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*Go to the poor; you will find God.*

*If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary.*

*Your mere presence will touch hearts.*

*We should keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.*

*-- St. Vincent de Paul*



Parish Priest / Pastor: Fr. Peter Rowe  
(assisted by Fr. Ron Wiecek, C.P.P.S.)

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**LORD'S DAY MASSES**

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
6:30 p.m. in Spanish, seasonally

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.  
+ First Saturday  
-- see bulletin for changes

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon., Thu. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Tue. closed, Wed. noon – 3 p.m.  
Fri. 9 a.m. – noon

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE PARISH**

St. Michael School, Virgil 905/905-1051  
Holy Cross High School, St.C. 905/937-6446

Monetary donations by e-transfer: svdp1826@outlook.com  
Credit / Debit (TAP) donations now available at the church door.  
*We do not do church to make money. We need money, though, to do church.*

*You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at St. Vincent de Paul – no matter what!*

**BAPTISM OF INFANTS: blessings on the birth of your child!**  
These take place bimonthly, at 1:00 p.m. (except in Lent). Those wishing to have their child baptized should contact the parish office at least two months in advance -- the parish website has a registration form. If you are able to do so, introduce yourself to the pastor.

**MARRIAGE: congratulations on your engagement!**  
Anyone wishing to be married at our church should contact the parish office at least one year prior: this is a popular wedding venue! Besides a series of meetings with a priest, a diocese-approved form of pre-marriage preparation is considered necessary.

**ADULT INITIATION / RECEPTION**  
Adults (and older children) inquiring into Christian living or Catholic practices join together in a gradual process or journey (Catechumenate) bound for the sacraments.

**RECONCILIATION**  
This is celebrated weekly for individuals wishing to experience sacramental forgiveness – Fridays 9:00-10:00 a.m., first Saturdays 7:30-8:30 a.m., more hours seasonally.

**FIRST COMMUNION / CONFESSION / CONFIRMATION**  
Children must register with the parish to receive these sacraments. Orientation sessions are held in the fall; Communion, Confirmation are celebrated in the spring.

**MINISTRY OF CARE TO THE SICK**  
Holy Communion and Sacrament of Anointing are available to any who are ill or housebound or seeking pastoral care. Notify the parish office to make arrangements. Advise the church office of hospital admissions or let the pastor know directly. Anointing should not be delayed until a person's final hours.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
A Holy Hour of Adoration occurs on the first Thursday of the month, following the Mass. Contemplate the supreme gesture of love contained in the consecrated Bread.

**CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES**  
Once you have contacted the funeral home of your choice to make arrangements, the parish will then be called. We have a Bereavement Ministry to assist you throughout.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please fill in / clip out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the church office. As well, complete the Parish Profile / Confidential Registration Card found at the entrance to the church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence (with Postal Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26, 2025

[Sunday of the Word of God]

### GOD LIVES IN HIS PEOPLE

The ears of all the people were attentive. (Nehemiah)  
The body is one and has many members. (1 Corinthians)  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. (Luke)

Just as the chosen Israelites felt the great privilege of God's special relationship with them through the Law, so we all share the great privilege of being members of Christ's Body, charged with his life, so that the ancient Law is fulfilled.

-- Susan Sayers

### SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

#### "I hope in your Word" (Psalm 119)

In his Apostolic Letter Aperuit Illis (dated Sept. 30, 2019 -- the feast of St. Jerome), Pope Francis proposed that the entire Church celebrate a "Sunday of the Word of God," the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, set aside to reflect on the great importance of God's word for everyday living. The title of the document is from its opening words, taken from Luke's Gospel, where the evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, and how "he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." St. Jerome was the one who translated most of the Bible into Latin, and who said: "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

### MINISTERS OF GOD'S WORD

#### (Sunday & Weekly Readers)

Today we are renewing the commitment of our parish's Word Proclaimers, of which we have some 25 readers (including four recently added). They are a real gift in our parish and they turn the gift of speech into an act of love. These ministers make our inaudible God audible and our invisible God visible. Their task is not just to communicate something about Christ, but to communicate the very essence of Christ to those assembled. And that is why we embrace them in prayer:

*Lord, take their lips and speak through them;  
take their minds and think through them;  
take their hearts and set them on fire.*

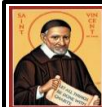
*May the Lord be in their hearts and on their lips,  
that they may proclaim worthily and well! Amen.*



### THE POPE'S FEBRUARY INTENTION:

#### for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



### MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

January 19 \$2,228.00

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

### INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

These are now in the church, in a labelled box near the doors. Parishioners are asked to please pick theirs up by next Sunday, February 2; those remaining after that will be mailed. (given the cost of mailing everyone's cooperation is needed).

