



Fr. Reynaldo Usman, Parish Priest
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Office Hours: M-F
8:30am - 4:30pm



Second Sunday of Advent | December 10, 2023

Pope Francis' Mass Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good afternoon!

This Sunday's Gospel passage (Mk 1:1-8) introduces the person and work of John the Baptist. He reveals to his contemporaries an itinerary of faith similar to the one that Advent proposes to us: that we prepare ourselves to receive the Lord at Christmas. This itinerary of faith is an itinerary of conversion. What does the word 'conversion' mean? In the Bible it means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching, who in the desert of Judea was "preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (v. 4). Receiving baptism was an outward and visible sign of the conversion of those who had listened to his preaching and decided to repent. That baptism occurred with immersion in the Jordan, in water, but it proved worthless; it was a only a sign and it was worthless if there was no willingness to repent and change one's life.

Conversion involves sorrow for sins committed, the desire to be free from them, the intention to exclude them from one's own life forever. To exclude sin it is also necessary to reject everything that is connected to sin; the things that are connected to sin and that need to be rejected – a worldly mentality, excessive esteem for comforts, excessive esteem for pleasure, for well-being, for wealth. The example illustrating this comes to us once again from today's Gospel in the person of John the Baptist: an austere man who renounces excess and seeks the essential. This is the first aspect of conversion: detachment from sin and worldliness: Commencing a journey of detachment from these things.

The other aspect of conversion is the aim of the journey, that is, the search for God and his kingdom. Detachment from worldly things and seeking God and his kingdom. Abandoning comforts and a worldly mentality is not an end in itself; it is not an asceticism only to do penance: a Christian is not a "fakir". It is something else. Detachment is not an end in itself, but is a means of attaining something greater, namely, the kingdom of God, communion with God, friendship with God. But this is not easy, because there are many ties that bind us closely to sin; it is not easy... Temptation always pulls down, pulls down, and thus the ties that keep us close to sin: inconstancy, discouragement, malice, unwholesome environments, bad examples. At times the yearning we feel toward the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent; his promises of consolation seem far away and unreal to us, like the image of the caring and attentive shepherd, which resounds today in the reading from Isaiah (40:1,11). And so one is tempted to say that it is impossible to truly convert. How often we have heard this discouragement! "No, I can't do it. I barely start and then I turn back". And this is bad. But it is possible. It is possible. When you have this discouraging thought, do not remain there, because this is quicksand. It is quicksand: the quicksand of a mediocre existence. This is mediocrity. What can we do in these cases, when one would like to go but feels he or she cannot do it? First of all, remind ourselves that conversion is a grace: no one can convert by his or own strength. It is a grace that the Lord gives you, and thus we need to forcefully ask God for it. To ask God to convert us to the degree in which we open ourselves up to the beauty, the goodness, the tenderness of God. Think about God's tenderness. God is not a bad father, an unkind father, no. He is tender. He loves us so much, like the Good Shepherd, who searches for the last member of his flock. It is love, and this is conversion: a grace of God. You begin to walk, because it is he who moves you to walk, and you will see how he will arrive. Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.

May Mary Most Holy, whom we will celebrate the day after tomorrow as the Immaculate Conception, help us to separate ourselves more and more from sin and worldliness, in order to open ourselves to God, to his Word, to his love which restores and saves. [06.12.20](#)

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY
Monday to Friday 9 AM

WEEKEND
Saturday 9 AM | 4:30 PM
Sunday 9 AM | 11 AM

FIRST FRIDAY 6:30 PM

SPANISH MASS
3rd Sunday of the Month 4 PM

**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION
OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
First Friday 3PM to 6:15PM

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday
9:30 to 10 AM | 4 PM to 4:25 PM

Sunday
8:30 AM to 8:55 AM
10:30 AM to 10:55 AM

Monday to Friday – 15 mins.
Before weekday masses
By Appointment

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM
Baby and Child – 10:15 AM
(2nd and 4th Saturdays)

Note: Contact Parish Office to register
Adults – Please enroll in RCIA or contact
Parish Office for more information.

MARRIAGE
Please do not finalize wedding plans
prior to initial meeting with Fr. Rey Usman.
A minimum of six months advance notice
is needed.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK
Please contact parish office
or if after office hours,
email Fr. Rey at pastor@pbparish.ca.

