

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH - Archdiocese of Vancouver

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25th, 2018

Pastor: Very Rev. Fr. Gary Franken: g.franken@rcav.org
Asst. Pastor: Rev. Fr. Larry Lynn: l.lynn@rcav.org
Youth Ministry: Sr. Angela Marie, FSE: prep.saww@rcav.org
OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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In 1868, Bishop Phillips Brooks, who was Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, wrote a Christmas poem. His music director, Lewis Redner, set it to music. Today it is one of our popular Christmas carols, "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

You all know the melody, but how often have you reflected upon the words? "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by."

This carol clearly situates the city of Bethlehem in a deep and dreamless sleep. This should cause us immediate confusion. We know from the passage of Luke's Gospel which we just heard that above the city of Bethlehem was a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest!" So how is it that - with the exception of a few shepherds - the people of Bethlehem were not awakened by this heavenly chorus? What manner of sleep was this that could not even be broken by the music of heaven?

The problem with Bethlehem was not that it was asleep but that it was caught up in a deep and dreamless sleep. Dreaming is required to hear the music of heaven. Dreaming and faith are connected. Dreaming allows us to imagine something beyond the world and our lives as they are today. Unless we are able to imagine something new, we will never be able to believe in the promises of God.

The promises of God are on full display in today's First Reading from Isaiah. Isaiah describes a world where the yoke of slavery is smashed, where the implements of war are destroyed, where there is a rule of peace and justice. The world that Isaiah describes is not our world, but it is the world that God has promised us. If we are going to believe in God's promises, if we are going to hear the words of Isaiah as something more than pious poetry, we must be able to imagine something new, something different from our present situation. Dreaming is necessary.

I don't know whether those of us who are growing older and losing energy will be able to live the rest of our lives positively and joyfully. But I know that if we are able to live with enthusiasm, it will be because we can imagine ourselves as still loving, still giving, still sharing our wisdom even as our physical abilities fade.

The birth of Jesus is a blast of hope that is meant to energize our dreams. If God could become one of us, if God could take flesh in Mary's womb, what can't we imagine? The birth of Jesus is meant to shake us from the still, deep sleep that paralyzes our imaginations. We have been promised a world of justice and freedom, a world of safety and peace. Let us in the name of Emmanuel, God with us, dream that world into being.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Joseph



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 PM;
 Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 AM.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM;
 Saturdays & Public Holidays, 9:00 AM.

CONFESSIONS

Mon - Fri: before 8 AM Mass;
 Sat: 9:30 AM & 4:15 - 4:45 PM.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

TUE	December 25 th Christmas Day	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<i>Sp. Int. Barbara/Robert Chase</i> FOR PARISHIONERS
Wed	December 26 St Stephen	9:00 AM	† Alison † Peter SEELEY
Thu	December 27 St John	8 am	† Betty Harrison
Fri	December 28 Holy Innocents	8 am	<i>Sp. Int. Margaret & Gary HO</i>
Sat	December 29	8 am 5:00 PM	† Michel Savin † Emanuele Fumagalli
SUN	December 30 Holy Family	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	FOR PARISHIONERS <i>Sp. Int. Nowakowski Family</i>
Mon	December 31 New Year's Vigil	9 am 5:00 PM	<i>In Thanksgiving</i> FOR PARISHIONERS
Tue	January 1 st Holy Mother of God	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	FOR PARISHIONERS FOR PARISHIONERS
Wed	January 2 Sts Basil/Gregory	8 am	† Betty Harrison
Thu	January 3	8 am	† Consuelo Tiu
Fri	January 4	8 am 7 pm	† Gina Charles <i>Sp. Int. Maria Micallef</i>
Sat	January 5	8 am 5:00 PM	† Bernard Rovner † Basim Azzam
SUN	January 6	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<i>Sp. Int. Maria Micallef</i> FOR PARISHIONERS

THE PARISH OFFICE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ...

Wish one and all the Christmas that our Lord wishes for you!





FROM THE ARCHBISHOP ...

