



**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*

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DEC 31ST 2023

**Holy Mass: Saturday: 5:00pm Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am 4:00pm**

**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

“We can understand why a commission of inquiry was sent to the Baptist. Some Jerusalem theologians expected a Messiah who would confer a baptism through which the Spirit would be poured out. Here is John, north of the Dead Sea, near the spot where Israel once crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. He is conferring a water baptism, which signifies an acceptance of the call to repentance. Who then is this man who has the crowds running to him and who makes the great cry of the prophets ring out once more after three centuries of silence? John's reply to the commission is surprising in its humility. No, he is not the Messiah. He is not Elijah returned (Mal 3:23-24) nor the great prophet that is awaited (Deut 19:18). This wholly negative statement of his identity must have left the inquirers unsatisfied. It is preserved in the New Testament because some of his followers preached a baptism which competed with that of the primitive Church. He declared himself to be only the precursor, a simple witness, a lamp lit by God for his Christ, the voice of the Word.

We must also recognize our role as “Christ-bearers”, called to refer by our lives to Jesus. This humble and self effacing role is in no way a negligible one. It is no small thing to ask us to prepare other's road to the Lord.



## Parish Christmas Décor Volunteer Schedule



**Tuesday Dec 19th Light Sorting**

**Wednesday, Dec 20th—Trees up**

**Thursday, Dec 21st—Christmas Crib**

**Friday, Dec 22nd—Flowers**

**Please sign up at the vestibule podium**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>9:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Dec 18</i>	<i>Advent Ferial</i>	<i>8:00am</i>	<i>Andre Lalonde+</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>Advent Ferial</i>	<i>4pm</i>	<i>Fr. John Horgan+</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>	<i>Advent Ferial</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>	<i>Margaret M. Dunn+</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Dec 21</i>	<i>Advent Ferial</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>	<i>Kay Gray+</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Dec 22</i>	<i>Advent Ferial</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>	<i>Rina Vallani+</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Dec 23</i>	<i>Advent Ferial Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>9:00 am 5:00pm</i>	<i>Flo Mikkelsen+ Parishioners</i>



### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Along with the 52 Sundays of the Year, in Canada, we have 2 other Holy Days of Obligation: Christmas and New Year (Mother of God).

Consequently this year, there are 4 days of Obligation within a span of 9 days: 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas, Holy Family Sunday and Mother of God (New Year).

Here at Sts. Peter & Paul are these Masses:

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

This 17th-century Carmelite's trick can help you think of Jesus

By Tom Hopes

The spirit of Advent can permeate even our busy holiday preparations. Let these sights and sounds become "triggers" to remember the presence of God.

How do you keep the spirit of Advent when the whole world is prematurely)

celebrating Christmas?

The 17th-century Carmelite [Brother Lawrence](#) might be able to help. His practice of the continual presence of God was a [prayer method](#), but he also had a trick for remembering Jesus out in the world. When he saw thorns, he would think of the crown of thorns. When he saw a bare winter tree, he remembered that his life, too, was passing.

December is a great time to start this practice in our own life, because there is so much material to use to remember Jesus. It also serves as a handy way to turn the trappings of the "Secular Christmas Season" into Advent helps.

**When you see (or hear) Christmas bells, pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for dispelling evil with joy."**

From the time of Moses, [bells](#) have been used liturgically to indicate the joy of God's presence. Since the Middle Ages, priests have blessed bells to exorcise evil spirits. Christmas bells remind us of how God defeats evil: With joy.

**When you see snowmen (or nutcrackers or gingerbread men or even Rudolph) pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for giving us immortal souls."**

The fanciful stories of various non-human creatures coming to life have a serious lesson: To be human is to be different in kind from the rest of creation. God becoming man in the baby Jesus is the ultimate expression of this lesson.

**When you see Santa's, pray, "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your love,**

**alive in your saints.** St. John Paul II said that, as a child, St. Nicholas traditions taught him about God. "Like every other child, I looked forward

to the gifts he would bring me," he said, "but this expectation had a religious dimension ... toward this saint who unselfishly lavished gifts on the people."

