

December 23rd, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Reflection

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."-Luke 1:44 When you hear the Scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders. -Copyright © 2018 Archdiocese of St. Louis

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

Join us as we celebrate life on Dec. 28 at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m.

Christmas & New Year Office Hours:

Thursday, Dec 20 – 9:00am to 12:00noon
Parish office will be closed from Friday, Dec 21 to Wednesday, Jan 2. We will reopen on Thursday, Jan 3.
May your holidays be filled with God's love, joy & peace.

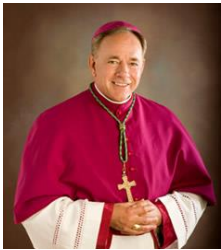
Parish End of Year Celebration

Family Skate! Come Join

The Knights of Columbus are bringing back the New Year's Eve ice skating and hot chocolate on **Dec. 31st**. We have rented the ice at Kitsilano from 1:00 pm – 2:30pm on December 31st and would like to invite all the families to come and skate for free!! Rentals are also included. We hope to see you there! All are welcome!



A Christmas Message from Archbishop Miller



Christmas celebrations enable us to remember that God has not forgotten us and that he comes to us in our daily lives. He came among us 2,000 years ago, born in Bethlehem. But he also comes to be with us today in every situation of our life, the good times and the bad. He dwells among us; he lives with us and within us. As we journey toward Christmas, the Church takes us by the hand and helps us to experience once again the joyful expectation of the Lord's coming to his people long ago, and to us today.

As we approach Christmas during this season of hope, I urge everyone to invite Mary to be your companion on the journey. At the Annunciation, when she affirmed, "Let it be done unto me according to your word" (Lk 1:38), she was saying: "I don't know what this all means, but I trust that good things will happen because the Lord promises this."

During this season of light, let us cast our eyes upon Christ our light – the God of glory and light, the God who constantly lightens our way. As we once again prepare our hearts for the great light of Christ among us, let us also give thanks for the other lights that have touched, lit up, and enlightened our own lives. They are filled with the light of other people, who give us joy, challenge us, and sometimes call us to account or correct us. Each person who has touched our heart is a point of light. - Visit rcav.org/christmas2018 to read Archbishop's complete Christmas message

Christmas Day Table Blessing



Invite a family member to light a candle while everyone sings ...
... Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is 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.

EVERYONE: Sing the 'Noel Refrain'.



Immaculate Conception School

OPEN HOUSE

January 23rd, 2019 / 6:30 – 8:00pm

Come Discover Why ICS Catholic Elementary Is For You

Accepting applications for Kindergarten to Grade 7 for the 2019-2010 School Year.

For more information please contact the school office at (604)224-5012 or email: office@icschoolvancouver.com

Our 1st Twilight Mass in the New Year will be on Sunday, January 13th at 8pm



Our Twilight Masses gather people from around the Archdiocese. The contemporary Gospel Music and informality of the Liturgy helps all who come to revitalize their Faith and experience Catholic community. We offer this Twilight Mass as our little way at Immaculate to evangelize the many within our families and city who are seeking deeper meaning in lives and wandering in the hope of finding a faith community for their lives.

❖ Please note the Parish Center will be closed to all groups from Dec 22-Jan 1 for the holidays. Blessings!

❖ Donations for 2018

As a Parish family we are so grateful to the support and kindness of all of you. Please drop off any donations at the Parish office by Dec 27 at noon or put in the collection basket when you come for Mass by Dec 31 if you would like to have it receipted for 2018.

You can now E-Transfer your donations to the Parish to our Parish Accounting email: IC_Accounting@shaw.ca

Answer to Security Question: ICParish

We thank you for your generosity and support!

2019 Sunday Envelopes are available for pick up from the Parish Center. Please refrain from using your envelopes from previous years as your number may have

Project Advance 2018 – Have you made your pledge for this year yet?

Live Gratefully, Give Generously – We need to bring The Light of Hope to Others!



It is the major fundraiser that we have as Roman Catholics to enable us to do the ministry that Jesus asks from us as the Church. Thank you to those who have made a gift. Your gift is a sign that you value Immaculate and want to support the outreach we do in the name of Jesus. With your support and generosity, we have exceeded our Archdiocesan goal and the funds we raise now will rebate to Immaculate, which enables us to bring the presence of Jesus' love to others. Donations can be made through the Parish office, drop off at Mass or contribute online at www.rcav.org.

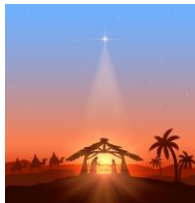
Tax receipts will be issued for donations received by Dec 27, 2018. If you have not yet made a gift it is not too late!! We thank you for your generosity and your prayerful support.



The Tradition of the Christmas Manger began with Saint Francis

– St. Francis knew that only the poor in spirit could really come to experience the joy and love of God. So, St. Francis chose to celebrate midnight Mass in 1223 in a cave where real animals gathered about a real manger. It was a living Christmas scene. People from miles around had flocked to see the first Christmas Crib in history. It is said that as the Christmas Mass began the Christ child was actually to be seen in the manger and that St. Francis picked up Jesus in his arms... Jesus appears to us this Christmas as well. He comes to us and waits for us to hold him ... each time we receive the Body of Christ!

Come, Lord Jesus



Lord Jesus, come into our weakness. Come into our fears. Come into our anxieties.

Come into our failures. Come into our divisions. Come into our grieving.

Come into our loneliness. Come into our darkness. Come into our doubting.

Come into our despair. Come into our poverty of heart. Come into our searching.

Come into our joys and hopes. Come into our dying. Come, Lord Jesus Come!