sports Ministry (Volleyball)

Ushers Vietnamese Community

Youth Ministry

Ms. Tina Obiwumma Mrs. Teodora Suzuki Mrs. Margaret Pereira Dcn. Steven Potusek Ms. France Alayon / Mrs. Nerrie Hombrebueno Mrs. Gail Estrada Mrs. Louise Klaponski

Fr. Raffaele Salvino Ms. Hoang Nguyen Mr. Homer Garcia-Reves Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean Mr. Peter Luongo

12:30 PM Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes 12:30 PM Ms. Tina Obiwumma 5 PM Mr. Vincent Nguyen 7:30 PM Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze

> M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reves Mrs. Deborah Joel Mr Andre Maris Mrs. Stella Lemos

Mrs. Maureen Fadum Mr. Shane Gogo Mr. Jon Javier

> Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham Ms. Ariel Beier M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon

Mrs Germana Brotto Mrs. Teresa Gares Mr. Peter Tang Mr. Tim McKinnon

Mr. Gerry Della Mattia Dcn. Steven Potusek Ms. Christie Castro Mrs. Belle Carson Mr. Eric Andres

Mr. Marlowe Billedo Mr. Tot Phan Mr. Gerry Petines Mr. Minh Nauven

Ms. Van Nguyen Ms. Eleanor Wong

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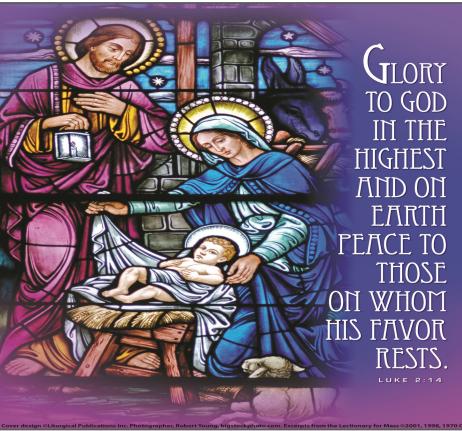
Mommy-Made Goodness

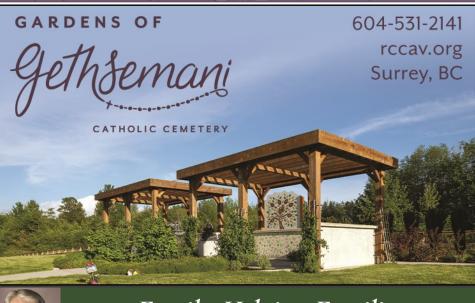
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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

In the spirit of great joy, as we celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, Our Savior, on behalf of St. Matthew's Parish, together with Father Raffaele Salvino, Deacons Patrick and Steve, I would like to wish everyone and your family a happy, healthy and Blessed Christmas Season! As we welcome the Infant Jesus into our hearts at Christmas, let us keep Our Lord with us always and allow Him to guide us throughout the New Year!

We would like to thank you all for your love, prayers, and generous support to our parish throughout this past year. In particular, we, at the rectory, are very grateful for all the Christmas cards, food, gifts that many have sent us over this holiday.

May the Saving Lord bless everyone with the fullness of life, peace, joy, happiness, and good health during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Frs. Tien Tran, Raffaele Salvino, and Deacons Patrick Le & Steve Potusek





Mark this season by loving and serving others with your whole heart.

NOTE: PREP Office will be closed from Dec. 15, 2022 to January 3, 2023

Christine Maypa - prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-589-2448 ext 233



New Year Mass Schedule



December 31, Saturday—New Year's Eve

5:30PM **English Mass**

January 1, Sunday—New Year's Day

8:30AM **English Mass** 10:30AM **English Mass** 12:30PM **English Mass** 5:00PM Vietnamese Mass 7:30PM **English Mass**

- 9AM (English Mass)

Archdiocesan Events



Making Sense of Adolescence

Crossing the bridge from childhood to adulthood has never been so daunting. The time of adolescence is longer than ever, yet society today offers little support in understanding or facilitating this transition. This course is designed to be used by parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, professionals - anyone

who desires to make sense of adolescence. Parents of all ages will find this course invaluable as preparation for what lies ahead. As we enter into a new year, the Archdiocese of Vancouver is pleased to offer, for the first time Making Sense of Adolescence, a Dr. Neufeld video course with discussion facilitated by Keven Bredeman, M.A. Starting Thursday, Jan. 05, 2023, weekly until Mar. 9, 2023. Learn more and register at https://beholdvancouver.org/events/making-

sense-of-adolescence-2.

Encountering Jesus - Sunday Gospel Meditations for Families

Is family prayer time a struggle? Are your children having difficulty paying attention during Mass? Take part in a familyfriendly Mass reading preparation and/or review through a simple Lectio Divina based on the Sunday Gospel readings. This ready-made, on-demand audio program is easy to follow and engages all ages - K-7 and teens/adults to "Read, Reflect. Respond. Rest and make Resolutions" in their lives to live out God's word. The short, yet effective sessions are designed for kids in mind. Guided prayer meditations included. Learn more and register at https:// www.inspiredwithgrace.com/families?r done=1.

Inegritas: A Dialogue on Faith and Mental Health

Join us online or at a host site parish to dialogue about topics of mental health through a Catholic lens, facilitated by a mental health professional equipped to answer your questions.

