

Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2018

Volume 39, Issue 2

Yes, The Hills Are Alive

Remember "The Sound of Music," Julie Andrews running toward the camera, with the beautiful mountain ranges of Austria in the background?

Mountains are a significant symbol of freedom in that movie. The von Trapp family climbed those mountains as a route to freedom from the Nazis.

We symbolically conquer many mountains in our lives: many of us quit smoking, or join AA and quit drinking, or get off drugs. We learn how to make a smooth way through those mountains in our lives, by taking it one day at a time. Today, the gospel says level the mountains and fill up the valleys to prepare a pathway for our God.

In past years, as children, many of us prepared our hearts for Jesus during Advent. We would get very excited as we made an Advent wreath or worked on "spiritual bouquets" of prayers and good works, for example. But as adults, all this faded. Want to recapture some of that wonder? Adults, do some homework this week. Take 15 seconds each day—when you get up would be good—and consciously bring this thought to mind: "Christmas is coming! Jesus is coming! Now is my chance to prepare my heart."

Then during the day ask yourself one question: "What is my heart's desire?" You can't force those magical memories of ginger cookies and sleigh bell. But you can ponder your deepest hopes—for your life, and for the world around you. Advent is the perfect season to stir up hope by reminding us: When we go through the mountains, we go together, as a community. Let's prepare the pathway of our hearts for Jesus as we go.



PLEASE PRAY FOR: sick & shut in; Norman Jansen, Debbie Davis, Mary Deguara, Gene Leclair, David Thiele, Leandro Rodino Jr., Mike Makarenko, Delorus Lee, Aurora Pereira, Dawn Epaarachchi, George Davies, Gracie Formby, Jim O'Brien, Velma Cronin, Silvia Gallagher, Helen Gaska, Pat Horbay, Bernadette Leclair, Mabel O'Donnell, Dario Dira, Carol Armstrong, Rejeanne Lajoie, George Blakey, Lily Gallant, Lucy Gallant, Carol LeBlanc, Cory Van Den Brand, Roy Gregory, Jenna Faykosh, Artemio Abrogena, Sue Broerken, Roy MacLeod, Christopher Lasell, Norah Aucoin, Norma MacInnes, Margaret Mccreadie, Cheryl McDonald, Andrea Haley, Louise Jones, Brenda Curran, Fran & Maureen, Gary Hopper, Mary Hollman, Daniel Gibbons, Catharina Noble, Vera McAleese, Lori Beaulieu Smith, Angela Todo, Anna-Lisa Bailey, Filippina Signorelli, Mary Kennedy, Rosa Santos, Buena Lipat Carandang, Susan Harasyn McEvoy, Maximiliano O'Brien, Peter & Carolyn Goertzen, all sick & shut in of our parish & all in need of our prayers. May our Lord sustain, comfort & heal them through faith.

Stewardship Reflection

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..."
Philippians 1:9-10

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP) - Thank you to the Gr 5 class for the wonderful friendship tea with our special guests from the Bethshan Gardens. Thank you to the students who helped with the drinks for Fr. Paul's Ordination Anniversary. The Christmas play on Wed, Dec 12 starts at 6:30 pm. ALL STUDENTS please arrive by 6pm directly to the centre. Christmas Social follows the play. Please join us and see your class email for items assigned to the classes All families invited and most welcome.



Youth Ministry and the Hispanic Community bring the fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe back to our parish on December 15. Get your tickets now! Ticket sales extended to December 10.



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN LWC invites children from 3yrs to 6yrs to participate in the Sunday Gospel in a prayerful and meaningful way designed in language that they can understand. Our Ministry is offered at our 11am mass each Sunday. Adult volunteers are always needed - please email Maria Harkison at mharkison@gmail.com.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) Please continue to pray for our catechumen as they learn more about our Catholic faith. Topic for Wed, Dec 12: The Communion of the Saints. Join us in the Cenacle Room, 6:30-7:45pm. Everyone welcome. We especially invite parents who are waiting for their children attending PREP.