Around the Parish

Weekly Calendar

December 10, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 02

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS

Marie Klaponski | pbaltarserver@gmail.com
Steve De Jong | sjdejong@shaw.ca

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

preciousbloodcwl@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Melissa Banovich
melissabanovich@gmail.com

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Jason & Rency Soliven | rencrd@yahoo.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

Caroline Begley
pbparish.emhc@gmail.com

SPANISH MINISTRY

Luisa Cenedese - 778.878.5429
luisaorea@hotmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight: Jason Border
preciousbloodkofc@gmail.com
2nd Wednesday of the month

LEGION OF MARY

Nancy Mathias (Saturdays, 10 AM)
nattymathias@gmail.com

LECTOR COORDINATOR

Joanne Bueno | jbueno@schoolathome.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY

Linda Smith - 604.319.6141
smithbach10@gmail.com

PROJECT ADVANCE

Alex Ramirez - 778.999.3926

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Vera Elbers - elbersv@telus.net

ST. THERESA'S CIRCLE

Anne Macht - Macht1007@shaw.ca

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Wendy Sprague
preciousbloodssvp@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Alvin Apreco - 604.574.4363
youth@pbparish.ca

CATECHISM

PARISH RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:45 PM
Rency Soliven - 604.574.9623
prepepbparish.ca

RCIA (Catechism for Adults)

September to May
Parish Office - 604.574.4363
ofce@pbparish.ca

Parish Schedule

Mon, December 11 9 AM Intention Mark Siu †	SENIORS CARDS 10:30 - 2:30 PM, Columbus Rm.
Tues, December 12 Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe 9 AM Intention of Conrad Deugau	SSVF FOOD DIST. PROGRAM 10 - 11 AM, Vestibule SSVF MONTHLY MEETING 12 - 1:30, Cenacle Rm.
Wed, December 13 9 AM Lucia & Rodolfo Usman †	PREP PROGRAM 6:30 - 8 PM, Auditorium KofC Meeting 8 - 10PM, Columbus Rm.
Thur, December 14 9 AM Intention of Curt Deugau	RCIA PROGRAM 6:30 - 8 PM, Bushey Rm.
Fri, December 15 Feast: 9 AM Intention of Ronald & Nancy Mathias	9:00 AM—CCS SCHOOL MASS MOM's & TOT's 9:30 - 12 Noon, Cenacle & Columbus Rms.
Sat, December 16 9 AM Anthony & Aurora Pereira † 4:30 PM Otto, Darryl & Ashley †	LEGION OF MARY MTG. 10:00 - 11:30 AM, Cenacle Rm.
Sun, December 17 9 AM Intention of Precious Blood Parishioners 11AM Nilima Daniels † 4 PM Hispanic Mass	UKRAINIAN MASS, 2PM by Exul. of the Holy Cross HISPANIC MINISTRY MIGRANT WORKERS' DINNER, 3:30 - 8:00 PM, Columbus Rm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR



The sick & shut in; Norman Jansen, Debbie Davis, David Thiele, Leandro Rodino Jr., Delorus Lee, Dawn Epaarachchi, Gracie Formby, Jim O'Brien, Velma Cronin, Silvia Gallagher, Helen Gaska, Bernadette Leclair, Dario Dira, Carol Armstrong, Rejeanne Lajoie, George Blakey, Lily Gallant, Lucy Gallant, Carol LeBlanc, Corry Van Den Brand, Roy Gregory, Jenna Faykosh, Artemio Abrogena, Sue Broerken, Christopher, Grace, Anna & Josh Lasell, Norma MacInnes, Margaret Mccreadie, Andrea Haley, Brenda Curran, Fran & Maureen, Gary Hopper, Lori Beaulieu Smith, Angela Todo, Anna-Lisa Bailey, Rosa Santos, Susan Harasyn McEvoy, Maximiliano O'Brien, Ney Antonio Villegas, Katherine, Polly Voon, Xenia Mallari, Peter Taillon, Ana Defrias, Richard Jones, Barbara Taylor, Stan Begley, Ed & Eleanor Carrol, Joyce Krahnbel, Gigi Swalehe & Dar Maddatu, Nelly Wiemer (Madeline's mom), Judy Bothwell, Craig Stevenson, James Borkowski, Roger Gagner, Catherine Tolmozoff, Barbara Naef, Wilson Borbon, Alma Zinger, Bob & Deanna Fernandes, Elaine Lauzon, Anne O'Hagan, Rose Javier, John Lloyd, Eladio Tria, Malcolm Da Silva, Dominik Basiak, Pablito Basit, Rosana Ruiz, Bonnie Watson, Deanna Maceda Silva, Katrina Craig, Norah Aucoin, Thelma Urbano, Ron Hart & all who have asked for our prayers... May our Lord sustain, comfort & heal them through faith.

