

Mass Times: Saturday: 7:00pm, Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am— Tuesday to Friday at 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturdays 6:15pm, Sundays 8:15 am or by Appointment.

Pastor: Father Aruldhhas Lucas, SAC.

Mailing address: 1088 Gillett Street, V2M 2V3—Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Website: stmaryspg.ca—E-mail: stmarys.parish@shawcable.com

We acknowledge that St. Mary's Parish rests on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh



THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PRINCE GEORGE



Bishop: Most Rev.
Stephen Jensen

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5TH, 2024



I WILL TELL YOU A SECRET

There was a famous monastery a long time ago. The monks truly loved each other, and people were attracted to them. As a result, there were many vocations. As time went by, the monks began to be selfish and ambitious; they would be envious of one another and would quarrel often. Gradually the people were disappointed and drifted away from them. The monastery lost many vocations; it was dying. The abbot was alarmed by the situation. So, he went to see a holy man in the desert, a hermit. The holy man gave him just one advice: "I will tell you a secret, but I will say this to you only once. You will say it to your brothers, but only once. Under no circumstance will it be repeated by anyone. This is the secret: 'The Messiah is among you.'" The abbot went back to the monastery. He gathered all the monks and told them: "The Messiah is among you." The monks were surprised, but soon after, they began to think: who is the Messiah among us? My goodness! It could be the one I quarreled with yesterday. Or it must be the cook, or the librarian, or the janitor. Very soon, the atmosphere in the monastery changed as each monk treated each one as the possible Messiah. They started loving each other again; kind words and deeds overflowed, and the whole community became a living image of love. The people noticed this and were drawn back to the monastery. The monastery became alive and vibrant once again. (Adapted from storiesforpreaching.com).

READINGS AND LITURGY

Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 98.1-4;

1 John 4.7-10; Gospel: John 15.9-17.

In the first reading, Peter humbly speaks while the Holy Spirit falls upon those who are listening, resulting in more baptisms. In the second reading, John writes of our call to love one another. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to remain in his love. He calls them friends, no longer slaves.

Faith Catholic

Welcome to Our Church!

*To all who mourn or need
comfort,
To all who are weary and need
rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in
Relationship with God,
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour,
And who ever will worship,
This Church of St. Mary's
opens wide its doors,
And in the name of
Christ our Lord, says:*

WELCOME!

GREAT LESSON OF THE STORY OF "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

G. K. Chesterton once said that the really great lesson of the story of "Beauty and the Beast" is that a thing must be loved before it is loveable. — A person must be loved before that person can be lovable. Some of the most unlovely people I have known got that way because they thought that nobody loved them. The fact of the matter is that unless, and until, we feel ourselves loved, we cannot love. That's not only a principle of theology but of psychology and sociology as well. Just as abused children grow up to abuse their children, loved children grow up to love their children. Loved persons are able to love. Unloved persons are not. Christianity says something startling: God loves and accepts us "just as we are." Therefore, we can love and accept ourselves and, in so doing, love and accept others. That is what Jesus commands us to do in today's Gospel by challenging us to love others as he has loved us.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	May 4	7:00 pm	RIP Erwin Egli
Sun	May 5	9:00 am 11:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners Int for Wishart Family
Tue	May 7	9:00 am	RIP Catherine Treves-Brown
Wed	May 8	9:00 am	RIP Joaquina Gomes
Thu	May 9	9:00 am	RIP John Whelan
Fri	May 10	7:00 pm	RIP Jack Makelke
Sat	May 11	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Mass at Simon Fraser Senior Home. RIP Nick Kurpita
Sun	May 12	9:00 am 11:00 am	Int for all our Parishioners RIP Cecile Chicoine

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the intentions of: Brigitta Betz, Eldon Gauthier, Maria Levar, Beverly Stuart, Rizal Advincula, Grace Noblette, Minnie, Blair, and Korena Peters and family, Garry Kaulbach's daughter, Birdie Froment, Mia Savic and family, Manae Peters, Ruth, Wark family, Jose Ferreira, Peter Dasilva, Ruth Henwood, Rob Hagymasy, Les Martin, and Rose Binnie.

MASS AT SIMON FRASER SENIOR HOME

Everyone is welcome on Saturday, May 11th at 10:30 AM at Simon Fraser Senior Home for morning Mass.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON MOTHER'S DAY

Please join The Knights of Columbus in celebrating Mother's Day with a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 12th at 10:00 AM. All Moms will receive a free breakfast, and a special gift. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A/V POWER POINT VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the slides at Mass, especially at the 9am Mass. Please contact Claudia at the parish office if you are able to volunteer.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE THE GIFT OF MUSIC WITH OUR ST. MARY'S PARISH COMMUNITY!

Psalm 150 proclaims '...everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!' The choir supports and enhances the singing of the assembly. Music can inspire people to forgive, to be more joyful, to pray better and to "love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength"-Mark 12: 30. It expresses things that we are unable to express in words alone.

