



Upcoming Parish Events at St. John the Apostle Parish

- December 06 Advent Penitential Service (Confession), 7:00pm at St. John the Apostle**
There will be a number of priests available for confessions.
This is a good opportunity to go to confession in preparation for Christmas.



- December 11 Fellowship, Friendship, and Coffee**
Madonna House would like to invite and welcome everyone to join for fellowship, friendship, food sharing at the parish hall Sunday, December 11, after the 9:00am Mass. Please bring food to share.



St. John's Special Advent Service Project

Advent is here! As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us remember those in need. For our service project this Christmas season, we will collect donations for Catholic Street Missionaries from **December 4-24**. Thank you for your generosity!

Here is a list of items they need. (Please note that most of the homeless are men, so more men's items are needed than women's. Medium and large sizes are the most popular.)

- new wool socks, thick socks and/or regular socks, new garbage bags

the following may be "gently used" or new items:

- thermal wear, winter sleeping bags, blankets, tarps, outdoor winter jackets (those that are good for camping use), gloves, winter boots



- December 27 Celebration of Parish Feast Day, 9:00am Mass**
Everyone is invited Tuesday, December 27, to attend the 9:00am Mass followed by a breakfast



- December 30 Parish Annual Family Free Skate at Kerrisdale Arena, 11:00am—2:00pm**
Pull out your ice skates and bring the family over to our **Annual Family Free Skate** from 11:00am-2:00pm at Kerrisdale Arena. Please bring goodies (fruits, baked goods, chocolates) to share at the Kerrisdale Arena. Thank you.



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN

5457 Trafalgar Street, Vancouver, BC V6N 1C1 T 604.266.8800 parish.sjoh@rcav.org www.sjaparish.ca

December 04, 2022

Pastor

Fr. Anthony Ho 何庭耀神父

fatheranthonyho@gmail.com

Emergency sick call only:

604-729-7638

Office Administrator

Melita Soriano

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-4 PM

Weekend Masses

廣東話主日提前彌撒:

星期六 下午四時

Sat 4 PM (Cantonese),

5:30 PM

Sun 9 AM, 11 AM, 5:30 PM

Weekday Masses

Mon-Sat 8 AM

Public Holidays 9 AM

Confession

20 minutes before all

weekend Masses and

15 minutes before all

weekday Masses

Morning Prayer

Mon-Sat 7:30 AM

Adoration

Fri 8:30-9:30 AM

First Friday Mass

6:00 PM

Holy Rosary

Mon-Sat after morning Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet

10 minutes before all weekend

Masses

Visit to the Sick

Please call Parish Office or

Emergency number

604-729-7638

Baptisms

by appointment

Marriages

at least 6 months notice

Second Sunday of Advent December 04, 2022

December 04 – Second Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

03 Saturday, St. Francis Xavier (W).....Anastasia Salas INT

05 Monday, Ferial (V).....Aimee Kung INT

06 Tuesday, St. Nicholas (W).....Tillie Werbitsky +

07 Wednesday, St. Ambrose (W).....John Garry +

08 Thursday, Immaculate Conception of Mary (W)..... Andrew, Mark Siy +

09 Friday, St. Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (W).....Lim Family INT

10 Saturday, Our Lady of Loreto (W).....Louis Shim, Chia Sau Yuet +

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS: If you would like to become a member of the St. John the Apostle Parish Community, please complete a Parish Registration Form (located by the bulletin board near the main door of the Church) and introduce yourself to the priests. Envelopes are assigned to those who request for them. Please pick them up at the church vestibule or at the Parish Office.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARISH REGISTRATION AND USE OF PARISH SUNDAY ENVELOPES:

Some Church goers are requesting from the parish Letters of Good Standing or Reference Letters as part of Baptism and/or Confirmation Sponsor documents or for other religious certifications or wanting their children enter a Catholic Elementary or Secondary School. The only official and ordinary way to obtain them is to register in the parish and the regular use of envelopes so that when the time comes, it will be based on official records. This is to avoid unnecessary frustrations and misunderstandings when one claims that he/she attends Mass but does not use envelopes. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Please Pray for the Sick

Joan Archer, Maria Amelia Dias, George Murray, Bernadette Percy, May Wong, Claire Harrison, Margaret Wong, Ruby Ko, Warren & Sean Hughes, Edwin & Suzanne Pearson, Ann Monahan, Peggy Gunn, Margaret Redmond, Megan Maddock, Shirley Sullivan, Sheila Murray, Katherine Griffin, Valentia Abbott, Maravilla Melchor, Ma. Lourdes Limcangco, Catherine Fox, Divinia Magbanua

PROJECT ADVANCE 2022

Gather Us, Lord

PROJECT ADVANCE 2022
Total Pledges received \$104,403.02

Project Advance continues in our parish. To date we received pledges from **116** donors. A modest gift from many will make a real difference that will help secure the future of our parish and the charitable works of the Archdiocese.

If you did not receive a Project Advance pledge form in the mail, please pick up a pledge form available at the entrance of the church and drop them off in the Sunday collection basket. You can also visit the archdiocesan website, www.rcav.org to donate online and make your pledge to our parish.

No gift is too small, the sum of many will be plenty. You can make a real difference in our community.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly and reward you for being a good steward.



