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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*



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

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<u>LORD'S DAY MASSES</u>	<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>	<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u>
<p>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. in Spanish, seasonally</p>	<p>Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. + First Saturday -- see bulletin for changes</p>	<p>Mon., Thu. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tue. closed, Wed. noon – 3 p.m. Fri. 9 a.m. – noon</p>

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE PARISH**  
 St. Michael School, Virgil 905/905-0151  
 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!*

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**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Epiphany of the Lord**  
**January 5, 2025**



**JESUS THE LIGHT IS SHOWN TO THE WORLD**

Glory of God's Church. (*Isaiah*)  
 Good news for all. (*Ephesians*)  
 Wise men from the East. (*Matthew*)

In fulfillment of old prophecies the promised Messiah is now revealed to all nations, symbolised by the three wise men. The offering of their gifts foreshadows the time when all nations will be drawn to acknowledge the omnipotence of God.

-- Susan Sayers

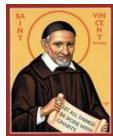
**WORDS TO START THE NEW YEAR**

*As we face the New Year, let us focus...  
 not on our fears, but on the Father;  
 not on our failures, but on the Forgiver;  
 not on our anxieties, but on the Answer;  
 not on our worries, but on the Way;  
 not on our troubles, but on the Truth;  
 not on our liabilities, but on the Light;  
 not on our scarcities, but on the Supply;  
 not on our insufficiencies, but on the Inexhaustible;  
 not on our obstacles, but on the Omnipotent;  
 not on our loneliness, but on the Love.*



**PROCLAIMERS OF THE (SUNDAY) WORD**

Some of the requirements: familiarity with Sacred Scripture (while not necessarily being a Bible scholar!), ability to read well with good vocal projection (while not necessarily being an orator!), and a willingness to attend training sessions (while not necessarily undergoing a skills test!). Those interested will be invited to an inquiry session on Saturday, January 18 (10:30 a.m., in the church), where some of our current proclaimers (readers) will explain what the ministry requires. In fact, all our Sunday and daily ministers of God's word are asked to be present.



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

December 22 \$6,931.50

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

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

- Pastoral Council: meets Wed., Jan. 8 (6:30 p.m.)
- Adult Catechumenate (O.C.I.A.): resumes Thu., Jan. 9 (3:30 p.m.)
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Thu., Jan. 9 (4:00 p.m.) (*Jennifer Pothier's home*)
- Finances Council: meets Fri., Jan. 17 (1:00 p.m.)
- Sunday Readers / Word Proclaimers: meet Sat., Jan. 18 (10:30 a.m.) (*church*)
- Holy Name Society: meets Thu., Jan. 30 (6:30 p.m.)
- Heritage Council: meets Wed., Feb. 5 (6:30 p.m.)

**Monday, January 6**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Donald Thompson  
 [Eastern Catholic & Orthodox Christmas]  
 [St. Carlo da Sezze (Giancarlo Marchioni), Franciscan religious, writer]

**Tuesday, January 7**

**St. André Bessette (Frère André of Montreal), Holy Cross religious (host to the stranger, healer of the sick, builder of the Church, patron of family caregivers)**

8:30 a.m. Mass ♥† liv. & dec. of the Wagner and Surgent families

**Wednesday, January 8**

8:30 a.m. Mass † John & Mary Nur  
 [St. Ramón de Penyafort, Dominican priest, patron of canon lawyers, religious co-founder (Mercedarians)]

**Thursday, January 9**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Kevin Keough  
 [Bl. Gregory X, pope]

**Friday, January 10**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Jessy Gallagher  
 9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation  
 [St. Gregory of Nyssa, bishop ("Cappadocian Father")]

**Saturday, January 11**

5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) † Robert D'Andrea

**Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 12**

9:00 a.m. Mass ♥ people of the parish  
 11:00 a.m. Mass † Irene Sandring

**CATHOLIC UPDATE** (to be found at the literature carousel)

- "Polarization: Stop Labeling – Start Listening" (September 2024)
- "Depression: Finding Light in the Darkness" (October 2024)
- "The Wisdom of Pope Francis: Calling the Church to Holiness" (November 2024)
- "Let Heaven and Nature Sing: The Stories Behind Favorite Christmas Songs" (December 2024)



**JUBILEE OF HOPE 2025**

Bishop Gerard Bergie has designated St. Vincent de Paul Church as a local Jubilee pilgrimage site -- along with the Cathedral of St. Catherine, Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Shrine in Welland, and Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport.

