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8:30am - 4:30pm



Third Sunday of Advent | Pope Francis' Mass Reflection

December 17, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good afternoon!

The invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Advent: the expectation of Jesus' birth that we experience is joyful, somewhat like when we await the visit of a person we love a great deal, for example, a friend whom we have not seen for a long time, a relative.... We are in joyful anticipation. And this dimension of joy emerges particularly today, the Third Sunday, which opens with Saint Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Entrance Antiphon; cf. Phil 4:4, 5). "Rejoice!" Christian joy. And what is the reason for this joy? That "the Lord is at hand" (v. 5). The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel. This is a rule for Christians. Once a philosopher said something more or less like this: "I do not understand how one can believe today, because those who say they believe have a face from a funeral wake. They do not bear witness of the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ". Many Christians have that face, yes, a face from a funeral wake, a face of sadness.... But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

The Gospel according to John today presents us the biblical character who – excluding Our Lady and Saint Joseph – first and most fully experienced the expectation of the Messiah and the joy of seeing him arrive: naturally, we are speaking of John the Baptist (cf. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28).

The Evangelist introduces him in a solemn way: "There was a man sent from God.... He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light" (vv. 6-7). The Baptist is the first witness of Jesus, with the word and with the gift of his life. All the Gospels agree in showing that he fulfilled his mission by indicating Jesus as the Christ, the One sent by God, promised by the Prophets. John was a leader of his time. His renown had spread throughout Judea and beyond, to Galilee. But he did not surrender even for an instant to the temptation to draw attention to himself: he always oriented himself toward the One who was to come. He used to say: "he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie" (v. 27). Always indicating the Lord. Like Our Lady: always indicating the Lord: "Do whatever he tells you". The Lord is always at the centre. The Saints around him, indicating the Lord. And one who does not indicate the Lord is not holy! This is the first condition of Christian joy: to decentralize from oneself and place Jesus at the centre. This is not alienation, because Jesus is effectively the centre; he is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world. It is the same dynamism of love, which leads me to come out of myself not to lose myself but to find myself again, while I give myself, while I seek the good of others.

John the Baptist undertook a long journey to come to bear witness to Jesus. The journey of joy is not a walk in the park. It takes work to always be joyful. John left everything, in his youth, to put God in first place, to listen to His Word with all his heart and all his strength. John withdrew into the desert, stripping himself of all things superfluous, in order to be freer to follow the wind of the Holy Spirit. Of course, some of his personality traits are unique, unrepeatable; they cannot be recommended for everyone. But his witness is paradigmatic for whoever wishes to seek the meaning of his or her life and find true joy. In particular, the Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus.

This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith. And in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy. Think well today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those sad people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake? If I do not have the joy of my faith, I cannot bear witness and others will say: "But if faith is so sad, it is better not to have it".

By praying the Angelus now, we see all of this fully realized in the Virgin Mary: she silently awaited God's Word of salvation; she welcomed it; she listened to it; she conceived it. In her, God became close. This is why the Church calls Mary a "Cause of our joy". [13.12.20](#)

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 17, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 03

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 Aprecio - 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
office@pbparish.ca

Parish Schedule

Mon, December 18

9 AM Mark Siu †

SENIORS CARDS

10:30 - 2:30 PM,
Columbus Rm.

Tues, December 19

9 AM Mark Siu †

SSVP FOOD DIST. PROGRAM
10 - 11 AM,
Vestibule
ST. THERESA'S CIRCLE MTG
12:30 - 2PM
Bushey Rm.
CCS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
1:00 - 7:30PM
Jubilee Auditorium

Wed, December 20

9 AM Mark Siu †

Thur, December 21

9 AM Teotimo Florendo †

ST. PETER CANISIUS

Fri, December 22

Feast: 9 AM Merla Tejones Tria †

9:00 AM—CCS SCHOOL MASS

Sat, December 23

9 AM Sylvia Sunpram †
4:30 PM Jonathan Gingone †

SSVD CHRISTMAS HAMPER
FOR THE HOMELESS
9:30 AM - 11AM
Parish Centre

Sun, December 24

9 AM Intention of
Precious Blood Parishioners
11AM Philomene Rego †

UKRAINIAN MASS, 2PM
by Exul. of the Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
(6:30PM & 9PM)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION: DECEMBER 2023

For persons with disabilities - We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

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 Madatu, 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.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

“Shout for joy, daughter Zion! . . . The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst” (Zep 3:14, 15).

This is Gaudete Sunday, the day we rejoice in the closeness of the Lord’s coming. “Do not be discouraged!” says Zephaniah. Judgment has been removed from us, our enemies turned away. How do we understand that? How often do we hear a prayer for peace in the world and respond to ourselves, “Yeah, as if that’s possible”? Or see the need for justice or human rights in places that beg for them and think, Fat chance?

This week, let us practice offering our prayers of petition as God asks, “full of gratitude,” recognizing that what appears impossible to us is always possible for God. We are in the season of impossible good news: God comes to us! While you are standing in line this week, do a run-down of your prayer requests and complete each one with a simple “thank you.” That’s it. Just “thank you.”



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

December 26 - Mass at 6:30 PM (No Morning Mass)

January 2 - Mass at 6:30 PM (No morning Mass)



Surrey Deanery Penitential Service

Dec. 18(Mon) - 7PM Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Dec. 19(Tues) - 7PM Imm. Conception Parish Delta

Dec. 20 (Wed) - 7PM Precious Blood Parish

Good Shepherd Parish

Dec. 21 Thursday - 6PM St. Bernadette's Parish

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

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!

FORMED LENTEN RETREAT PLANNING WORKSHOP

This is an opportunity to learn how to easily hold a retreat using your parish's Lenten FORMED resources. Facilitated by RCAV Lay Formation Coordinators, Louisa Gietz and Jane Waldock, learn about easy methods of planning, inviting, and deciding on content!

Choose from the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 3, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 4, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All ministry leaders are welcome! The workshop is held online via Zoom. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events. **Register before Tuesday, January 2, 5:00 p.m.**

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.cloverdalecatholicsschool.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.

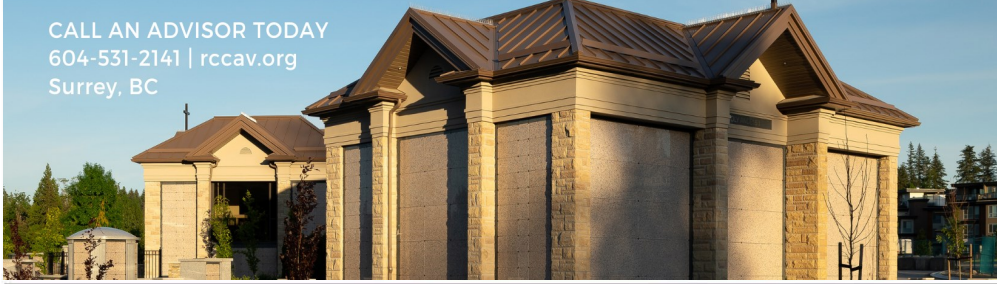
Thank you for helping the less fortunate in our community!

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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