



January 13th, 2019

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...'" (Luke 3:16) As baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God. – copyright Archdiocese of St. Louis

A Thank You from Fr. Paul: By Epiphany a much needed 'second wind' renews my energies after the Christmas ministry marathon. On the one level Christmas is always a beautiful and grace-filled event for me (it is an exhausting time for pastors). We have a huge number of Christmas liturgies at Immaculate and at Musqueam and at the end of them all I'm exhausted. Usually, by Epiphany I recuperate a bit and then I enjoy 'pondering and treasuring' the graces of Christmas. It is then that I open up my Christmas cards and gifts of appreciation. (I'm too exhausted at Christmas) Each little note or gift delights my soul. Frankly, at his point in my life it is never about the card or gift. Rather, each note or token of appreciation lifts and blesses my soul – they validate that the ministry I do is touching real lives and families. I'm humbled by your kind, thoughtful and honest words.

Personally, I never want ministry to be reduced to running a well oiled machine. Ministry for me must be about blessing, healing and revitalizing hearts, souls and lives. So many of your notes reflected words that came from your souls – they have blessed my soul and renewed my commitment to minister to all who walk through our doors and to be ever faithful to revitalizing the soul of Immaculate...

graciousness. (All too often Churches want to come and save the souls of these men and women forgetting that they need to be loved just as they are.) The blessing of a 'Secret Santa' is that we can do the good while keeping the focus on the other without satisfying a need for details. We might consider that a Secret Santa is an expression of prayer – Jesus tells us to go into our room when we pray – close the door – keep it secret – then our Heavenly Father will bless us!

Sharing in the Lord's Ministry

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see the signs of your presence in our lives and in the world.

Touch our ears so that we may hear your word.

Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.

Touch our hands so that we may give and receive.

Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths.

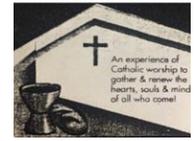
Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways.

Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will.

Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love to our brothers and sisters, to the praise and glory of God.

Amen.

TWILIGHT MASS



Come Join Us – This Sunday, Jan 13 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.

❖ Taize Prayer Services Are Back

Jan 30 and Every 3rd Wednesday of the month through June.



You are welcome to join us for an evening of Taize prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church on Wednesday, January 30 from 7-8:15pm. Taize is a unique form of Christian prayer that involves song, silence, and contemplation – come try it out! Further Taize services will take place at the same time on the 3rd Wed of each month through June. For info email: kelden.formosa@icscholvanancouver.com

Secret Santa: Wow! Our Parish's Secret Santa was a great success! A most special blessing to all who reached out to God's poor through this venture. The men and women who received your gifts experienced joy this Christmas because of your kindness, thoughtfulness and caring. The staff at the center where the men and women live were moved by the initiative and how it was done in





Immaculate Conception
V A N C O U V E R

Meet the families

Tour the School

Hear from Students

Small School ~ Big Community ...

Immaculate Conception School

OPEN HOUSE

January 23rd, 2019 / 6:30 – 8:00pm

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

请来亲身体验我们学校的特色。 我们的同学们将与你分享他们在学校的喜乐

圣母无原罪教区学校 学校开放日：1月23日下午 6:30

幼儿园到七年级 入学时间为 2019 年 9 月 接受申请 查询请电 (604) 224-5012 请来参观



‘Blessing upon Blessing’ to all who did Ministry at our Christmas Liturgies:

Once again this Christmas we welcomed home to Immaculate a huge number of people from near and far .. It is a beautiful thing to witness so many people of all ages crunching together in our little Church. Many are extended family returning home while others come – just like the shepherds – to behold Jesus. I deeply believe that everyone who comes to Immaculate at Christmas is blessed with an experience of the presence, embrace and love of Jesus.

The Ministry and hospitality we extended to all who come is the fruit of our parish ministers. Blessings be upon: *Our Sunday 10am & 11:30am Choirs, *Our Lectors, *Our Ushers, *Our Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, *Our Counters, *Anita – our Parish florist, *Myra & Hank – our sacristans, *Elaine – whose family put up the creche for the 91st time, *Bernadette & Asha – for the mulled wine/hot cider receptions after the 8pm and 10pm Masses.

At Christmas heaven comes to earth through Jesus’ birth, but Christmas Liturgy and Hospitality at Immaculate happens because our sisters and brothers in Christ exercise their call to ministry on these holy days. It is impossible to name individually all of our parishioners who make Christmas such a welcoming and beautiful event at Immaculate. Nonetheless, please know that your ministry and presence blessed and deeply touched the hearts, souls and minds of all who walked through our doors. Finally, a word to all who came to Immaculate for Christmas – each of you brought a blessing and grace to our Parish on this holy night. Presence is the greatest gift we can give to God or to one another – because at Christmas God becomes present to us as the child born of Mary.

Parish Sunday Coffee

Thank you to all of you who volunteered for our coffee gatherings after the 10am Mass during Christmas and the New Year. We appreciate your ministry which means so much to the parishioners from Immaculate. This presents an opportunity for new parishioners to meet others in our community. There is a sign-up sheet in the Jesuit Room. We thank you for your support!

Tax receipts for 2018 will be available by the middle of Feb. If you have moved please contact Kathy at the Parish Office.

ICS School Mass It is always wonderful to have school parents and grandparents joining us at our monthly school Mass. Your presence means a lot to your children and it is a moving experience to behold our school community together at Mass. Our next School Mass will be on Wed, Feb 6 at 9:00am.

PREP Classes 2019 will begin again this Tuesday, Jan 15 from 4-5pm.

RCIA Classes: These sessions are for adults interested in learning more about what it means to become a Catholic. Fr. Paul leads these sessions every other Friday evening. These informal sessions are about an hour long. The sessions will begin on Friday, Jan 18 from 7:30-8:30pm. For more info contact Fr. Paul or parish email sec@icvancouver.ca