MEN'S FAITH STUDY For any man trying to figure out how to be a Christian. Come learn what it means to follow Jesus by learning from St. Paul's life and teaching. Saturday mornings, 7:45 -8:45 am in the Parish Centre. Contact Darren Friesen @ darrenxfriesen@gmail.com.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GIFT CARD PROGRAM - All proceeds from gift card sales benefit the vestibule expansion project. We have collected \$2,143 to date.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Questions? Please email preciousbloodcwl@gmail.com. God bless.

ST. THERESA'S CIRCLE Our Dec. meeting which has been changed from Dec. 18th to Dec. 11th. at 1:30 p.m. Hope to see you all there.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP will have a Christmas Party on Dec. 11. Everyone is welcome. No prayer meeting on Dec 18—Christmas break. We will be back on Jan. 15.

HOLY DAYS CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICES Thursday nights at 7 pm in the church. Please come and join us to make our parish Christmas celebrations special.

Parish Schedule		
Dec 10 Mon	9:00 AM <i>Int: Antonietta Borzillo †</i>	8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 11:30AM-1PM Confessions 10AM Walking With Purpose Bible Study 1:00 PM SENIORS SOCIAL 7:00 PM Walking With Purpose Bible Study 7:30 PM PFG Meeting
Dec 11 Tues	9:00 AM <i>Int: Kathy Walker †</i>	8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 1:30 PM St. Theresa's Circle Luncheon 6:30 PM PEC Meeting 7:00 PM Parish Prayer Group 7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice
Dec 12 Wed	9:00 AM <i>Int: Conrad Deugau</i>	8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 9:45 AM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena 10:00 AM LEGION OF MARY 6:30 PM PREP Christmas Play & Socials & RCIA 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus @ Hoffman Manor
Dec 13 Thurs	9:00 AM <i>Int: Yvonne Gunderson †</i>	8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 10AM Walking With Purpose Bible Study 7:00 PM Holy Days Choir Practice in Church
Dec 14 Fri	9:00 AM School Mass <i>Int: Wilf Zinger †</i>	8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 2-3:00 PM HOLY HOUR 7:00 PM Advent Penitential Service in Church
Dec 15 Sat	9:00 AM <i>Int: Deceased members of Mathias & Pereira families †</i> 4:30 PM Christmas Novena <i>Int: Otto, Darryl & Ashley †</i>	8-9:00 AM Men's Faith Study Gathering 8:45 AM Morning Prayer/Confession 9:30 AM Confessions 4:00 PM Confessions 5:30 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta 5:30 Novena Mass Fellowship
Dec 16 Sun	9:00 AM <i>Int: PB Parishioners</i> 11:00 AM <i>Int: Wilf Zinger †</i> 4:00 PM Spanish Mass 7:00 PM Christmas Novena Mass	8:30-8:55 AM Confession 9 AM—5 PM Blood Donor Clinic 10:30-10:55 AM Confession 3-5:00 PM Spanish Prayer Group 6:30-9:00 PM AA Mtg @ Parish Centre 8:00 PM Novena Mass Fellowship

Read the Bible in One Year

Follow the suggested readings daily for 365 days to read the complete Catholic Bible.



WEEK 43

SUN	Jeremiah 17-18; Sirach 13:14-25 ; John 3:1-21
MON	Jeremiah 19-21; Sirach 14:1-14 ; John 3:22-36
TUE	Jeremiah 22-23:8; Sirach 14:15-27 ; John 4:1-26
WED	Jeremiah 23:9-40, 24; Sirach 15 ; John 4:27-54
THU	Jeremiah 25-26; Sirach 16:1-14 ; John 5:1-24
FRI	Jeremiah 27-29; Sirach 16:15-28 ; John 5:25-47
SAT	Jeremiah 30-31:22; Sirach 17:1-14 ; John 6:1-21



HOLY HOUR EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

on Dec 14, 2-3 pm.
As you "watch and wait" and remain "silent" in His Presence, come and open yourself to His Graces which flow from the Eucharistic Jesus during this Advent season.