### Monday, January 27

8:30 a.m. Mass † John & Mary Nur  
[St. Angela Merici, virgin, religious founder (Ursulines), educator  
[St. Enric de Ossó i Cervelló, priest, religious founder, educator]

### Tuesday, January 28

**St. Thomas Aquinas (Tommaso d'Aquino), Dominican priest, philosopher / theologian, doctor of the Church ("Doctor Angelicus")**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Ross & Nancy Moore  
[St. Josef Freinademetz, priest, first Divine Word missionary to/in China]

### Wednesday, January 29

8:30 a.m. Mass † Frank & Emma Nigg  
[Bl. Boleslawa Maria Lament, seamstress, religious founder (Miss. Srs. of the Holy Family, Franciscan tertiary)]

### Thursday, January 30

8:30 a.m. Mass ♥ int. of Elma Costelo  
[St. Giacinta Mariscotti, Franciscan religious]  
[St. Louis-Joseph (Mutien-Marie) Wiaux, religious, teacher]

### Friday, January 31

**St. John (Giovanni) Bosco, priest, religious founder (Salesians), educator**

8:30 a.m. Mass ♥ † liv. & dec. of Geary and Oblak families  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation  
[St. Marcella of Rome, widow]

### Saturday, February 1

7:30-8:30 a.m. Reconciliation  
8:30 a.m. Mass † Arlene Marian

[St. Brigid (Bride) of Ireland, abbess of Kildare, "Mary of the Gael"]

5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) † in memoriam

**Presentation of the Lord, February 2** [World Day of Consecrated Life]

9:00 a.m. Mass ♥ people of the parish  
11:00 a.m. Mass † Adelina Micieli

*While primarily a Sunday, the Lord's day, the Eucharist celebrates Christ as the light to enlighten the nations -- in the context of the paschal mystery, the saving power of Christ's death and resurrection.*



### WORLD DAY OF MARRIAGE

To commemorate this day, Bishop Gerard Bergie will celebrate a special Mass on Sunday, February 9 (2:00 p.m., Cathedral). All married couples, especially those celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60th+ anniversary in 2025 are invited to attend. This "Anniversary Mass" will become an annual event in our diocese. A congratulatory certificate will be mailed to couples who register and who celebrate the above-mentioned special anniversaries. To receive this certificate, please contact the parish office.

St. Michael Men's Speaker Series  
Mon., Feb. 3 (7:30 p.m., St. Julia Church, StC)  
-- with Fr. Ronald Angervil

### ALPHA -- IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT



Having been introduced to Alpha by Nick Ali, Director of the diocese's Office of Evangelization, we are proceeding with the launch of a "pilot Alpha" for our parishioners in the coming weeks. The pilot runs for seven sessions and includes an all-day retreat. We are aiming to host this Alpha experience on Thursdays (Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10).

Those interested in participating (and we hope many of you will!) are asked to add their names and best contact info to the sign-up sheet near the church doors (or else notify the parish office) by no later than February 10.

Alpha is an interesting, fun, and non-threatening way to explore Christianity. It provides a "refresher" for committed Christians to look at the basics of the faith. The topics explore the "big issues," addressing questions like "is there more to life than this? who is Jesus? why and how do I pray? how does God guide us?" It is "tuition-free;" however, free will donations to cover the cost of the meals will be accepted. Typically, each Alpha session (of two-and-a-half hours max.) begins with a meal and continues with a half-hour video and small group sharing afterwards. We will be assembling a core team (leader, administrator, small group hosts and helpers, task force, prayer team).



### "100 SCARVES" GROUP

We invite you to join our knitting and crochet group meetings on Fridays, January 31 and February 7 (1:00-4:00 p.m., in the hall). Whether you're a "seasoned pro" or a beginner, come and share the joy of crafting with us. We look forward to seeing you there!

### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

This is a ministry of accompaniment (a notion dear to Pope Francis). Basically, when a call is received for a funeral, a bereavement minister gets in touch with the family and meets to plan the funeral liturgy (readings, homily notes, prayer of the faithful, music). If any bereavement ministers are free to attend the prayer vigil and/or the liturgy, so much the better, as some families have difficulty proposing readers. As well, the minister(s) could help set up what is needed for the funeral and in order for the priest not to be delayed in moving on the burial, they could tidy up and lock the church. We are meeting this Wednesday, January 29 (6:30 p.m., rectory), and we welcome anyone who feels this ministry would suit them. Give consideration to this -- and many thanks to those presently serving!

