



**ARCHDIOCESE OF
VANCOUVER**
Archbishop: Most Rev
J. Michael Miller, CSB

SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

PASTOR: FATHER RON THOMPSON

CHURCH LOCATION: 1430 WEST 38TH AVENUE **RECTORY/MAILING:** 1425 WEST 39TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6M 1T2
RECTORY PHONE: 604-261-3535 **E-MAIL:** parish.sspp@rcav.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: ELIZABETH WONG

PARISH WEBSITE: [HTTPS://SSPETERPAUL.CA/](https://sspeterpaul.ca/)

ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE: WWW.RCAV.ORG **JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTER:** 4885 SAINT JOHN PAUL II WAY; TEL: 604-683-0281



Welcome to visitors! / New Parishioners! We are pleased to have you pray with us at Saints Peter and Paul. We hope you enjoy your visit to our beautiful Church. Please introduce yourself after Mass to Father Ron and parishioners; we would like to meet you!



FR. RON THOMPSON
Please Note:

All Request of the Pastor are kindly asked to be made by phone during regular Office Hours not by Email. As the Parish Office receives dozens of emails daily, phoning is important in order that your request is received. Thank-You.

ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DEC. 24TH
HOLY FAMILY DEC. 31ST AND
MOTHER OF GOD JAN.. 1ST

NON- CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE:

Holy Mass: Saturday: 5:00pm Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am 4:00pm
(No Solemn Sung Vespers & Benediction on Dec 24, Dec 31; Jan 7)

Weekdays: Monday 8:00AM; Tuesday 4:00PM; Wednesday – Friday 8:00AM; Saturday 9:00am

Confessions: Wednesday—Friday; 8:30AM; Saturday: 9:30 am and 4:00-4:30 pm

Office Schedule: Tuesday—Friday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

By Appointment; Marriage: Notify 8 Months in Advance.

Sunday's Reading, Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

“It seems to surprise Christians that God’s fleshtaking in Christ should have to come to pass in such simplicity & quiet. We are still tempted to read the gospel accounts for concrete details which will reveal spectacular manifestations of divine power in the life of a homespun maiden of Israel. If the story does reveal anything of the extraordinary, it is because it lies in the tradition of other stories from Israel’s history, stories which recount the birth of great heroes of the people.

Mary’s “yes” is the hinge of human-divine history. The God who created all makes the fulfillment of his promise dependent upon one of the most dispossessed & powerless of his children. The fact that God so ordains the working out of his plan shows the powerless of our might & the relentless ness of his surprising love. As we rush about making wars or dazzling loved ones with the brightness & size of our gifts, it serves us well to pause in silence & to let our imaginations enter into the humble setting of heart & heart where God’s almighty Word waited upon the “yes” of a woman.

Christmastide Masses: Christmas

Sat/Sun Dec 23/24
(4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT)
Dec 23rd—5pm
Dec 24th—9am and 11am

Sun/Mon Dec 24/25 (CHRISTMAS)
Dec 24th—4pm and 6pm
Dec 25th—9am and 11am

Sat/Sun Dec 30/31
(HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY)
Dec 30—5pm
Dec 31—9am and 11am

Sun/Mon Dec 31/Jan 1st
(MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR)
Dec 31—4pm
{Holy Hour 11pm-12midnight}
Jan 1st—9am and 11am

Holy Family - Dec 31st

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve they went up for the celebration as well as their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind unknown to his parents. Thinking he was in a party, they continued their journey for a day, looking for him among their relatives & acquaintances.

Not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day they came upon him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions All who heard him were amazed at his intelligence & his answers.

MASS INTENTIONS

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>9 am 11:00 am</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>	<i>Christmas The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<i>4 pm (Trumpet) 6 pm (Trumpet)</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Christmas The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<i>9am 11am</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Dec 26</i>	<i>St. Stephen+34 AD Boxing Day</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Mary Hasler+</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Dec 27</i>	<i>St. John the Apostle+99AD</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>Margaret Dunn+</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs +1 AD</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>P. Porchetta+</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Dec 29</i>	<i>5th day within Octave of the Nativity</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>Paul Fook-Bo Cheung</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Dec 30</i>	<i>6th day within Octave of the Nativity</i>	<i>9 am</i>	<i>Fr. John Horgan+</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Dec 30</i>	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	<i>5 pm</i>	<i>Sara Yap+</i>