A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH ADVENT

“Wait for it....” It’s a popular phrase along pop-culture landscapes. The problem is nobody likes to wait, and yet waiting is a part of life.

We wait at the DMV or the grocery store checkout, in line at the post office to mail Christmas packages, for an appointment, a diagnosis, a resolution, a solution, an opportunity, the light at the end of the tunnel, a birth, a death.

“Wait for it. . . .” It is the cry of Advent. As we enter Advent, we sing, “Wait for the Lord whose day is near” (Taizé chant) and “Patience, people.” Yet, Advent is not a good time for waiting! It is the very time when our social and shopping calendars kick into high gear. We cannot possibly “have no anxiety at all” (Phil 4:6) and rest in some blissful holding pattern.

We’re not going to stop buying and mailing Christmas presents, visiting with friends and relations, or adding extra charitable activities for the sake of those who are not as fortunate as we are. We will not be able to avoid the noise and excitement in the air between Thanksgiving and Christmas (or, as it is increasingly now, between Halloween and Christmas). We will hurry, perhaps frequently. But we can also listen deeply to words from our Advent Scriptures and create a plan to insert moments of patient waiting into our busy days.

Here are some possibilities.

SECOND WEK OF ADVENT

“The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Lk 3:5-6).

In the first two readings and the psalm, God tells us that he “will” or “shall” heal us and bring to completion what he has begun in us. In the Gospel’s quote from Isaiah, the word shall occurs four times in the last two sentences. We are asked to hope and trust and wait on God; but let us not forget that God waits on us—often and patiently, like a parent with a growing child, or a beloved spouse, or a farmer awaiting the yield of the field in winter and in spring rain.

This week, pay attention when you spend time waiting for others. Replace impatience with delight in the other, be it a child or an adult. Be as God waiting for you! Be patient with those you love and those you encounter.



Our Parish Advent Confession is on December 20 at 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023 - 6:30PM & 9:00PM

Christmas Day, December 25, 2023 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2023 - 6:30PM

New Year’s Day, January 1, 2024 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On the feast day of St. Nicholas last December 6, PE teacher Matthew Kaplonski wore this costume to educate our CCS students about the history and virtues of St. Nicholas and provide a valuable opportunity to blend religious, historical, and moral aspects in the lives of our students.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 UPDATE

PARISH GOAL: **\$75,000**
Donors to date: **135 donors**
Raised so far: **\$54,295.00**



Donate at the Parish office, or online at <https://support.rcav.org/project-advance-2023/>



RESULTS OF MASS CENSUS

The attendance for both Saturday and Sunday masses in 2023 has significantly increased for Precious Blood Parish. Based on the report provided by the Archdiocese, a 19% jump in mass attendance or approximate 120 more people are celebrating Sunday masses in our church.



SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPE

The 2024 Sunday Donation Envelopes will be available for pick up at the Parish Centre lobby starting **December 16 & 17, 2023.**

CHRISTMAS MASS 2023 and NEW YEAR'S MASS 2024

Christmas and New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, fall on a Monday this year and are Holy Days of Obligation. To clarify:

- On December 24th all Masses after 4:00 p.m. are to be celebrated as Christmas Eve Masses.
- On December 31st any Mass after 4:00 p.m. can be celebrated as anticipated Mass for New Year's. For those parishes who have Sunday evening Mass after 4:00 p.m., they should indicate which Mass is for Sunday and which Mass is for New Year's.
- All parishioners should be made aware that they need to attend Mass for Sunday, Christmas, and New Year's. And that one mass cannot count for both the Sunday obligation and the Christmas or New Year's obligation.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Rev. Tien Tran at ttran@rcav.org



Congratulations Fr. Paul on your 30th Anniversary as a Priest!