### SENIOR ALTAR SERVERS

Men and women of the parish who are available to serve when a funeral Mass occurs are invited to a short "training session" this Wednesday, January 29 -- immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. In fact, these "senior servers" may step in at other times, as happens now at some of our Sunday Masses.



### WORD ON FIRE "CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS"

This DVD series explores the creative outpouring of some of the greatest writers, artists, and spiritual minds in Christian history. Their lives are animated by Bishop Robert Barron (Word on Fire Catholic Ministries), and they can motivate each of us to live the adventure of our faith in new and unexpected ways. A viewing of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Theologian will take place in the hall this Monday, January 27 right after the morning Mass (approx. 9:15) -- in anticipation of his memorial the next day. Tea/coffee/light snack will be available.

### UPCOMING HAPPENINGS (all in the hall unless otherwise indicated)

Adult Catechumenate (O.C.I.A.): Thu., Jan. 30 (3:30 p.m.)  
Holy Name Society: meets Thu., Jan. 30 (6:30 p.m.)  
Heritage Council: Wed., Feb. 5 (6:30 p.m.)  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Wed., Feb. 12 (4:00 p.m.)  
Pastoral Council: meets Wed., Feb. 12 (6:30 p.m.)  
Finances Council: meets Thu., Feb. 13 (1:00 p.m.)

### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: mobilizing together



This weekend a number of parishioners will receive in the bulletin a copy of the action sheet "Create Hope -- Reaping Our Rights," in anticipation of a signature collection taking place the following Sundays. Essentially, we are raising awareness about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP); we call upon the Government of Canada to adopt mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation to compel Canadian companies to prevent, report, and remedy human rights abuses and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains.

### ALTAR CANDLES

According to the Roman Missal, "on or next to the altar are to be placed candlesticks with lighted candles: at least two in any celebration, or even four or six, especially for a Sunday Mass or a Holy day of Obligation...Likewise, on the altar or close to it, there is to be a cross adorned with a figure of Christ crucified...On the altar itself may be placed a 'Book of Gospels' distinct from the book of other readings, unless it is carried in the Entrance Procession" (no. 117). We are getting an estimate from our usual liturgical supplier for six such candlesticks which will replace the two candlesticks presently on the altar. Nylon shells (for the oil cans to be inserted) will be a separate cost. Only candles of a decent stature flanking the altar will look presentable. If there is anyone who would like to assist with these purchases, do inform the parish office; all donors will be acknowledged.



### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD / "CANDLEMAS" -- Sunday, February 2 (candlelight procession, at all Masses)

We "say goodbye" to Christmas, forty days after our celebration of the birth of Jesus. The Mass begins in an unusual fashion, with a blessing of candles -- either tapers (as at the Easter Vigil) special ones available for purchase and which will be blessed for use at home afterwards (two candles per box; suggested offering \$2). You will be invited to take part in the opening ritual. When all are in place, the candles will be lit and then blessed. The gathered assembly follows in candlelight procession around the church behind the presider and ministers. The rest of the Mass continues in the usual way.

The annual blessing of throats will take place in the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Monday, February 3 (the feast of St. Blase).



To be remembered at next Saturday's quarterly Mass in memoriam are the following:

Visnja Haramina-Perkov  
Jacqueline Boyce  
Theodorus (Ted) Van de Laar  
David Bell

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THIRD ORDINARY (C)

Invitation: Let the prayers of our mouth and the thoughts of our heart find favour before the Lord our rock and redeemer. Let us reach out through prayers made in faith for people in need.

response: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

Intentions: For Catholics to continue to promote reading and reflection on the word of God as a means of fostering Christian unity, we pray...

For world leaders to cease to engage in acts of genocide and advocate acts of justice toward people of particular cultures, we pray...

For the sick to be graced with strength in their struggles: may God's Spirit, alive in his people, work healing love, we pray...

For ministers of the word who proclaim the Scriptures in the Mass reflect on its message in their hearts and minds, we pray...

For those involved in communications (such as journalists, media professionals, news reporters, video makers, graphic designers, social media managers, audio technicians, and IT experts) to spread messages reflecting the truth, goodness, and beauty of God in this Jubilee Year, we pray...

For ourselves to be given deeper insight, more awareness, and greater love so that we can more effectively serve the world in our day as living members of the Body of Christ, we pray...

**May all the dead to be welcomed this day into paradise,**

**especially:** *[9:00 Mass]* Agnes Grebenc / James Wanamaker... *[11:00 Mass]* Elizabeth Rocca...  
*[each Mass]* Viva Norton / Clara Phillips...

**we pray...**

**Conclusion:** God of love, in our baptism you anointed us and marked us as your own. Help us to live as your chosen people, blessed by and filled with the Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord.