

Archdiocesan Announcement



Archbishop Miller’s Christmas Message

With particular concern this Christmas, we turn our gaze to the suffering Holy Land, to Bethlehem. There the Lord came into the world in a stable and was laid in a manger where animals feed on hay, since his parents could find no room in an inn. Let us, then, look at the scene. Mary and Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family. Their Child was born in the midst of great hardship. Yet, they are full of profound joy, because they love each other and they are certain that God is at work in this astonishing birth.

And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant wasn’t going to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. It was their simple faith that helped them to recognize that the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes was the fulfilment of God’s promised Saviour for all the people.

God came among us in silence and in the darkness of night. Why like this? Because the Word of God had no need of spotlights or loud human voices. He himself is the Word who gives life its meaning. He is the Light that brightens our path: “The true light, which enlightens everyone” (Jn 1:9). Christ’s birth was the victory of the Light over the darkness of evil and sin.

At Christmas we celebrate that our mighty God truly became “Emmanuel,” God-with-us. No barrier or any distance can separate us from him. God is so powerful that he made himself vulnerable and came to us as a defenseless child, so that we might love him. God is so good that he gave up the splendour of his divinity to be born in a stable, so that we might find him. In that Child Jesus, God became so close to us that we are able to speak to him personally and to enjoy a trusting relationship of deep affection with him.

To give a deeper meaning to Christmas, I urge every family to set up a Nativity scene in their home. It is a simple but effective way of passing on the beauty of the faith to your children. Let them experience amazement and wonder at Jesus’ birth. The manger helps all of us to ponder in our hearts the mystery of God’s love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem stable.

Jesus comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Like the shepherds on that silent night, let us set out in haste and allow ourselves to be amazed by the Child lying in a manger who is waiting to welcome us.

With my blessing, prayers and warmest best wishes for a joyous celebration of Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

December 24, 2023

**Pastor**  
Fr. Paul Chu  
pchu@rcav.org  
778-834-1234  
(for emergency sick-call only)  
**Office Administrator**  
Melita Soriano  
office@sjaparish.ca  
**Parish Office Hours**  
Tue-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

**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

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- 23 Saturday, Ferial (V).....Felix Chan +
- 25 Monday, Nativity of the Lord (W).....All Parishioners of St. John the Apostle INT
- 26 Tuesday, St. Stephen (R).....David Solaiman +
- 27 Wednesday, St. Joh the Apostle (W)....Alicia Acupan +
- 28 Thursday, The Holy Innocents (R).....John Ho +
- 29 Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of Nativity (W)....Sergio & Ada Gonzalez INT
- 30 Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of Nativity (W).....Frank McNicholl +

**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

## 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  Christmas Mass	9am, 11am    Christmas Carols start at 4:45pm 5:00pm (Cantonese), Christmas Carols start at 6:40pm 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  Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	9am, 11am  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)



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

*Christmas isn't just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event; Christmas is more...  
Christmas is an encounter!  
Pope Francis*



**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.

### 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.

### 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 **\$152,825.02** from 124 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.*



*Merry Christmas  
and A*



*Happy New Year to All  
Thank you for all  
the greetings and gifts  
Blessings to Everyone!  
Fr. Paul Chu & Staffs*

### Sunday Donation Envelopes



We are still waiting from the supplier and will make it available as soon as we receive them. Thank you for your patience.

### St. John the Apostle's Christmas Service Project Is now closed

Thank you to everyone who shared and donated to our Christmas Service Project. ❤️

**If you want to give Financial Donation to Catholic Street Missionaries, you can issue a cheque payable to Catholic Street Missionaries and send it directly to Catholic Street Missionaries. Tax receipts will be issued.**

**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...)

\*The email address of Fr. Paul (same for all priests of Vancouver) has a domain name of **"RCAV"**. If you receive any email claimed to be from him but without this domain name, you can disregard and delete it.