

# Archdiocesan Announcement

## Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi is a devotional tradition that involves a series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas and in honour of Mother Mary. All are invited to attend daily until Saturday, December 23. See the list of participating parishes within our Archdiocese at [rcav.org/christmas](http://rcav.org/christmas).

## FORMED Lenten Retreat Planning Workshop

This is an opportunity to learn how to easily hold a retreat using your parish's Lenten FORMED resources. Facilitated by RCAF Lay Formation Coordinators, Louisa Gietz and Jane Waldock, learn about easy methods of planning, inviting, and deciding on content!

Choose from the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 3, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 4, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All ministry leaders are welcome! The workshop is held online via Zoom. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events). **Register before Tuesday, January 2, 5:00 p.m.**

## FIAT Snowshoe

Come spend quality time with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese and have fun outdoors on Saturday, January 6! We will meet at St. Anthony's Parish in West Vancouver and start with Mass at 9 a.m., then drive to Cypress for the snowshoe up Black Mountain. The trail is a 5.3-km snowshoe loop with a beautiful view at the top.

All women aged 18-35 are welcome! There is no cost. Please pack a bagged lunch and bring your snowshoes. If you need help getting snowshoes or a ride, please contact Sister Mary Martha at [smmhetzler@rcav.org](mailto:smmhetzler@rcav.org). Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

**Registration deadline: Wednesday, January 3**

## Making Sense of Counterwill

The instinct to resist being controlled or coerced is one of the most perplexing and troublesome dynamics in dealing with children and youth. This video course by Dr. Gordon Neufeld reveals the dynamics controlling this instinct and provides suggestions for how to deal with it. This material is applicable for all those dealing with toddlers through adolescents: teachers, parents and helping professionals. Discussions will be facilitated by Kevin Bredeman, M.A. On Tuesdays, **from January 23 to February 20**, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$25. These workshops are not being recorded. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).



Let us continue to pray for each other during these months of winter season



# ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN

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

## Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

*“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- 16 Saturday, Ferial (V).....Sophie Spurr +
- 18 Monday, Ferial (V).....Jin, Caina INT
- 19 Tuesday, Ferial (V).....John Daniel Garry +
- 20 Wednesday, Ferial (V).....Stephanie Cheung INT
- 21 Thursday, Ferial (V).....Sophie Spurr +
- 22 Friday, Ferial (V).....Salas Family INT
- 23 Saturday, Ferial (V).....Felix Chan +

**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, Malou Limcangco, Catherine Fox, Divinia Magbanua, Riley Lo, Wendy Stuart, Rosana Ruiz, Lennon Limcangco, Nelia Cuevas

December 17, 2023

### Pastor

Fr. Paul Chu  
[pchu@rcav.org](mailto:pchu@rcav.org)  
778-834-1234  
(for emergency sick-call only)

### Office Administrator

Melita Soriano  
[office@sjaparish.ca](mailto:office@sjaparish.ca)

### Parish Office Hours

Tue-Fri 8:30 AM-4 PM

### Weekend Masses

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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

### 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  
778-834-1234

### Baptisms

by appointment

### Marriages

at least 6 months notice

## OUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### St. John The Apostle Parish December Mass Schedule



December 23, Saturday	Regular daily: 8am, 4pm (Cantonese) 5:30pm (English)
December 24, Sunday Mass	9am, 11am
Christmas Mass	5:00pm (Cantonese), 7:00pm (English)
December 25, Monday Christmas Mass	9am, 11am
December 26, Tuesday	Regular Holiday: 9am
December 27, Wednesday Feast of St. John the Apostle	Parish Feast Day: 9am
December 30, Saturday	Regular daily: 8am 4pm (Cantonese), 5:30pm (English)
December 31, Sunday Mass	9am, 11am
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	5:30pm
Holy Hour	11:00pm to 12:15am
January 1, Monday Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	9:00am, 11:00am (Day of Obligation)

### PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 EMPOWERING OUR PARISH VISION

*Thank you to those who have generously supported Project Advance! To date we received pledges for a total of \$151,325.02 from 122 parishioners. If you haven't contributed already, please consider giving today and bring Christ's presence to all. We will be accepting your donations until the end of December 2023.*

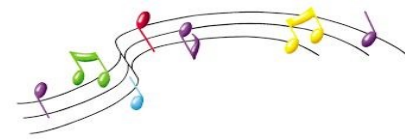
*Thank you.*

*Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that people who are in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him.*

*St. Claire of Assisi*



**Please note:** Donations to St. John the Apostle Parish (including your weekly contribution 2023 envelopes) should be received by the Parish Office by **December 31, 2023** in order to be included in your 2023 Tax Receipt. This is a requirement of Canada Revenue Agency. Any donations received after that will be credited towards 2024.



### Christmas Eve Carols, December 24

**Christmas Carols will begin at 6:40 pm (20 minutes before the 7:00pm English Christmas Eve Mass)**



**Christmas Carols will begin at 4:45pm (15 minutes before the 5:00 pm Cantonese Christmas Eve Mass)**



### Come and join us



**Celebrate the Feast Day of St. John the Apostle on Wednesday, December 27, after the 9:00am Mass for a Knight's Brunch with eggs, sausages, and hashbrowns.**



**Parish Annual Family Skating at Kerrisdale Arena on Friday, December 29, from 3:00pm-5:00pm**

Please bring goodies (fruits, baked goods, chocolates) to share at the Kerrisdale Arena. Volunteers are needed to help set up the food table at the Arena. Thank you.



### "OBLATE SPIRIT"

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate will be offering to each household this weekend, their Christmas Edition of "Oblate Spirit". It has within it, some Christmas Wishes seeking a Christmas gift for the poor in our missions. Please consider a gift during this special season. Thank you, Fr. Ken Forster, OMI"

**FORMED** is the revolutionary digital platform that gives unprecedented access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. Hope this resource will help us to love Jesus more and to be more well equipped for the work of evangelization.

The access code of **SJA.FORMED.ORG** for our parishioners is: **TWNH4F**

### Welcome to visitors/new parishioners

We are pleased to have you pray with us at St. John the Apostle. We hope you enjoy your visit to our beautiful Church. Please introduce yourselves after Mass to Fr. Paul Chu, and parishioners. We would like to meet you.

Registration Forms and request for contribution envelopes are available at the Church entrance. Please complete and drop into the collection basket at Mass or the parish office.



*Legion of Mary*

### LEGION OF MARY

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work.

The unit of the Legion of Mary usually holds a weekly meeting, where prayer and community-building are prioritized. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual.

The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes, in nursing homes, and in hospitals, and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.

Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

Weekly meeting: Sunday 12:15 pm in the church basement.



### Email Fraud Warning

The Archdiocese has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to a recent Internet email phishing scam. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards, and other forms of financial assistance.

Never respond to emails requesting Google Play cards, iTunes cards, or any other form of personal financial assistance, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious, or parish staff. If you have any doubt, please contact the sender by other means to verify any requests. See the *B.C. Catholic* story at [bccatholic.ca/phishing...](http://bccatholic.ca/phishing...)