MASS INTENTIONS

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>Holy Family</i>	<i>9 am 11am</i>	<i>+Parishioners</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>4 pm</i>	<i>Tora Anderson</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>9am 11am</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Jan 2</i>	<i>St. Basil+379 & St. Gregory+604 AD</i>	<i>4pm</i>	<i>Joan B. Cruz</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Jan 3</i>	<i>Christmastide 10th day</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>M. Gibson</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>Christmastide 11th day</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>Frank McCollough+</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Jan 5</i>	<i>Christmastide 12th day (no 7pm)</i>	<i>8 am</i>	<i>Nicholas Le Blanc+</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>Christmastide</i>	<i>9 am</i>	<i>John Eddy+</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	<i>5 pm</i>	<i>Lydia Chua</i>

Catechism Song:

“12 Days of Christmas”

Legend has it that this song was written during a time of persecution in England between 1558 and 1829 as a catechism song for young Catholics who were forbidden to practice their faith. Each number signifies a teaching of our Faith. The song can be understood on two different levels - the literal meaning of the words, which appear harmless enough to a stranger, and the hidden meaning behind those words which expressed the religious beliefs of a people who could have been killed on account of their Catholic faith.

- 1st Day “True Love” represents God and “me” the baptized soul. The “partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus, symbolically shown as a mother partridge pretending injury to lure predators away from her nestlings. The mother dies to protect her young.
- 2nd Day “Two turtle doves” are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible; Noah brought two of every kind of species into the Ark; When Mary and Joseph presented the Child Jesus in the Temple, they offered two turtle doves (Luke 2:24).
- 3rd Day “Three French Hens” were beautiful and costly birds in those days. They represent faith, hope and charity, which can be given by God alone; They also represent the three persons of the Blessed Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; And also the three days Christ spent in the tomb.
- 4th Day The “Four Calling Birds” are the four Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- 5th Day The “Five Golden Rings” are the first five books of the Bible known as the Law, Torah or Pentateuch; and the five wise and five foolish virgins.
- 6th Day The “Six Geese A Laying” are the six days when God created everything.
- 7th Day The “Seven Swans A Swimming”
- represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:
- Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord; Seven are appointed to assist the Apostles (Acts 6:3);
- 8th Day The “Eight Maids A Milking” represent the eight Beatitudes in Matthew’s Gospel.
- 9th Day The “Nine Ladies Dancing” refers to the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22): Love Joy Peace, Patient Endurance, Kindness, Generosity, Faith Mildness and Chastity.
- 10th Day The “Ten Lords A Leaping” represent the ten commandments which guide our lives; The ten lepers cleansed by Jesus.
- 11th Day The “Eleven Pipers Piping” represent the 11 faithful Apostles, not including Judas.
- 12th Day The “Twelve Drummers Drumming” represent the 12 points of belief in the Apostles’

**“LET ALL THE TREES OF THE FOREST
REJOICE AND BOW BEFORE THE LORD
WHO COMES” PS. 96:12**



Mary, Mother of God—Jan 1st

This is the octave of Christmas, a designation less popular than in centuries past, but still useful. Carrying a celebration through the eighth day allows for more celebrations, more aspects of the mystery to be opened in our midst. The mystery of God in human flesh & history is ritually remembered through these several weeks from Christmas day to the Baptism of the Lord. On this octave day a very specific aspect of this mystery holds our attention: Mary is the Mother of God.

Contemporary Catholics can recall a number of names for this day, titles dictated by Church tradition, society, & various popes. It is New Year's Day; it is often still called the circumcision of Jesus; it has been decreed as World Day of Peace. In the current calendar's preparation, research showed that it is the oldest feast of Mary in our Church. Amidst the echoes of Christmas and the visit of the shepherds, we take time to celebrate Mary. The primacy of the celebration of Mary as the Mother of God indicates the primacy of this title.



2024 Sunday Offering Made Easy by Direct Deposit or Credit Card

Thank you for your interest in Sts. Peter & Paul Parish's Sunday Offering Plan. This plan allows you to give your Sunday Offering on a monthly basis by direct deposit or credit card.

It is the most convenient way to make your Sunday Offering. Your commitment to give this way also ensures that your Sunday Offering reach us even if you are away or not able to come to our Parish in person. Instead of giving weekly, your Sunday Offerings would be simplified to one monthly donation.

Donations must be dated Dec. 31st & received no later than Jan. 2nd —if you want be tax receipted for 2023.



