

**December 2nd, 2018**  
***First Sunday of Advent***

**NEW Sunday Missal:** Please note the new 2019 Sunday Missals have arrived. They are located within the pews for our parishioners to participate fully during the Sunday Mass. Every family is invited to take home a 2018 Sunday Missal. They are located at the back of the Church.

**Monthly School Mass: Wed, Dec 5 at 9:00am** - School Parents and Grandparents we want you to know that it is always wonderful when you can join us for these monthly school Masses. It is a wonderful and moving experience to behold our school community at Mass together. If you could slip in even for a few minutes your presence would mean a lot to your child and make the face of God ever more present and awesome ...

**First Reconciliation (Confession) for the children in Grade 2: Wed, Dec 12 at 7:00pm (Jesuit Room/Parish Center)**

As your children prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year you are encouraged to gather with our Principal, your child's teacher and Fr. Paul so that you may hear firsthand about the faith formation your child is receiving around this Sacrament and how you can nurture the gift of your child's faith at home. Moms and dads you loom large in the faith formation of your child and your coming to this gathering affirms for your child that our Faith is important and truly does shape and form our minds, hearts and souls. Together, we can nurture and support a life and faith foundation for your child that will empower them to walk into the future with Hope, Faith and Courage!

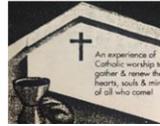


**Secret Santa:** Father Paul knows a number of middle aged men and women who would very much appreciate a Christmas gift – to know that someone cares for them! These men and women are survivors of life on the street and very much disconnected from family and friends. Each of them lived very hard lives (undiagnosed mental health issues complicated by addictions). Now in their 50's and 60's their health is spent and life does not hold much joy or promise. Currently they all live in a non-profit care facility with a wonderful staff. Nonetheless, it is a very lonely place because they do not have family or regular visitors. A little Christmas gift from a Secret Santa would mean a lot to them!

If you would like to be a Secret Santa this Christmas please take a Christmas decoration from the tree in the Church – each decoration suggests a 'Present' that was requested by the men or women at the center. Simply purchase the gift, write out a Christmas Card, attach it to the outside of the gift (if you have time please wrap it) and leave it at the Parish office before Christmas Day. Above all, hold that person in prayer – God's love and goodness!

**TWILIGHT  
MASS**

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 PM**



Are you a Catholic 'Seeker' or 'Wanderer'? We are reaching out to welcome the many among us who are seeking meaning, mercy, or perhaps a new beginning. Come join us as we gather once a month around God's Word and Table. All are welcome

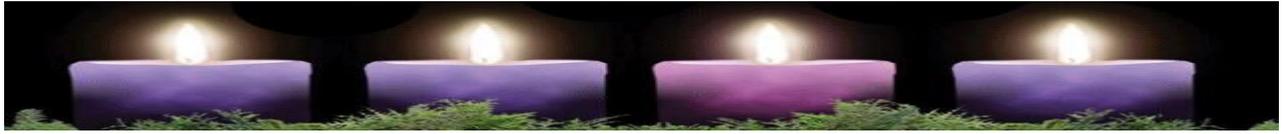
*A Time of Sharing, Giving & Believing*



**Saint Anthony's Christmas Food Pantry**

Every Christmas there are families (and seniors) who need the assistance of others so that they may celebrate a special Christmas dinner with their families.

Our Parish children in P.R.E.P (Parish Religious Education Program) will be setting up a special Christmas Hamper Pantry – St. Anthony's Christmas Food Pantry – so that families experiencing hard times may have a nice Christmas dinner together. Our PREP children can't do this alone. **We are asking our parishioners at large to work together with our PREP children to stock up our 'St. Anthony Christmas Food Pantry'.** 'Food Donations' may be left in front of the manger in the Parish Center or at the back of the Church over the next few weeks. **\*\*non-perishable food items - canned cranberries, canned fruit, canned or bottled vegetables, crackers, cookies, marmalade, jam, tea, coffee, chocolates etc...**



### **Advent Reflection**

The hill flowers fade, but will bloom again next year; but we never get back our youth.  
Life is a fragile gift which we enjoy only briefly; our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun.

We live in a flash of light; before we know it, evening comes and night falls.

But the very fleetingness of life makes it all the more precious.

Lord, may your gentle and sure light guide us on the unfolding road,  
So that we may walk with confidence towards the light that never fades and the life that never ends.

Lord Jesus, you show a path to those who feel lost.

You guide the humble into a life of blessing and goodness. All who hope in you will not be disappointed.

❖ Please take a moment and read the 2 inserts that come with this week's bulletin:

- 1) *Advent Reconciliation Schedule*
- 2) *Christmas Mass Schedule*

The parish office is going to prepare the 2019 Sunday envelopes soon. Please update your contact info with Kathy in the parish office. Thank you!

**Advent Retreat** at St. Mark's Parish Vancouver  
**Joseph's Dreams: Place of Encounter**  
Date: Sat, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 1pm  
Register on Eventbrite.ca or at the parish office.  
Fee: \$40/Students \$20 Lunch & coffee included.

**Little Flower Academy** is accepting applications from prospective grade 8 candidates for the 2019-20 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the Entrance Exam on Dec 8. To apply please contact the school (604)738-9016.

**Turkey Dollars** The Knights of Columbus are collecting Turkey Dollars as offered by Stongs Market to deliver turkeys to Catholic Charities and to the Covenant House during Christmas time. A collection box is located at the Church entrance. Thank you for your generosity. ❖ *KOC Annual Christmas Party: Tue, Dec 11 at 6:30 pm*

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



### ***Christmas Potluck***

#### **IC Parish Women's Christmas Potluck:**

**Monday, Dec 10 at 6:00 PM**

Please bring a friend, your favourite dish and a bottle of wine to share. We will be singing our favourite Christmas Carols, and playing some much loved Christmas games. For details, please contact Susan at (778)772-3465.

#### **"If you have two coats, one of them belongs to the poor" – Mother Teresa**

The Knights of Columbus are again collecting warm winter clothing to be distributed by Catholic Charities to those people in need on the Downtown East Side. Men's, women's and children's clothing, gently-used but clean, will be accepted at the Parish Center until December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **ICS Christmas Fair: A huge 'Thank You' to the coordinators of this year's Christmas Fair – Christine, Lesley & Carla.**

A blessing and thank-you to each of you for your hard work, commitment, dedication, generosity and leadership – we are all grateful for the exceptional event you coordinate. The long hours you put in never diminished the joy and goodness radiating from your faces. You inspired within all of us a desire to work with you, share our talents with you and participate in something so wonderful and good for our children, families and community. This 'labor of love' nourished the soul and heart of our school and parish. It brought us all together as a family.

Thanks and blessing to each mom and dad who worked with the Christmas Fair Committee. May God bless all of our families who gave time, talent and treasure so graciously to make this year's Christmas Fair such a joy-filled gathering for all. May our experiences of this year's Christmas Fair be a holy memory within all of our children mindful that a childhood with such experiences of community and family is foundational to a meaningful life and a hope-filled future.