



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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

## December 24, 2023

### Pope Francis' Mass Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good afternoon!

The message of today's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary can be summed up in these words: everything is a free gift from God, everything is grace, everything is a gift out of his love for us. The Angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace" (Lk 1:28): in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin. And Mary corresponds to the grace and abandons herself, saying to the Angel: "Let it be done to me according to your word" (v. 38). She does not say: "I shall do it according to your word": no! But: "Let it be done to me...". And the Word was made flesh in her womb. We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will; according to the logic of the Gospel nothing is more productive and fruitful than listening to and accepting the Word of the Lord, which comes from the Gospel, from the Bible. The Lord is always speaking to us!

The attitude of Mary of Nazareth shows us that being comes before doing, and to leave the doing to God in order to be truly as he wants us. It is He who works so many marvels in us. Mary is receptive, but not passive. Because, on the physical level, she receives the power of the Holy Spirit and then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who forms within her. Thus, on the spiritual level, she accepts the grace and corresponds to it with faith. That is why St Augustine affirms that the Virgin "conceived in her heart before her womb" (Discourses, 215, 4). She conceived first faith and then the Lord. This mystery of the acceptance of grace, which in Mary, as a unique privilege, was without the obstacle of sin, is a possibility for all. St Paul, indeed, opens his Letter to the Ephesians with these words of praise: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (1:3). As Mary was greeted by St Elizabeth as "blessed among women" (cf. Lk 1:42), so too we have always been "blessed", that is, loved, and thus "he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless" (Eph 1:4). Mary was pre-served, while we have been saved thanks to Baptism and to the faith. However, all people, she and we together, through Christ, "to the praise of his glorious grace" (v. 6), with which grace the Immaculata was endowed to the fullest.

Regarding this love, regarding this mercy, the divine grace poured into our hearts, one single thing is asked in return: unreserved giving. Not one of us can buy salvation! Salvation is a free gift of the Lord, a free gift of God that comes within us and dwells in us. As we have received freely, so are we called to give freely (cf. Mt 10:8); imitating Mary, who, immediately upon receiving the Angel's announcement, went to share the gift of her fruitfulness with her relative Elizabeth. Because if everything has been given to us, then everything must be passed on. How? By allowing that the Holy Spirit make of us a gift for others. The Spirit is a gift for us and we, by the power of the Spirit, must be a gift for others and allow the Holy Spirit to turn us into instruments of acceptance, instruments of reconciliation, instruments of forgiveness. If our life is allowed to be transformed by the grace of the Lord, for the grace of the Lord does transform us, we will not be able to keep to ourselves the light that comes from his face, but we will let it pass on to enlighten others. Let us learn from Mary, who kept her gaze, constantly fixed on the Son and her face became "the face that looked most like Christ's" (Dante, Paradiso, XXXII, 87). And to her let us now turn with the prayer that recalls the annunciation of the Angel.

[08.12.14](#)

### 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 24, 2023

Volume 46, 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 25

9 AM Mark Siu †  
11AM Intention of  
Precious Blood Parishioners

**Christmas: Nativity of the Lord**

#### Tues, December 26

6:30 PM Mark Siu †

**Feast: St Stephen**

**6:30 PM mass only (no morning mass)**

#### Wed, December 27

9 AM Mark Siu †

**Feast: St John**

#### Thur, December 28

9 AM Mark Siu †

**Feast: The Holy Innocents**

#### Fri, December 29

9 AM Steve De Jong †

#### Sat, December 30

9 AM Mark Siu †  
4:30 PM Steve De Jong †

**PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH  
SKATING EVENT**

#### Sun, December 31

9 AM Thanksgiving mass  
Mathias Family  
11AM Thanksgiving mass  
Stephanie Nweke

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS  
(6:30PM)**

### 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.

### FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

“O God of hosts, restore us; light up your face and we shall be saved” (Ps 80:8).

We’re now entering the homestretch of Advent, heading for the goal, the celebration of the Lord’s birth. Jesus has come in history as a tiny babe in a manger. He does come in mystery, prayer, word, sacrament, and many small daily wonders. And he will come in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. Our psalm response this Sunday is, “Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face, and we shall be saved.” God present in our midst—that is the gift that tops all gifts in this season and always!

This week, let our prayer be simply a yearning for God. The decorations will be up. The cookies will be baked. Presents will be under the tree. Friends and family will gather. We will be prepared. Now what we must do is wait. Wait on the Lord! Anticipate that wonderful moment when we will once more fall on our knees and sing with the angels. . . . Wait for it. . .

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Lk 2:14).



### 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 )**

### INSTALLATION MASS OF FR. REYNALDO USMAN As Pastor of Precious Blood Church

**January 7th, 2024 at 11:00 am**  
**Main Celebrant: Most Reverend J Michael Miller**  
**(Archbishop of Vancouver)**

**All are welcome**

### PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 UPDATE

PARISH GOAL: **\$75,000**  
Donors to date: **170 donors**  
Raised so far: **\$69,960.00**



**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 are available for pick up at the Parish Centre lobby since **December 16, 2023**. **Kindly collect your box as soon as possible.**

## 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](mailto:ttran@rcav.org)

## 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](https://beholdvancouver.org/events). **Register before Tuesday, January 2, 5:00 p.m.**

## 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](https://beholdvancouver.org/events)





# Precious Blood Parish

30th  
Dec

**Skates on, spirits up!**

**Join our Parish on the ice for a celebration of community joy. See you there!**

**Cloverdale Winter Ice Palace  
December 30 (Saturday), 11-12:30pm**

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

**To donate to Precious Blood, pls. send via e-transfer to  
[autodeposit.pb@rcav.org](mailto:autodeposit.pb@rcav.org)**



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## FUNDAMENTALS BASKETBALL CLUB



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