CATHOLIC EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our upcoming **Catholic Educators Conference** as a valued vendor partner that will be held on **Thursday, February 15, 2024**, at the prestigious **Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre**, located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, BC. Our event promises to be a fantastic platform for showcasing and promoting your products and services to a diverse and engaged audience.

Here's why you won't want to miss this opportunity:

- **Exposure:** With the Catholic Educators Conference set to attract a large crowd of over 1500 attendees, your brand will gain maximum exposure
- **Networking:** Connect with our 46 schools, potential clients, and fellow vendors to establish valuable business connections
- **Promotion:** Benefit from our extensive marketing efforts that will promote your presence before, during and after the event
- **Innovation:** Showcase your latest products and innovations to a captivated audience

For more information on how to become a vendor and sponsor of the event, please visit the following link:

<https://cisva.regfox.com/cec2024>

Don't miss the chance to be a part of something truly special and grand. Your presence at the 2024 Catholic Educators Conference will be a highlight, and we can't wait to have you on board!

WEEKEND GETAWAY MARRIAGE CONFERENCE



We are excited to partner with Family Life Canada to offer weekend getaways to married couples in the Archdiocese of Vancouver!

The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. For most couples, it's a chance to reconnect, re-establish the foundation, and rekindle romance. For others, it's a fresh start. For some, it will be the weekend that saves a marriage.

Wherever you're at in your relationship, this retreat is a weekend to remember.

The atmosphere is relaxed, warm and fun! You'll hear from real couples doing real life together... God's way. You'll be given time to process what you're learning. And together, build a joyful marriage that lasts a lifetime.

The next getaway is on the weekend of February 16-18, 2024 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC. The fee is usually \$299. Use promo code RCAVVIC to register for \$199.

Accommodations at the Fairmont Empress Victoria for conference participants should be booked separately. Special room rate starts at \$209/night before January 26; rates may vary thereafter.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 14, 2024. For more information call Joyce 604-683-0281 ext. 223 or beholdvancouver.org/events



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS? ...come heat up the snow and ice at the Cloverdale Winter Ice Palace on Saturday, December 30, 11-12:30pm. **FREE FOR FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS!** If you have family in town they skate for free (no donation necessary). Bring a small donation and cash if you need rentals (skates \$5 or Helmet \$5). Under 13 must wear a helmet. **IT'S TRADITION TO BRING EXTRA CHRISTMAS GOODIES TO SHARE.** Our Parish's Skating Christmas Celebration Fundraiser is going to be so fun. All proceeds will go toward helping to replace our Parish heating machine.

Feeling Generous? Sponsor this event with your business, personally or anonymously as it would really help us make it a financial success for years to come. Thank you for supporting our parish.



CCS PARENT FUND RAISING GROUP

The PFG will be hosting a concession stand and 50/50 draw before both performances of the Christmas Concert. Both the concession and 50/50 are cash only. We appreciate your support & look forward to seeing you on December 19th!



CLOVERDALE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We will be opening up registration for the 2024/2025 school year in early January. If you are interested in booking a tour of the school, please email Mr. Heah at cheah@cisva.bc.ca. Spaces for the 2024/2025 school year are very limited, so please keep your eye on our school website (www.cloverdalecatholicschool.ca) for registration opening date!

Cloverdale Catholic School proudly presents...

AWAY IN A MANGO

A Christmas Island Adventure for Kids

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Matinee performance at 1:00 pm
Evening performance at 6:00pm

CREATED BY
STEVE MOORE ROB HOWARD DAVID GUTHRIE

\$2 per person or \$5 per family suggested donation towards the CCS Music Dept. Also, collecting non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society

The SSVP Giving Tree

Choose a star from our Advent Giving Tree!

Gift Cards can be purchased through the PB Knights of Columbus Gift Card Program. Submit an order and the cards will be kept for us at the parish office. Otherwise please drop your donations in the SSVP box below the tree, or at the parish office during work hours.

Thank you for helping the less fortunate in our community!

To donate to Precious Blood, pls. send via e-transfer to autodeposit.pb@rcav.org

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Susanne Figueira, BA
Owner
cloverdaleautorepair@shawbiz.ca

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