

Dec 22nd, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent



Christmas & New Year Office Hours



Monday, Dec 23 - 9:00am to 12noon
Monday, Dec 30 - 9:00am to 4:00pm
Tuesday, Dec 31 - 9:00am to 12noon

◆ *We are Closed*
on Jan 1, Jan 2 & Jan 3 for the New Year,
and will reopen on Monday, Jan 6 at 9:00am.

~~~~~ A Christmas Story ~~~~~

On Christmas Eve 1914, the German and English soldiers faced each other along the western front. In the English trenches, letters and cards arrived from home. The soldiers cheered up a little. By midnight some of them even began to sing. Then suddenly a sentry shouted excitedly: 'Listen!' They listened and heard that the Germans also were singing.

A short while later two brave soldiers, one from each side, met out in the open. More joined them. From a military point of view it made no sense. As soldiers they were supposed to fight each other. To stop suddenly and to be friends just didn't make sense. But there was a greater force than armies at the front that night.

When Christmas Day dawned, soldiers with smiling faces were strolling around 'No Man's Land'. They exchanged food, souvenirs and cigarettes. About mid-day, as the friendship was growing, a football match between the two sides started up. But it didn't last long. The news had reached the generals, and sharp orders arrived to put an end to the whole thing. The officers herded the men back into the trenches. It was all over. On Christmas night the war had started up again.

That brief outbreak of peace is a vivid illustration of the power Christmas. It is the power of the Prince of Peace to break down barriers and bring people together.

**** Christmas Day Table Blessing ****



Invite a family member to light a candle while everyone sings Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel ... Born is the King of Israel

Reader: O Lord, we give you thanks for the gift of family and friendship this Christmas day. May the hope, the peace, the joy and the love represented by the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem live in our family and become part of all that we say and do.

(* invite everyone present to name one 'blessing' they are grateful for this Christmas)

Reader: May the star of Bethlehem which shone over the first manger stand guard over our family, filling us and all the earth with light and peace.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you this Christmas Day because you give hope to all the world. Amen.

~ Repeat the sung 'Noel' Refrain ~

~~~~~ Immaculate Conception School ~~~~~

Open House

Wednesday, January 22 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Discover why ICS Catholic elementary school is for you.
Meet the families, tour the school and hear from students.

3745 West 28th Avenue, Vancouver (604) 224-5012

www.icschoolvancouver.com



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2019



**Children are invited to bring dinner bells to ring at the Gloria!*

*** Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve***



*4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Leader of Song – Organist and singer Susanne Nordin

*6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Leader of Song – Organist and singer Susanne Nordin

* 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

**** ‘Festival of Carols’ 7:30 pm!*

Leader of Song – Tim and Bernadette, 11:30 am Sunday Choir plus ‘featured guests’

** A Hot Cider reception follows...*

*10:00 pm – “Christmas Night Mass”

*Leader of Song – Jim Wearing and the Sunday 10:00 am Choir plus special guests –
This Mass is what we would traditionally call ‘Midnight Mass’!*

**** ‘Festival of Carols’ - 9:30 pm! ****

**A Hot Cider reception follows...*

*** Christmas Morning Masses ***

Wednesday, December 25th

*10:30 am Christmas Morning Mass

**** ‘Festival of Carols’ 10:00 am – Sunday 10:00 am Mass Choir! ****

*12:00 ‘Noon’ Christmas Morning Mass

Leader of Song – Tim and Bernadette

**** New Year’s Eve and Day Mass Schedule****

* New Year’s Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 31st - *4 pm Mass

** A light reception follows to usher in the New Year.*

+ New Year’s Day – Wednesday, Jan. 1st – *10:00 and *11:30 am

** There is no 8:30 am Mass on New Year’s Day*