"How sweet and full of comfort are the moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament."

St. John Vianney

AROUND THE PARISH



CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS Join us for Mass for 9 consecutive days before Christmas from Dec 15-23. Mass starts @ 4:30 pm on Dec. 15, 22 & 23 and 7 pm on Dec 16-21. Fellowship follows after all Masses.

ADVENT GOSPEL REFLECTION by Bishop Barron Copies are still available. Pick up a copy of this journal for Advent. Cost is \$2 only. Please put your donation in the Sunday collection basket

SUNDAY MISSALS FOR 2018-2019 still available. Get your copy at the Vestibule after Mass or from the Parish Office Monday through Friday. 1 for \$4, 2 for \$7, 3 for \$10.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL is currently taking names of those who may need a little extra help during the upcoming holiday season. If you (or a family you know) are in need this Christmas, please contact the Parish Office. All info received is confidential. If you would like to donate towards this cause, stay tuned for our annual "Giving Tree" program.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FIESTA is on Dec. 15 following the 4:30 Mass. Tickets are \$20/adult, \$10 for kids 6-12. Kids 5 & under-FREE. **Ticket sales extended to Dec. 10. HURRY!!**



VESTIBULE EXPANSION Approval in Principle has been granted by the Archdiocese for this Project! Please continue to pray and support this endeavor which will roughly cost \$400,000. Donate to Project Advance (pledge card or online), support our shopping card program or use the Building Fund envelopes available in the vestibule.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2018 Our parish has currently raised \$56,658.80 with 16% (or 163) of our families participating. Give online at www.projectadvance.ca or by completing a pledge card and dropping it in the collection basket before Dec. 31 for the 2018 tax year. Thank you!

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Thurs., Dec. 13	St. Matthew's Parish	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 13	Our Lady of Good Counsel	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 14	Precious Blood Parish	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 18	Immaculate Conception	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 19	St. Bernadette Parish	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 20	Good Shepherd Parish	7:00 p.m.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

STELLA MARIS CONCERT CHOIR presents "The Promise of a King" Christmas Cantata & Concert. Sun, Dec 16 @ 3 pm, Good Shepherd Church, 2250 150th St., Surrey. Adults \$10, Seniors & Students \$8, Families \$25

HOLY CROSS HS CHRISTMAS BASKETBALL SHOOTING CAMP Jan. 2 -4, 9am to 12 pm at St. Matthew's Elementary Gymnasium in Surrey for boys and girls in Grades 4 to 7. Cost is \$85 includes daily prizes & Gatorade. Email Mr. Le Chasseur hchoysbasketball@gmail.com to secure a spot. 1st come, 1st served.

SERRA CLUB FRASER VALLEY WEST, Delta—there will be no Mass or meeting this month. Next meeting is on Jan 10. A very Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

For HOSPITAL VISITS, please contact : DEACON RAUL ABELLA @ 778-512-9163

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Couples for Christ/Migrant Workers Ministry: Cesar/Beth Alejandria-778-389-163 msg 778-574-4390	Vocations Office: 604-443-3254/ vocations@rcav.org Domestic Abuse Help Line: 604-640-7546
Catholic Cemeteries: 604-531-2141	Pro-Life/Crisis Pregnancy: 1-877-889-6626
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Helpline: 1-855-675-8749 / www.epcc.ca	NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES Billings Method: David /Keely Wray- 604-574-2256
Retrouvaille (for troubled marriages): retrouvaillevanouver.com	Creighton Method: fertilitycarevanouver.ca
Courage (apostolate for individuals with same sex attraction): courage@rcav.org	Encourage (apostolate for family & friends of loved ones with same sex attraction): encourage@rcav.org