... Among all the lights, the great light we commemorate at Christmas is, of course, the light that shone in the stable in Bethlehem, the light that comes from the birth of the Son of God in the flesh. That light is a light that cannot be extinguished. Indeed, it has never been put out. The light of Christ remains the light of the world. It is because of His light that all the other smaller lights can glow and give us hope.

With my prayers and blessing, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Michael Miller, CSB,

Archbishop of Vancouver

Visit: <https://rcav.org/christmas2018>
to read complete message.

Merry Christmas!

As we enter the holy season of Christmas,

We pray that you and yours will be blessed with the uplifting awareness of our Lord's birth into your lives.

We hope your Christmas celebrations are filled with joy.

May the love of the Christ-child be present to you as the mercy of God who comes to be with us in all the moments of our lives.

God bless for 2019!

Fr. Gary & Fr. Larry



BOXING DAY SKATING PARTY

December 26th, 11 am - 1 pm
@ the Ice Arena

Thank you to Christine SIKLIC and her Volunteers, for looking after the skaters' energy by making available at the premises, hot drinks and cookies.

ALL WELCOME!



2019 Calendars & Sunday Envelopes

Ready for pick-up in Vestibule.

Can't find your set of Envelopes?

Phone Joseph (604) 926-6881.



COMMUNITY LUNCH Friday, December 28th

All Parishioners, Non-parishioners, Friends and Neighbours, are all invited to come. Join us for Lunch & Social.

RSVP the Parish Office (604) 926-6881 and advise us how many are coming.

See you on the 28th!

Community Lunch



ARCHBISHOP'S MASS FOR LIFE

Friday, Dec. 28th, 12:10 PM @ Holy Rosary Cathedral

Join us as we celebrate Mass for Life with Archbishop Michael Miller, as main celebrant.

Rosary at 11:30 followed by Mass.

JOURNEY DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

Jan. 15th, 7 PM @ 10th Church, Vancouver

The Journey Discipleship Course is a comprehensive course that incorporates prayer, providing in-depth discipleship and spiritual care with the goal of helping individuals experience Jesus in their relationships, sexuality, and identity.

Venue: Tenth Church, 11 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver.

For more info or to register visit [journeycanada.org/...](http://journeycanada.org/)

Journey Canada is a non-denominational community-based, Christ-centred discipleship ministry supported by the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

WINTER INSTITUTE

Saturday, Jan. 19th, 10 AM @ Notre Dame High School

Archdiocesan Institutes are dedicated to the Church's mission of lifelong faith formation. Our one-day courses equip Catholics with the knowledge, skills, and spiritual foundation necessary for active participation in the life of the Church.

With Winter Institute approaching, take this opportunity to prepare yourself and your catechists for the start of the new year. *Basics of the Faith* and *Discovering the Gospels* are great courses to renew, refocus, and refresh yourself for 2019.

Cost: \$40 per person, includes lunch.

Register at: rcav.org/winter-institute



PIZZA and MOVIE!

"The Adventures of Santa Paws"

Friday, Dec. 28th, 5:30 PM

Sister Angela Marie invites

CHILDREN of ALL AGES

to come and bring your friends!

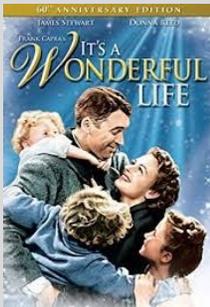
SATURDAY EVENING CINEMA

Light Meal, Pop-corn and a great Movie!

Saturday, Dec. 29th, after the 5:00 Mass.

"It's A Wonderful Life"

Nominated for five [Academy Awards](#), including [Best Picture](#), and has been recognized by the [American Film Institute](#) as one of the [100 best American films ever made](#), placing number 11 on its initial [1998 greatest movie list](#), number 20 on its revised [2007 greatest movie list](#), and placing number one on [its list](#) of the most inspirational American films of all time. **See you then!**



NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31st 2018

5:00 PM

January 1st, 2019

9:00 AM

11:00 AM



Thank you for your generosity towards Flowers for Christmas.

NEW YEAR'S Holy Masses are for the Intentions you've written on the Flower Envelopes.

