



St. Francis de Sales

6610 Balmoral Street, Burnaby, V5E 1J1

Phone 604-434-1328

Email: parish.sfds@rcav.org Website: www.sfds.ca

Parish Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm
(Closed for Lunch from Noon to 1 pm)

Facebook: sfdsburnaby Instagram: sfdsburnaby



Pastor:

Father Mark McGuckin

Assistant Pastor:

Father Médard Kamanzi

Deacon:

Patrick Dwan

Religious Education Coordinator:

Marguerite Goldsmith

sfds.religioused@rcav.org

Parish Accountant:

Theresa Inocentes

Parish Secretary:

Danka Mak

Parish School

School Principal:

Mrs. Irene Wihak

Ornella Hatzisavva-Secretary

Phone: 604-435-5311

Fax: 604-434-4798

Email: office@sfds.school

Pre-School: 604-434-3311

St. George's Melkite-Greek Catholic Mission

Byzantine Rite Mass at 1:30 pm
on Sundays

Pastor: Fr. Edward Ibrahim
778-251-8270

stgeorgesmelkite@hotmail.com

Website: <http://gm.rcav.org>

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Help Line: 604-434-1328

Domestic Abuse

Help Line: 604-640-7549

Confessions:

Monday to Friday
7:55 am to 8:10 am

Saturday

9:30 am to 10:00 am
4:00 pm to 4:45 pm

By Appointment

Please call the Parish Office.
604-434-1328



Holy Hour:

Thursday mornings after Mass
First Friday's at 6:00 pm

Men's Bible Study

Every Tuesday 9 am to 11 am
In the Parish Hall

*Approach the New Year with Prayer.
Through prayer, we can bring our
hopes, dreams, and fears about
beginning anew to the Lord.
And as we entrust it all to Him and
listen to His response, we realize God's
plan of sheer goodness for us.*

Sunday, December 31 The Holy Family Luke 2:22-40



The child's father and mother were amazed (Luke 2:33)

"Amazed." that's how Mary and Joseph reacted when Simeon said that their son would be "a light for revelation" and "glory for ...Israel" (Luke 2:32). They knew that Jesus was special, but seeing a prayerful, holy man treat him with such awe and reverence left them speechless. Who was this child whom God had given them?

This is a perfect image for today's feast of the Holy Family. For all that Mary and Joseph had already experienced, Jesus was still a mystery to them. And he would continue to be a mystery. They would be "astonished" when they found him, at twelve years old, debating with the scribes in the Temple (Luke 2:48). Surely Mary was surprised when Jesus seemed to rebuke her for trying to see him (8:19-21). And Imagine her shock when she saw him crucified!

So how did Mary and Joseph respond to the great mystery of their child? With prayerful, open hearts. Luke says that Mary, undoubtedly, along with her husband, reflected "in her heart" every time a new challenge arose (2:19). They knew they didn't have all the answers. They needed to be open to God's plan for Jesus rather than respond quickly and rashly based on their own ideas.

What a model for us! Whether we are relating to our parents, our spouse, or our children, we should always approach them with a sense of awe and humility. Because they are "wonderfully made" by God himself, they deserve to be treated with respect and honour (Psalm 139:14). May we never try to impose our plans on them. May we instead be open to God's work in them and love them as he loves them.

Amazed. Prayerful. Humble. Imagine how much peace could flow in families this coming year if we all followed the Holy Family's example!

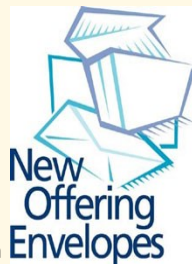
2024 Sunday giving envelopes

Are ready for pick up at the entrance of the Church. To make it easy to locate your envelopes they have been arranged in alphabetical order as your number may be different from the number you had last year.

Please note that envelopes have not been issued to those parishioners who donate through our pre authorized giving program.

If you would like to donate through the parish pre authorized giving program, please complete one of the forms at the entrance of the Church or call the parish office and we can email the form to you.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support!



Spiritual Care Training Program

Pope Francis has challenged everyone to think about their brothers and sisters in a new way as many are experiencing profound loneliness and isolation. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is offering the Spiritual Care Training Program as one way to answer this call.

