

December 25

2018

The Sign of God's Love is



The feast of the Resurrection points to the power of God, which overcomes death and teaches us to hope in the world to come. Christmas shows us the defenseless love of God, his humility, and his kindness which come into view as he exposes himself to us in the heart of our world and wishes to teach us a new way of living and loving in our world. Christmas is the sign of God's love: God's gift of his Son for our salvation. Since He in turn promised to be with us always, our finest gift to him and to others is to live His love and to give His love. So may it be that the spirit of Christmas is one of cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity for all of us to share with one another.

~Fr. Luterbach

THIS WEEK

Wednesday	Boxing Day - Mass at 10:00am St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Thursday	Mass at 9:00am St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
Friday	Mass at 9:00am and 7:30pm The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Saturday	Mass at 9:00am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

Roberto De Guzman, Pol Garcia, Catherine Jenkins, Mina B. Cardoz, Linda Fiore, Jaime Pestano, Peter Murtagh, Mair Reynolds, Norman Ngan.

INFANT BAPTISM COURSE

Classes for parents seeking baptism for their infants - next session: **Tuesday, Jan. 8, 15 & 22 @ 7:00 pm. Adults only.** Please call the Sisters at 604-275-2844.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Food Bank Drive	Next Weekend
Liturgy Committee Meeting	1 st Tuesday, 7:00pm
PEC Meeting	2 nd Tuesday, 7:00pm
Parish Council Meeting	3 rd Tuesday, 7:00pm
Marian Prayer	Mondays, 7:30pm
Charismatic Prayer Group	Tuesdays, 7:30pm
PREP	Back on Wed., Jan. 9, 6:30pm
Craft Circle	Back in January
RCIA	Thursdays, 7:30pm
Seniors Line Dancing	Back Thurs., Jan. 10, 2:00 - 4:00pm
Bingo	No Bingo this week
Divine Mercy	3 rd Friday of each month, 7:00pm
Legion of Mary	Fri. after 7:30pm Mass & Sun. 10:00am
Junior Legion of Mary	Sundays, 1:15pm

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



Could you not watch one hour with me?
Jesus is present among us and He waits for us. He is here in our tabernacles. He never leaves us. He sees and responds to every sacrifice we make to spend an Hour with Him. May Our Little Newborn Saviour draw us closer to Him and give us the Grace to respond. **"Come, let us Adore Him"**. To commit to an Hour phone or text Lynne at 604-961-7920.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL MASS FOR LIFE

The Archbishop's Mass For Life will be celebrated on Friday, December 28th at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30am followed by Mass at 12:10pm.

PRO-LIFE MASS & PRAYER VIGIL

Please join your voice with others to pray on the first Saturday of each month for a new culture of life - January 5, Mass will be at 9:00am at St. Anthony of Padua, 1345 W. 73rd Avenue, Vancouver.

2018 DONATIONS

With the end of 2018 fast approaching, now is a good time to review your investments, income, and tax responsibilities and consider a donation to our New Church Building Fund a part of your review. Donations can be made to Project Advance by credit card, cash, or cheque or directly to the Building Fund by cash or cheque. If you are considering donating investments or securities, please contact the parish office. Remember, donations are a way to reduce your income tax. **Donations received in the parish office by December 31st will be credited for 2018 (cheques must be dated December 31st, 2018, or earlier).**

YOUTH MINISTRY

Info: Jiggy @ 778-874-8569

Next Sunday (December 30th) NO LIFE NITE:



ST. PAUL YOUNG ADULTS COMMUNITY (SPYAC)

Info: Mary @ 778-858-5167

SPIRIT PRE-TEEN MINISTRY

Info: shintaro.tachihara@gmail.com

PREP: Parish Religious Education Program

There will be no PREP classes on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. PREP classes will resume on Wed., January 9, 2019.

Confirmation candidates are required to attend the Confirmation Pep Rally on Saturday, January 12 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Parish Centre.

If you have any questions, please contact Clay Imoo (PREP Director) at clayimoo@shaw.ca

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE



There are still tickets available!

Join the Knights of Columbus as they ring in the NEW YEAR! Cocktails at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:00pm, and music all night long! Tickets are \$45.00/person and can be reserved by calling: Edgar 604-270-4260, Francis 604-273-8175, Alberto 604-275-7426, Tony 778-297-0193, or David 778-893-8236.

Proceeds benefit the St. Paul New Church Building Fund.

NEW PARENT INFORMATION EVENING



School Year: 2019-2020

Date: Tuesday, February 5

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: St. Paul Parish Gym



Parents interested in sending their child/children to St. Paul School are invited to attend this information meeting. Application forms will be available during this time. The meeting is intended for *adults* only. You are respectfully requested to make arrangements for childcare. Thank you.

Date and Time of Christ's Birth



Originally, Jesus' birth was celebrated as part of the feast of Epiphany. Around the year 330, however, the Church in Rome assigned the celebration of Christmas to December 25. There were some early Church leaders and writers who claimed that December 25 was Christ's actual birth date, although there was never an official reason given for the decision. Church scholars contend the date was chosen to counteract the Roman feast of the "Birth of the Sun" which

took place on December 25. The actual date was more likely in the spring. During the lambing season the shepherds would be out in the fields with the sheep at night so the newly born lambs would not be trampled on in crowded stables or caves.

As to the calendar year, according to the officials mentioned in the Scripture accounts, it was definitely not at year 0 but more likely around the year 4 or 5 before 0. Pope Benedict XVI in his book "*Jesus of Nazareth, the Infancy Narratives*" calculates it could have been more like 8 or 9 before 0. Our present calendar, which was set at what was thought to be the year of the birth of Jesus, was calculated according to the information available at the time which was not particularly accurate.

BIBLE STUDY CORNER

Bible Study resumes Jan 5 & 7, 2019

Reflections on Sunday's Readings: [Lk. 1:39-40] - From Mary's visit to Elizabeth Christians should learn to be caring people. "If we have this filial contact with Mary, we won't be able to think just about ourselves and our problems. Selfish personal problems will find no place in our mind" (St. J. Escriva, "Christ Is Passing By," 145)

For more info: Chito 604-808-4129 or Beth 604-231-9190



SCHOOL CONNECTION

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

The staff and students would like to wish the St. Paul Parish community a most blessed and joyful Christmas. May this incredible time of giving, and spending time with family, bring you joy that lasts throughout the year. See you all back on **Monday, January 7th**.