The four topics that will be covered are as follows:

Session 1: Mental health Session 2: Mental illness Session 3: Stigma

Session 4: Self-care

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan. 25th, Feb. 15th, Mar. 22nd, and Apr. 26th.

Time: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Locations: Online or in-person at Saint Mary Parish, Vancouver; Saint Patrick Parish, Maple Ridge; Christ the Redeemer, West Vancouver; Good Shepherd Church, Surrey.

Facilitators: Denis Boyd and PJ Lewis

Learn more and register at https://beholdvancouver.org/events/a-dialogue-on-faith-and-mental-health.



Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily.



Please include in your prayers †Carmen Balana, +Olga Vaz and †Sergio Nicdao who have gone home to the Lord. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Ryker Slaney; Liz Da Costa; Tommy Contreras; Walter Slaney; Victor Miller; Gerry Della Mattia; Daisy Rodriguez; Nora Bawasanta; Helen Stote; Rosa Villarama; Horst & Elsa Seliger; Nenita Cabilan; Dr. Demetrio Tamparia; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; David Keenan; Alberto Ordonez; Colleen Salmon; Teresita Dimaano; Marie Petines; Irene Collingwood; Antonio, Adela, Jane & Karen Guinto; Adelaida, Ronald & Andrew De Leon; Felix Djuhari; Sueann Zore; Demetrio Tamparia; Cathy & Colleen Herrera.; Jaime & Nita Fermalan; Emilia Sayson; Norbert De La Tour; Pamela Barthelette; Ma. Lydia Ramirez; Aida Bunagan; Yvonne Bailey; Cora De Jesus; Inez Benesh; Mary Grace Navasca; Helen Diala; Lario Roma; Vicenta Ty;

Rowena Olbinado; Leny Uy; John Pinto; Bill Bouwman; Celso "Chito" Marfori; Arturo Rafael; Ricardo Piraquive; Virgilio Guinto; Rowena Serviento; Roy Arbiol,; Ely Pamintuan; Arsenio Billedo; Andrea Bernabey; Caceres, Rios, Alonso and Santa Cruz families; Matteo Boothman; Emelinda Gomez; Pablito Basit; Helena Olivares

Priority on this list is given to parishioners, as space permits. Names will be removed from time to time. If you submit a name to the Prayer List, it is your responsibility to inform the office should his/her circumstances change.

Were you married outside the Catholic Church?

If you are married, but were not married in the Catholic church, we would like to offer you an opportunity to have your marriage regularized with the Church. Please make an appointment with our priest to discuss having your marriage convalidated.

Sacrament of the Sick. What was referred to as "Last Rites" is now called "Anointing of the Sick" administered by a priest when one is "in danger" due to sickness or old age. Please call the Parish Office to arrange.

Care Home Communion Visits. Please remember to let the Parish Office know whenever you or a loved one is hospitalized or moved into a Fleetwood area care home. The Parish has a dedicated group of people who will bring Holy Communion weekly to you or yours.

CWL Corner



Our Saviour is Born Today! Lord Jesus, on this holy, beautiful day that is your birthday, we thank you for all the light and warmth and goodness in our lives. Help us to allow you to fill our lives, our families, and this beautiful world we live in, with peace and love for one another. Always ready to walk in your footsteps.. Happy Birthday Jesus!

St. Matthew's Preschool—Job Opportunity

New Year's Bottle Drive



St. Matthew's Preschool is looking to hire a part-time ECE / ECE Assistant to substitute on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For those interested in applying, please send your resume to preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca.

World Youth Day 2023



Having gatherings over the holidays? Drop off any bottles and refundables to their bottle drive happening on Sunday, January 8 between 9am to 3pm by the Jubilee Hall stairs. Please try to empty liquids from containers prior to

drop off. Thank you in advance for your support! If you have any questions, feel free to email us at salesianwyd2023@gmail.com.

Young at Heart Club ...50 +



Seniors Socials will be on break for the Christmas Holidays. We will resume our gatherings on **Tuesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm.**

Legion of Mary



Celebrate and pray for intercession with the Legion of Mary, happy and willing to bring the image of Mother Mary into your residence and enjoy her presence for a week or two. Kindly write your information on the sheet provided by the wall next to the Parish Office and one of the legionaries will contact you.

St. Matthew's Prayer Group



We invite everyone to come and join us for an hour and a half of praise and worship on Mondays from 7:30PM to 9:00PM at the Jubilee Hall. Let us pray together, sing together and give glory to our God.

ProLife



Say 'No' to Infanticide

On Friday October, 7, 2022 a proposal to extend MAiD to "babies from birth to one year of age who come into the world with severe deformities and very serious syndromes" was brought before the House of Commons to the Special

Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying by Louis Roy of the Quebec College of Physicians. Please help Sherwood Park – Fort Saskatchewan MP Garnett Genius, of Alberta, in his fight against legalizing infanticide in Canada by signing the online Petition at: https://www.garnettgenuismp.ca/no2infanticide.

We are also providing the opportunity for you to sign the petition after mass. Copies of the petition will be available at the entrance & in the Fireside room. There is room for five signatures on the petition and it can be folded, taped and mailed without a stamp.

Vietnamese Spring Rolls



Please support our Vietnamese Eucharistic Group by purchasing their home -made spring rolls. \$30 for 22 pieces per pack. To place an order, please contact Mary Huynh at 778-9952758.

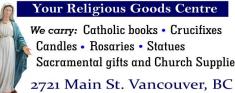
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