**hen you see a candle, pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for conquering the darkness."**

Candles are symbols of Jesus, the [light of the world](#) who dispels the darkness: The wax is his humanity, the flame his divinity.

**When you see Christmas lights (or Christmas angels), pray, "Thank**

**you, Jesus for your host of angels who surround us."** Red and green have

meant various things throughout history, but we have always equated red with

Christ's blood and green (especially evergreens) with life. It's a special time,

when the whole world admits (whether they realize it or not) that Jesus Christ is worth celebrating with everything we have.



## **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!

## **THE 2024 ENVELOPE BOXES ARE**

Available for pick up. If you would like envelope, sign the blue binder next to the font and they will be put out next week



For quiet contemplation time



Church is open for prayers  
Wednesdays—Fridays  
12 noon—3:00pm

### **PULPIT:**

**FOR OUR CENTENARY, BY A**

**DONOR,**

**THE PARISH HAS OBTAINED A PULPIT OF THE ERA OF OUR CHURCH'S HIGH ALTAR.**



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 2/3 from envelopes:

Sat. 5pm: \$550 from 33 = \$22.00 average

Sun. 9am: \$826 from 33 = \$25.03

11am: \$1470 from 28 = \$52.50

4pm: \$470 from 13 = \$20.83

- Grand total: \$ from envelopes and loose \$259.00  
= \$2771.00

Sat/Sun Dec 9/10 from envelopes:

Sat. 5pm: \$464 from 16 = \$29.06 average

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

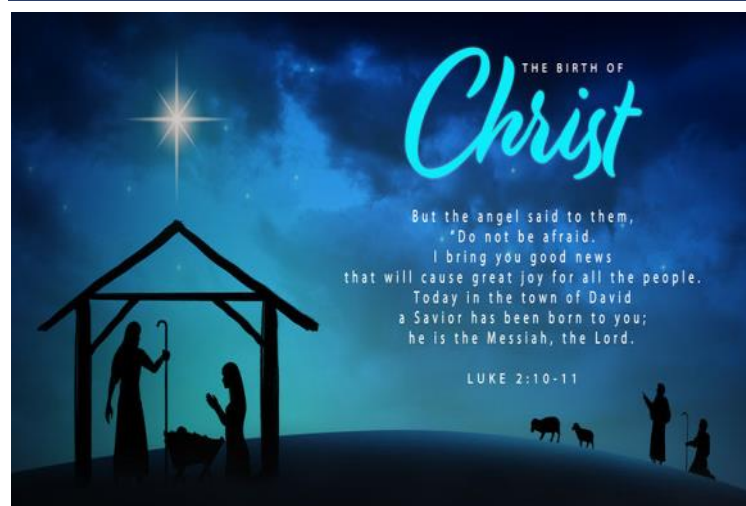
11am: \$660 from 24 = \$27.50

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

Grand total: \$3311 from envelopes and loose 372.00  
=\$3688.00

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





## NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out a Registration Form available in the vestibule and drop it in the Collection Basket.

If you would like Donation Envelopes and/or the BC Catholic please remember to check the boxes on the registration form.

If you would like to Donate via Direct Deposit please complete an MONERIES form and return it back to the parish.

For those already registered, any changes such as your address, tel. #, etc., please contact the Parish Office at 604-261-3535.



## READERS FOR MASS

We are looking for more readers for our Masses. If you can help, simply phone the parish office. Thank-you for your assistance.

**Solemn Sung Vespers & Benediction**  
Sunday at 3:30pm

## ALTAR SERVERS:



There is a need for Altar servers at our Masses. Young men & boys (Grade 3 +) are invited to serve at the weekend Masses. Simply contact the parish office & Father will give them simple instructions.

Thank you for stepping forward, saying "yes" and thus adding to the dignity of Holy Mass.



**"How 'bout you just give me your cell phone number? Then I'll text you if I think of anything else."**