St. Mary's Music Ministry is looking for more choir members to sing at our 7pm Saturday evening Mass, Sunday 9am and Sunday 11am Mass. All ages and experiences are welcome!

Do you play an instrument like the piano, guitar, flute, oboe, violin, saxophone or trumpet and would like to contribute? We are also looking for choir leaders! Have you led a choir at another parish? Are you interested in learning how to lead music at Mass? We welcome you to share your gifts with us!

Please contact Claudia at the Parish Office at 250-564-4097 or by email: clowdy1@hotmail.com



I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
(Psalm 9, 1)



LITTLE HUSKIES

Learning Centre

St. Mary's School Daycare

Blessing

We warmly welcome you to the St. Mary's school Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Stephen Jensen on **Friday, May 24th at 9.00 AM** followed by the Daycare blessing at **10.30 AM**.

Special Guest: Prince George Mayor- Simon Yu

Pastor
Father Aruldas Lucas, SAC

Principal
Jenny Schroeder



St Mary's Catholic School

2024 PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Stephen Jensen announces the following clergy appointments, effective August 1, 2024.

Rev. Rene Antonio	Immaculata Parish, Burns Lake
Rev. Dominic Apaatah	Christ the King Parish, Kitimat
Rev. Jeevan Bandanadham, SAC	Our Lady of Peace Parish, Chetwynd
Rev. Alvin Matias	Chaplaincies in health care and corrections.
Rev. Prabhakar Thatigatla, SDM	St. Andrew's Parish, Fraser Lake

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The Confirmation Retreat for all Candidates, parents, and sponsors is on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at St. Mary's. Please keep all our Confirmation Candidates and their families in your prayers.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Leave a legacy of faith. Please remember the Church in your wills.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP

Thank you so much to our Youth Group for helping clean Father's yard, and the walkway beside the school Gym in honour of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st.



ARE YOU READY TO START SPRING CLEANING?

The CWL is organizing a clothing drive in support of the St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store the weekend of May 11 and 12th. Please bring your gently used clothing (infants to adults), shoes and linens to St Mary's on **May 11 and 12**. Shopping bags (both plastic and recyclable) are also needed. Please place your donations in the St. Eugene room before or after Mass. The CWL will deliver them to the Thrift Store! Kindly bring any other household items directly to the Thrift Store. Thank you for your support! All proceeds go to help those challenged by poverty in Prince George and the local area.

NATIONAL FAMILY AND LIFE WEEK

This year's National Family and Life week will take place from **May 13 to 19, 2024** and the theme, "Love hopes all things," is drawn from the words of St. Paul: "[Love] endures all things, trusts all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7).

In preparation, the CCCB Standing Committee for Family and Life has prepared a Pastoral Toolkit which can be found on the shared Google Drive here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yWLR81Bx4fpG8gmxokSJR89n4lZJv7DF>

The pastoral kit includes a message from the CCCB President, the NFLW2024 logo, a catechesis, prayer intentions and daily activities for families and parishes, graphics for social media campaigns and pastoral suggestions for a Mass for family and life.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

Two Dominican Sisters, one Benedictine Monk, our priests, and a group of Catholic young adults – The Diocesan Youth Conference 2024 is going to be beautiful.

Who: For all youth Gr. 7-12

Where: The Pastoral Centre, Prince George

When: May 24-26th

How: Registration Opens April 15th

Email: Lisa Findlay with all your questions: lfindlay@pgdiocese.bc.ca

MONTHLY DAY OF EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to a Personal Date with Jesus on **Tuesday, May 14th, 2024**, at the Domano Chapel, 6500 Southridge Ave. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 AM and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for a day of silent prayer and adoration. We will pray for the universal Church and the world, and for the people and needs of our Diocese. In particular we will pray for the protection of all human life, for all the sick, for vocations, for Peace in our world, and for the intentions of those participating in the day. Please mark your calendar on the second Tuesday of each month for Personal Date with Jesus days.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Advokate Life and Education Services' annual Baby Bottle Campaign will take place from May 12th (Mother's Day) to June 16th (Father's Day).

The mission of Advokate is "to bring hope in action to vulnerable women and low-income families facing unplanned pregnancy while promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every human being."

GRIEF TO GRACE RETREAT

Through a retreat program facilitated by mental health professionals and centered on Jesus Christ, Grief to Grace helps those who have endured neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and/or spiritual abuse in their family of origin, their community, from spouses/partners, and/or coworkers or supervisors, find healing and journey to wholeness. The next retreat in Canada is **May 14 - 18, 2024 in Kelowna**. For more information please email griegtograncelowna@gmail.com or make a confidential call to 250-808-6403.

CISPG LOOKING FOR CAMP EMMAUS FAITH LEADER

CISPG's four western schools are looking for a young adult to commit to 5 days of leading the daily faith component of Camp Emmaus, an important annual gathering of grade 6 students from four western schools in our Diocese.

This is an incredible opportunity to evangelize: to lead prayer times, give talks, lead music or faith related activities for roughly 90 grade 6 students, all in the chapel located on the grounds. Deep connections are built with the youth, and the goal is for them to encounter Jesus through their time with you.

