



## St. Francis de Sales

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Phone 604-434-1328

Email: [parish.sfds@rcav.org](mailto:parish.sfds@rcav.org) Website: [www.sfds.ca](http://www.sfds.ca)

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

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**Assistant Pastor:**

Father Médard Kamanzi

**Deacon:**

Patrick Dwan

**Religious Education Coordinator:**

Marguerite Goldsmith

[sfds.religiouused@rcav.org](mailto:sfds.religiouused@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](mailto: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](mailto: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

*"Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men."  
St. Ambrose of Milan*

## Monday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord Hebrews 1:1-6



*Let all the angels of God worship him. (Hebrews 1:6)*

Merry Christmas! On this most joyous day, let's join with the angels and worship our new born King. Glory to God in the highest!

"We praise you, Jesus, Son of God! You came down from heaven to earth! You emptied yourself and became a helpless child to save us. We behold you, asleep beside Mary and Joseph on a bed of straw. The choirs of angels praise you, Lord, and we join with them. We bow down in awe before the humility and love you showed when you took on our human flesh. We thank you, Lord, that you became a son of man so that we might become sons and daughters of God.

"We bless you, Jesus, mighty Savior! In you the kindness and generous love of God has appeared. You have come to your people Israel and set them free. Even more, you come to show mercy to all nations. Every person on earth can find salvation in you. You come to comfort all who mourn, to raise up all who are bowed down. And you do all this by offering yourself in love. Thank you, Lord, for saving us by your grace!

"We adore you, Jesus, Light of the World! We, the people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light in you. Your glorious light shines in the darkest corners of the world, and in our hearts. No power or evil can prevent your love from reaching us, your sons and daughters. We praise you for this holy day when your light dawned upon the earth!

"We glorify you, Jesus, Emmanuel! You are God-with-us. We are never alone. You have joined yourself to us in an unbreakable bond. You dwell within us and will never leave us. You promise to be with us always, even to the end of time. Thank you, Jesus, for your faithful love!"

Only  
1 week  
left to help  
SFDS  
through  
PROJECT  
ADVANCE  
2023  
Empowering  
our Parish Vision

# CHRISTMAS

gift for you and your family

How to have a  
**Personal  
Prayer  
Time**  
by André Regnier

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**.



*"It is Christmas time every time you let God love others through you." Mother Teresa*

## Pope Francis Endorses Fundraising Christmas Song

Friends of the Holy Land is a small charity in the UK and in Palestine that works directly to support Christians and others across the area especially the West Bank and Gaza. They have produced a Christmas song in the hopes of inspiring many people throughout the world to pray in solidarity for reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land. The song, entitled *Hear Angels Cry*, has been [endorsed by Pope Francis](#). The song is non-political – a light in the darkness, hope rising from the rubble and ruins, and a prayer for peace; a message that resonates with the Christmas message. All proceeds raised by downloading and streaming the song will help bring relief to Christians in Gaza and the West Bank. The song can also be shared and listened to free of charge on YouTube. For more information, please visit [friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/appeal/angels-cry](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/appeal/angels-cry).

FROM DEC. 23 TO JAN. 1  
**4 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**  
 CHOOSE ONE FROM EACH BLOCK

**4th Sunday of Advent Masses:**

Dec. 23: 5:00pm  
 Dec. 24: 9:00am  
 Dec. 24: 11:00am

**Christmas Day Masses:**

Dec. 24: 6:00pm  
 (with children's pageant)  
 Dec. 24: 9:00pm  
 Dec. 25: 12 midnight  
 (carolling, 30 minutes before)  
 Dec. 25: 9:00am  
 Dec. 25: 11:00am  
 (no evening Masses on Dec. 25)

**Holy Family Sunday Masses:**

Dec. 30: 5:00pm  
 Dec. 31: 9:00am  
 Dec. 31: 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)

SFDS.ca

**New Year  
 New You  
 with**

**Alpha**

**Jan 11, 2024**

**Begins**

**Stay curious #tryalpha**

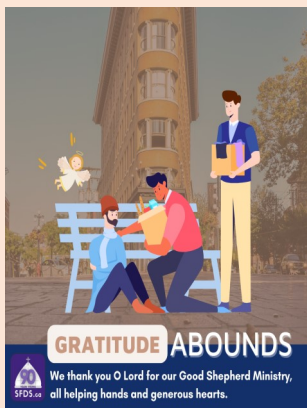


**THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE**

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 and blessed Christmas !**

**All of us at the Good Shepherd Ministry**



Picture of some of our 9 am, 11 am and 7 pm choir members spreading some Christmas joy during their caroling session for the residents of the Chénchenstway Care Home.

**Remember the Elderly this Christmas**

Pope Francis reminds us that our obligation to visit the elderly is more significant than ever as the number of elderly people grows.

This Christmas consider visiting the seniors in our community who may be feeling lonely or isolated during this season. “Social isolation and loneliness are as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day,” Jacques Lee, a Toronto-based emergency physician, told Global News.

To learn more about ways you can support the elderly in our community, please visit [chabc.rcav.org/seniorsatchristmas](http://chabc.rcav.org/seniorsatchristmas).

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of December 24, 2023



### The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



### Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



### The 12 Days of Christmas

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.

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Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



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