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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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905/468-7272  
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Baptism of the Lord**  
**January 12, 2025**

**JESUS IS BAPTIZED BY JOHN,  
 AND THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRMS HIM  
 AS THE CHOSEN ONE**

Works of the Messiah. (*Isaiah*)  
 Anointed to do good. (*Titus*)  
 Beloved Son. (*Matthew*)

As Messiah, identifying with his people, Jesus receives the baptism of repentance, and as he does so, the Spirit of God descends upon him, showing him, beyond all doubt, that he is the promised Christ who is to save his people from their sins.  
 -- Susan Sayers

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:**

**January 18-25**

**"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26)**

**-- prepared by the Bose, Italy monastic community**

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea (near Constantinople), in 325 AD. The commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this council, a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. Christian Unity Week offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

The guiding biblical text for the week is John 11:17-27. The biblical texts for each day highlight in turn key statements of the Nicene Creed:

- day 1: The fatherhood and care of God who rules the universe*
- day 2: Creation as God's work*
- day 3: The Incarnation of the Son*
- day 4: The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus*
- day 5: The Holy Spirit, the giver of life and joy*
- day 6: The Church: Community of believers*
- day 7: Baptism into the Death and Resurrection of the Lord*
- day 8: Waiting for the Kingdom and the life to come*

**POPE'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION:**  
**for the right to an education**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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

January 5 \$ 3,591.35

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

**"100 SCARVES" GROUP**

We invite you to join our knitting and crochet group meetings on Fridays, January 17, 24, 31, and February 7 (1:00-4:00 p.m., in the hall). Our projects will include: baby blankets (we have lots of baby wool); adorable animals (some patterns provided); scarves; and more! 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!

**Monday, January 13** [Ordinary Time, week 1]

8:30 a.m. Mass † Brenda Wichert  
 [St. Hilary of Poitiers, bishop, doctor of the Church]

**Tuesday, January 14**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Jack Harmer  
 [St. Sava (Rastko Nemanjic), archbishop, prince, protector of the Serbs]  
 [St. Petrus (Peerke) Donders, Redemptorist priest]

**Wednesday, January 15**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Sean Kirlin / Emilia Nugent  
 [St. Ita, religious founder, "foster mother of the saints of God"]  
 [St. Arnold Janssen, Divine Word priest, religious founder]  
 [Our Lady of Banneux (Virgin of the Poor), Belgium (1933)]

**Thursday, January 16**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Ida Di Cosimo  
 [St. Joseph Vaz, priest, "apostle of Ceylon / Sri Lanka"]  
 [St. Giuseppe Tovini, married man, Franciscan tertiary]

**Friday, January 17**

**St. Anthony of Egypt, abbot, early monastic founder, "patriarch of monks"**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Mary Shinerock  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation  
 [Our Lady of Prayer, Pontmain, France (1871)]

**Saturday, January 18** [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins]

[St. Prisca of Rome, martyr]  
 [St. Margaret of Hungary, virgin, princess, Dominican religious, mystic]

5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) ♥ people of the parish

**2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 19**

9:00 a.m. Mass † Frances Piunno / Mary Morgetano  
11:00 a.m. Mass † Josie & Kitty McGrath

**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 are invited to an inquiry session next 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.

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

Finances Council: meets Fri., Jan. 17 (1:00 p.m.)

Sunday Readers / Word Proclaimers: meet Sat., Jan. 18 (10:30 a.m.) (church)

Confirmation Enrollment: Sun., Jan. 26 (11:00 a.m. Mass)

Holy Name Society: meets Thu., Jan. 30 (6:30 p.m.)

Heritage Council: Wed., Feb. 5 (6:30 p.m.)



**JUBILEE LOGO**

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding on to the Cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this

lead figure embraces but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That is why we should pay attention to the lower part of the Cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon, the "anchor of hope" refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms.

It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the Cross. The Cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Peregrinantes in Spem ("Pilgrims in Hope"), represented in green letters.

**JUBILEE YEAR INDULGENCE**

By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence. The Jubilee indulgence is a concrete manifestation of God's mercy, which goes beyond and transforms the boundaries of human justice. This treasury of grace entered human history in the witness of Jesus and the saints, and by living in communion with them our hope for our own forgiveness is strengthened and becomes a certainty. The Jubilee indulgence allows us to free our hearts from the weight of sin because the reparation due for our sins is given freely and abundantly.