Building Fund

We are moving forward with having our own Parish Centre. This massive project will take the efforts of many people to support. If you can please consider giving to the Building Fund, every cent of the Building Fund will go towards this Parish Goal. **Our Project Advance funds also goes to this.**

A big Thank-You to all parishioners for their support in this effort!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

An update on our New Parish Centre Project to be built on the west side of the Church: (1450 W 38th and 1449 W 39th and the lane in between these): Virtually, the city has given necessary approval to move ahead. Our challenge now is to finance this. The total construction cost is estimated at 14.5 Million. We have an offer to purchase Cartier Hall for 8.5 Million. This means that we still need to raise 6.5 Million to pay for this project. Our present parish cash flow only covers operating expenses. Extra donations are required; including by contributions to the Parish Building Fund & Project Advance. An overview of the entire New Centre Building (one long one going from 38th to 39th): the 38th side (2 stories) would be the Great Parish Hall (named after Sts. Peter & Paul) with a connecting kitchen (named after St. Andrew the hospitality apostle). Nearby (on the Church side) would be the Conference Hall (named after St. James the Great) towards 39th would be the Adoration Chapel (named after St. John the Beloved). West of these (towards the neighbour: 1459 W 39th) would be the Office Wing (named after St. Matthew the tax collector). Upstairs on the 39th side would be more meeting rooms (named after all the other Apostles). Below all this would be underground parking and elevators throughout. These 12 rooms would be dedicated by the donor as they so pleased. If you might be interested in doing this, please let me know. I can't help but to remember that this Centre was Fr. John Horgan's dream; thus the Chapel of Adoration will be named after his patron. In the meantime, also, our Project Advance campaign for 2023 continues to assist this project, pledge forms for this are next to the bulletin. Our gratitude for your kind consideration in these matters that can bring about the needed growth to our parish life.

Blessings to you and yours!
Fr. Ron Thompson, Pastor

SAVE THE DATES PARISH MISSION

Mission Schedule:

Confessions:
Monday-Thursday
6:15-6:45Pm & 8:15Pm
(except Thursday
8:15 Pm Social)

Mission Talks 7-8Pm

Social Thursday 8:15 Pm

**THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST:
GIFT AND SACRAMENT**

**Monday, Feb. 19 - Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024
STS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH**



MISSION PREACHER

Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM
Fathers of Mercy Preacher, Writer
and Host of several televised
series for EWTN

Mission Topics

- The Eucharist as foreshadowed in both the Old and New Testaments
- The Church Fathers on Eucharistic Doctrine
- Rekindling Eucharistic Amazement: The Saints and the Eucharist
- The 'Most Blessed' of the Seven Sacraments

Parish Office closed until Jan 2nd
Sacramental Emergencies anytime

TUES. DEC. 26TH: BOXING DAY:
MASS AT 9AM (NO 4PM)

SUN. DEC 31ST: NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLY HOUR:
11PM-12MIDNIGHT
(SOCIAL FOLLOWING)

Next Wed. Men's Group Meeting:
Feb 7th @ 7pm
(No Jan. Meeting)

Next First Friday 10:30AM
Faith Studies Meeting; Feb. 2nd
(No Jan. Meeting)

First Friday Mass Jan. 5th : 8AM
(No Adoration and 2nd Mass at 7pm)

Tues. 7pm
Talks on the Faith & RCIA beginning Jan. 16th
With "Symbolon" Seres.



Sunday Offering:

Our gratitude for parishioners' contributions for the upkeep & advancement of the parish.

Some give online (by Debit or Credit) regularly:
see blue/white folder next to the bulletin.

Otherwise, the collection is taken up at each Mass. From this we received:

Sat/Sun Dec. 9/10 from envelopes:

Sat. 5pm: \$464 from 16 = \$29.00 average

Sun. 9am: \$1931 from 50 = \$38.62

11am: \$660 from 24 = \$27.50

4pm: \$255 from 10 = \$25.50

G\and total: \$ 3310 from envelopes and loose \$372.00
= \$3682.00

Sat/Sun Dec 16/17 from envelopes:

Sat. 5pm: \$1070 from 28 = \$38.22 average

Sun. 9am: \$942. from 36 = \$26.17

11am: \$760 from 29 = \$26.27

4pm: \$415 from 19 = \$21.84

Grand total: \$3187 from envelopes and loose \$ 499.90.
= \$3686.90

If you would like envelopes, please
sign the blue binder by the font and they will be put out next week.