Camp Emmaus runs from June 3rd-7th this year near Terrace, BC. This role includes financial compensation, with consideration for travel expenses. Please contact Tamara Berg at tberg@cispq.ca if you are interested in committing to this ministry opportunity.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of disciples called together: To share the life and mission of Jesus, to proclaim the word, to celebrate liturgy, to educate and to serve, to seek justice and reconciliation.

PARISH INFORMATION

The Pastor is Father Arulldhas Lucas, SAC. Resident Priest: Father Prabhakar. The Pastoral Assistant is Claudia Betz and the parish secretary is Vanessa Estrada. The Mailing address is: 1088 Gillett Street, V2M 2V3 Regular Office hours are Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Office telephone: 250-564-4097 for after hours Emergency: 250-562-4921, Email—stmarys.parish@shawcable.com. St. Mary's Parish is governed by a **Pastoral Council** made up of Parishioners, the chair is Ron Polillo. The Finances of the Parish are overseen by a **Finance committee**, the chair is Irene Meeuwissen.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Principal is Jenny Schroeder, the School Secretary is Jackie Boyes. The phone number for the School is 250-563-7502. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.stmaryspg.org/>

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM FOR INFANTS

Parents are to be registered parishioners and participate in a preparation session. Sessions are held as needed in the parish office. Contact the parish office at 250-564-4097.

BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Parents who wish to have their child baptized (age 5 to 12) are asked to register their child in the Family Faith Formation program. During the school year there will be special sessions that will prepare them for baptism. Children in Grade 2 and up will also receive preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please contact the parish office for more information. 250-564-4097.

FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

In the Diocese of Prince George, First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in Grade 2, and Confirmation in Grade 6. Our sacramental preparation program begins in the fall for children in St. Mary's School and for those attending Family Faith Formation classes. For more information, please phone Jenny at the school or Claudia the parish office. 250-564-4097.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION ADULTS—RCIA

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or in learning more about the Catholic faith? Please contact the parish office for more information. 250-564-4097.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Various options for marriage preparation are available. Please make an appointment with the pastor, at least 6 months before the intended wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Communal celebrations of the sacrament are generally held during Lent and Advent.

PASTORAL CARE TO THE SICK, ELDERLY & DYING

If you or anyone in your family is sick, elderly or home bound, and would like to receive communion, anointing of the sick or a pastoral visit, please give us a call. If there is an emergency visit in the hospital or Hospice, ask the nursing station to contact the Catholic pastor on call.

FUNERALS

Please contact the pastor before making final arrangements with the funeral directors.

GIVING AT ST. MARY'S

We have a few ways to conveniently contribute to your parish. We have the old fashioned drop your envelope in the collection or locked Mailbox. You can mail your envelope at 1088 Gillett St. V2M 2V3. We also have online options. E-transfer has been set up with our bank, please e-transfer to: SMPaccounting@stmaryspg.ca When you use this option you will be prompted with the following statement "I understand that St. Mary's Parish (The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Prince Rupert) has registered for Auto deposit and will not need to answer a security question to deposit funds" Our website stmaryspg.ca has been set up to accept donations from credit Cards.

HEARING SUPPORT DURING MASS

For those with hearing impairment, we have portable receivers that broadcast the Mass via earbuds or headphones. Please contact Claudia at the parish office if you would like to use one. To use the receivers with hearing aids, please bring your own headphones.

PARISH / COMMUNITY GROUPS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL is open to all ladies of the parish. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the St. Eugene Room at 7:00 pm. Please phone Cortnie Weir 250-967-4849 for more information.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (COUNCIL 5246)



The Knights of Columbus is open to all men of the parish. General Meeting are on the third Tuesday of each month in the St. Eugene Room at 7:00 pm. For information, please phone Grand Knight, Darrin Huzar at 250-614-3161.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP

Meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings during the School year for all Youth in Grades 7 to 12. Please contact Claudia at the parish office for more details.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Drop-In Centre is located at 1220—2nd Ave. Mon-Fri: 8:30 to 9:30 am, 12:30-1:30 pm, 7:30-8:00 pm; Sat-Sun: 9:00-10:00 am and 2:30-3:00 pm. Hampers are available to families and seniors. Call 250-564-7871 weekday mornings.

Thrift Store: is located at 1645—3rd Ave. Hours are Mon-Fri, 9:30- noon and 12:30-4:30 pm. Donations are being accepted at the back entrance. Call 250-562-5136

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Shepherd's Corner is located next to the SVDP Drop-in Centre. (1220—2nd Ave) This is a place where people who are experiencing challenges can gather, share their stories and be heard. Volunteers provide a listening ear and a compassionate heart.

RAINBOWS

Rainbows is a peer support group for children, adolescents and adults who are grieving a death, divorce or any other painful transition in their family. Sessions run for 12 weeks each Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm, beginning in both September and February at St. Mary's School. There is no cost to participants. Contact: 250-562-3477 or e-mail: rainbowspg@shawcable.com www.rainbowspg.com