St. John the Apostle Parish December 2022 Christmas Mass Schedule



December 24, Saturday Christmas Eve	6:00pm (English) 8:00pm (Cantonese)
December 25, Sunday Christmas Day	9:00am, 11:00am
December 31, Saturday New Year's Eve	Regular weekend Mass schedule
January 1, Sunday New Year's Day	Regular weekend Mass schedule

2023 Sunday Missals

2023 Sunday Missals are available for \$4.00 in the Church vestibule.



Please note: Donations to St. John the Apostle Parish (including your weekly contribution 2022 envelopes & Project Advance) should be received by the Parish Office by **December 31, 2022** in order to be included in your 2022 Tax Receipt. This is a requirement of Canada Revenue Agency. Any donations received after that will be credited towards 2023.

2023 Donation Box of Envelopes

Are available for pick up in the Church vestibule. Thank you.



Advent Penitential Schedule

At St. John the Apostle is on **Tuesday, December 06, at 7pm**. There will be a number of priests available for confessions. This is a good opportunity to go to confession in preparation for Christmas.



NOVENA TO BABY JESUS, SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA, Dec 16-Dec 24, 2022

I am asking again for help for our mission in Santa Marta, Colombia. Without the help of our friends in Canada, we would not be able to provide Christmas gifts to the children of a very poor community in Santa Marta, Colombia, as well as donating 250 bags of groceries to single mothers and their children.

This year our novena will be in a new area with very poor families. This request is from the pastor of a nearby parish.

The Knights of Columbus of SJA will be helping with our project this year.

Your help will be very important for all these families and children.

All the donations will be used for this cause.

Please make your cheque payable to Alfonso Salas or email transfer to asalas@telus.net

God bless you.

Please do not read bulletin during Holy Mass! Thank you!

Repentance cures a soul of lukewarmness

According to St. Alphonsus de Liguori, there are two kinds of lukewarmness: one which can be avoided, and the other which cannot be avoided.

Strictly speaking, unavoidable tepidity is not really lukewarmness, but simply the feeling of being lukewarm. St. Alphonsus wrote, "Unavoidable tepidity is that which in the present life is endured even by fervent souls because, through natural weakness, they cannot avoid falling from time to time into some slight fault, but without full consent.... God Himself permits these imperfections in His Saints in order to keep them humble. Often they find themselves without fervour, full of weariness and disgust in their devout exercises; and at such times of dryness they are more apt to fall into many defects, at least without deliberation."

An example of unavoidable tepidity is that St. Therese of Lisieux often fell asleep during meditation and while making her thanksgiving. She also struggled with praying the rosary. She forced herself to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary but didn't succeed in fixing her mind on them. However, she was not discouraged for she bore in mind that little children are just as pleasing to their parents asleep as awake. She also wrote, "I think that the Queen of heaven, since she is my Mother, must see my good will and she is satisfied with it."

Avoidable tepidity is true lukewarmness caused by infidelity. St. Alphonsus wrote, "There is true and deplorable lukewarmness when the soul falls into venial sins which are quite voluntary and grieves but little for them and takes even less care to avoid them, saying that they are trifles of no consequence. What! Is it nothing to displease God? St. Teresa used to say to her nuns: 'My daughters, may God preserve you from willful sins, however small.'"

According to Father Adolphe Tanquerey, "lukewarmness consists in a sort of spiritual languor which saps the energies of the will, inspires one with a horror for effort, and thus leads to the decline of the Christian life.... One may compare it to those slow-working diseases, such as consumption, which little by little prey upon some vital organ."

The causes of lukewarmness are chiefly two: defective spiritual nourishment and the entry into the soul of some noxious germs. Our soul needs to be nourished by various spiritual exercises such as meditation, devout reading, vocal prayer, examination of conscience, and fulfilment of daily duties.

If these exercises are not performed or are performed poorly the soul becomes weak. The noxious germs for the soul are the three concupiscences: pride, lust, and avarice. Giving in to one or to all of them is the cause of lukewarmness in many souls.

St. Teresa of Avila became a nun around the age of 20. After a few years she became lukewarm. Only around the age of 40 did she become fervent again. Later on she identified a number of things which had caused her lukewarmness: first, paying little attention to venial sin; second, failing to avoid the people who caused her to sin; third, relying too much on herself rather than on God; fourth, neglecting the holy inspirations and light given by God.

Conversion or repentance is the only remedy for lukewarmness. Ralph Martin wrote, "Dryness experienced as a result of such negligence, lukewarmness, and infidelity—and whatever stage of the downward spiral it may have led to—has only one solution: repentance. This dryness is self-induced; the solution to it is to return to fidelity in our spiritual practices."

St. Alphonsus gave the following remedies: 1) a resolution to escape at all costs from this miserable state; 2) to remove the occasion of falling, without which there is no hope of amendment; and 3) frequently to recommend himself to God with fervent prayer, that He would give him strength to come out of this deplorable condition and not to cease praying until he finds himself delivered from it.

St. Josemaría Escrivá wrote, "Fight against the softness that makes you lazy and careless in your spiritual life. Remember that it might well be the beginning of tepidity ... and, in the words of the Scripture, God will vomit out the lukewarm."