In practical terms, the experience of God's mercy involves some spiritual acts indicated by the Pope. Those who cannot make the Jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances are nonetheless invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee Year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives and participating in the eucharistic celebration.

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:**

**"Create Hope -- Reaping Our Rights"**



In solidarity with farming and rural communities, we call on the Government of Canada to ensure the recognition and protection of their rights by (1) raising awareness; (2) collecting signatures on an action card; and (3) organizing solidarity meals. April 17 (International Day of Peasant Struggles) is the deadline for collecting signatures. Legislation is needed to compel Canadian companies to prevent, report, and remedy human rights abuses and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains.

**REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL: "She Rises Up"**



Thursday, January 23 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)  
 -- in partnership with Development and Peace  
 The screening and discussion will be hosted on-line via Zoom; register at Reel Justice Film Festival. This film is a revealing look at the power of women's economic participation, following radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are working to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities.

**SEPARATED & DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY**

The support group meets every second and fourth Monday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, NF. For information or to participate via Zoom, call 905/356-4113 or 905/684-0154 or e-mail [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

January 13 "The Catholic Faith and Divorce"  
 (Fr. Paul MacNeil)

January 28 "Embracing the New Year"  
 (note date change to Tuesday)

**MT. CARMEL SPIRITUAL CENTRE, NF**

- (1) "The Journey of Faith: A Trip for a Lifetime!"  
 Sat., Jan. 18 (9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.); \$70 (includes lunch)
- (2) "The Times They are A-Changin'"  
 Fri., Jan. 24 to Sun., Jan. 26; \$350
- (3) "I Am...The Joy of Knowing Yourself"  
 Sat., Feb. 9 (9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.); \$70 (includes lunch)
- (4) "Walking the Sacred Path Retreat:  
 Finding Your God-given Purpose in Life"  
 Fri., Feb. 21 to Sun., Feb. 23; \$350  
 -- all programs led by Anna Racine,  
 Adjunct Faculty, Spiritual Director  
[www.annaracine.org](http://www.annaracine.org); 905/356-4113; [www.carmelniagara.com](http://www.carmelniagara.com)

**EXPANDING EUTHANASIA**

When mercy killing was first proposed, all sorts of restrictions or guard rails were put in place to prevent its expansion. Sadly, one more has been broken through. The Quebec government will now allow advance directives for mercy killing. Instead of this being an immediate request, a patient will now be able to make an unlimited advance directive to be killed if he/she becomes incompetent or demented. This will be the decision of the doctor or family members. The federal government is neither appealing this law nor seeking to strike it down; it is merely "reviewing" it. The federal government has also begun a "consultation." Several of the on-line "consultation" questions assume support for euthanasia by advance request. E-mail [info@epcc.ca](mailto:info@epcc.ca) to find a guide to answering the on-line "consultation." This is the basic reality of mercy killing: there is no end to the expansion.

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Invitation: The grace of God has drawn us to this holy place. With kindness and generous love, let us offer to our merciful God the needs of the Church and everyone in the world.

response: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

Intentions: For every pilgrim of hope to embrace all that this Jubilee has to offer, and then freely share their renewed hope with all those who anxiously seek it, we pray...

For all inquirers into Christian Baptism or Catholic Confirmation to come to new life as God's beloved sons and daughters, we pray...

For those whose lives and homes have been laid waste by out-of-control fires in the Los Angeles area to hear tender words of comfort and their valleys of despair be lifted up, we pray...

For all the lowly and poor, the afflicted and suffering -- those imprisoned physically, spiritually, emotionally -- to know assistance and comfort through our efforts, we pray...

For parents to accept the commitment to share the full message of Christ's peace with their baptized children, we pray...

For all of us here in this assembly of the baptized: being filled with Jesus' life, may the quality and brightness of our own lives draw many others into his love and peace, we pray...

**May the dead be welcomed into the everlasting peace of heaven,**

**especially:** *[5:00 Mass]* Robert D'Andrea... *[11:00 Mass]* Irene Sandring... *[each Mass]*  
Dan Reynolds...

**we pray...**

Conclusion: **O God, source of love and wisdom, we your beloved children revere our life in you. With grateful hearts, help us to love others as you have loved us so that your kingdom will be known in all the world. Through Christ our Lord.**