The eight-week course teaches how to make yourself more available to seniors and others who can benefit from your genuine concern and presence in their lives. Some topics covered include aging, communication, boundaries and self-care. The training is offered online via Zoom every Thursday, from February 1 to March 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$30. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

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 finding a ride, please contact Sister Mary Martha at smmhetzler@rcav.org. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Registration deadline: Wednesday, January 3

New Address

If you have moved please contact the parish office to update your address. This will ensure that your 2023 tax receipt is mailed to the correct address. Thank you.



During the weekend of January 7, we will publish our "In Loving Memory" column for our loved ones who passed away in the month of **January**. If you wish to have someone included in this column, please **phone/email** the Parish office **By Wednesday January 3**.



"Whatever you do for your family, your children, your husband, your wife, you do for God. All we do, our prayers, our work, our suffering, is for Jesus."

**New Year
New You
with
Alpha**

Begins Jan 11, 2024

Stay curious #tryalpha

SFDS.ca

FROM DEC. 30 TO JAN. 7

3 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

CHOOSE ONE FROM EACH BLOCK

Holy Family Sunday Masses:
Dec. 30: 5:00pm
Dec. 31: 9:00am and 11:00am

**New Year's Day Masses
(Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God):**
Dec. 31: 5:00pm **(no 7:00pm Mass)**
PLUS... Eucharistic Adoration to ring in the New Year (11:00pm to midnight)
Jan. 1: 9:00am
Jan. 1: 11:00am
(no evening Masses on Jan. 1)

Epiphany of Our Lord Masses:
Jan 6: 5:00pm
Jan 7: 9:00am, 11:00am and 7:00pm

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New Subscriptions or Renewals for 2024

Missalettes—\$30 per year

The Word Among Us—\$25 per year

Please **SEND** payments to the Parish office or drop them off in the collection basket in an envelope with your name and marked **“Missalettes”** or **“The Word Among Us”** payment.

Please contact the Parish office to make any changes to your subscription. Thank you!

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. Register before Tuesday, January 2, 5:00 pm

THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

On Saturday, Dec 16th, friends of the **Good Shepherd Ministry** gathered to prepare 400 Christmas gifts for 8 shelters and assisted living on the downtown eastside of Vancouver

100 more than last year!
This collection does not happen on a whim or as an afterthought or out of a sense of duty. It happens with joy-filled hearts by those who care for the downtrodden.

Strangers giving to strangers.

All of our street ministers as well as participating high schools with Good Shepherd have seen first hand what our blessed Mother Teresa has said,

“Heaven is found in serving the lowest of the low, the poorest of the poor”.

Beginning with one simple request in such trying times, you eagerly answered the call once again.

Thank you all so much. Have a wonderful & blessed Christmas!

All of us at the Good Shepherd Ministry

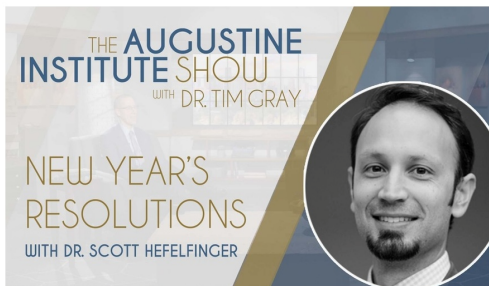
GRATITUDE ABOUND

We thank you O Lord for our Good Shepherd Ministry, all helping hands and generous hearts.

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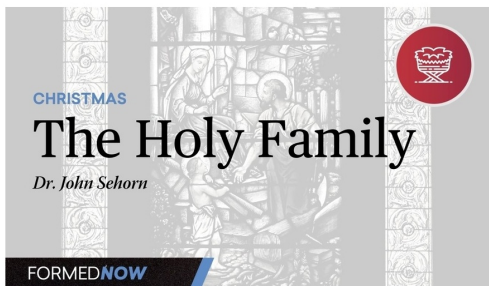
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 31, 2023



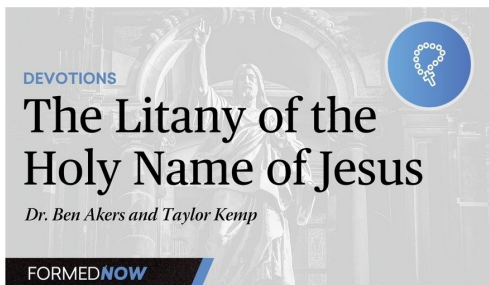
New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



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