The Jubilee Indulgence is a special blessing or "favour" from the treasury of the Church which a person can receive in a Holy Year. It is granted through the power of Christ to any individual who is truly repentant of sin and asks, through prayer or action, for this blessing. The indulgence offers God's unlimited grace and mercy as the individual seeks to lessen the guilt and residual effects or consequence of sin that often remains, even after those sins have been forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation -- the Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies this residual effect as temporal punishment (CCC, 1471).

As well, an able-bodied person seeking the Jubilee Indulgence must complete one of these actions or conditions:

- (1) making a pilgrimage to a sacred designated Jubilee site in Rome, the Holy Land, or a national sanctuary (e.g., Martyrs Shrine in Midland);
- (2) visiting a sacred place like a cathedral church or those designated by the local bishop; [and while there, participation in Holy Mass or other prayer (e.g., celebration of the Word of God, Liturgy of the Hours, Way of the Cross, Marian Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, or penitential celebration with individual confession) is recommended]
- (3) performing the corporal (material) and spiritual works of mercy in a church or suitable place, and participating in faith formation activities on the Catechism or other Church documents.

Those who cannot make the Jubilee pilgrimage because of advancing age or serious health concerns are nonetheless invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings and hardships of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharist -- also, reciting the Jubilee Prayer, Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed, in recognition of its 1700th anniversary), Our Father, Hail Mary, and Prayer for the Pope and his special intentions.

Printed cards with the Jubilee Year Prayer are now available in the church. We are introducing the Jubilee Hymn into our Masses, on occasion.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOORS OF ROME**

October 16-24 -- with Bishop Gerard Bergie  
 For information, visit [www.sainted.com](http://www.sainted.com) or contact Ineke Brinkman of Direct Travel (905/988-1313; [ibrinkman@dt.com](mailto:ibrinkman@dt.com)).

**THREE MORE PILGRIMAGES**

- (1) to Austria, Czech Rep., Poland, Slovakia, Hungary -- with Fr. Ronnie Tagnines (Apr. 25 - May 6)
- (2) to Poland, Hungary, Austria, Czech Rep. -- with Fr. Stephen Bruzzese (Apr. 29 - May 10)
- (3) the Meuse to the Seine: Benelux, Germany, North of France -- with Fr. Peter Rowe (May 12-23)

**EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION**

**-- AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER**



Know, dear brothers and sisters,  
 that, as we have rejoiced  
 at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 so by leave of God's mercy  
 we announce to you also  
 the joy of his Resurrection,  
 who is our Saviour.

On the 5th day of March  
 will fall Ash Wednesday,  
 and the beginning of the fast  
 of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 20th day of April  
 you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,  
 the Paschal Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 1st day of June  
 will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 8th day of June  
 the feast of Pentecost.

On the 22nd day of June  
 the feast of the Most Holy  
 Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 30th day of November,  
 the First Sunday of the Advent  
 of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 to whom is honour and glory  
 for ever and ever. Amen.

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

EPIPHANY 2025

Invitation: The Lord's light shines upon us, as we intercede for the needs of all earth's nations and peoples upon whom the glory of God has shone.

response: *Lord, be our light!*

Intentions: For the pilgrimages, prayer opportunities, and works of mercy offered during the Jubilee 2025 to be moments of genuine personal encounter with Jesus -- the "Holy Door" of our salvation, we pray...

For the leaders of all lands and peoples to be open to the radical mercy, justice, and peace to which Christ's Gospel calls us, we pray...

For all who are experiencing despair and pain, personal trial and grief to discover the peace and healing that Jesus brings, we pray...

In the brightness of love, may Christ be revealed, turning the doubtful to faith, the despairing to hope, and the vengeful to forgiveness -- may we also offer him the gold of a living faith, the incense of praise, and the myrrh of compassion for others, we pray...

For the work of astronomers and other experts examining the natural world to draw them closer to the Creator of all things, we pray...

For us in this community: may no opportunity be lost in sharing the joy and peace of Christ with those we meet in our daily lives, we pray...

For all who followed the star of faith and walked by the light of Christ to behold God face-to-face, joyfully entering into heaven,

**especially:** *[9:00 Mass]* Jerry Slak... *[11:00 Mass]* Richard Wiecek... *[each Mass]* David Diston / Eva Persia / former US president Jimmy Carter / those who died in "vehicle as a weapon" terror attacks...

**we pray...**

Conclusion: **O God of everlasting glory, we commend our lives to your loving care. As you inspired the Magi to present their gifts to the the Holy Family, so may the gifts you grant in answer to these prayers sway us to follow your will. Through Christ our Lord.**