

St. Luke's Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Mark Van Patten - Ext. 222

Associate Pastor: Fr. Wenceslao Abalos - Ext. 227

In Residence: Fr. Sherwin Holandez

Secretary: Lois Henderson - Ext. 221

Pastoral Associate: John Humphries - Ext 226

Lay Pastoral Associate - Alan Lee Hoy - Ext 226

Youth Minister - Krishna Santhakumar Ext 226



Advent



Just as the Word of God sought a home in Mary, so does he seek a home in each of us. God is knocking at the door of our hearts seeking an entrance. Remembering how Mary got ready to welcome her son can show us how best we can prepare to open our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Christmas festival. There has been so much mention of darkness giving way to light in our Advent liturgy. The darkness refers to the unhappy state we are in before the arrival of the Christ-child who is the light of the world. While his light offers comfort and warmth it exposes the dark nooks and crannies in our own make-up, which need to be put right. Whatever the cause of darkness, now is the time to place our worries and concerns in God's hands and ask him to make something of us so that we can move forward in faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Christmas Day
Tuesday	Soul of Steven Huta Intentions of Jessie Schmoll Mass of Thanksgiving – Marina & Maurice D'Souza Soul of Julian Peñoso Sr. & Evelyn Aldea Soul of Dexter Sarmiento
Wednesday	Soul of Elaine Ambrosio
Thursday	Soul of Roza da Camera
Friday	Soul of Aldwyn Pedro Sr.

Please pray for the sick in our community.

May the healing power of God touch their hearts and ease their burdens, especially **Raffael Hang Cheong Lee, Khader Khawager, Derek Hamilton, Maria DiRienza, and Nolito Reyes**

SL ShareLife

*Helping the whole community
through Catholic agencies*

Our 2023 parish goal - \$149,000.00

Raised to date - \$125,907.80

Live the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

Mary Our Mother and Model

Once again, this weekend we hear the story of an angel appearing to Mary to ask if she will become the Mother of Christ. We have heard the story so many times over the years, it sometimes fails to astonish us. For centuries, artists have pictured Mary at this moment in a variety of devout settings, surrounded by angels, covered in red velvet or standing amid tapestries and silver candles.

These paintings can have a lot of power, and but sometimes we might feel that these beautiful paintings don't let Mary be real. We might imagine her as barefoot, cooking her own food and having a distinctive personality.

Using our imaginations, we might meditate on her, picturing her as a young woman of deep faith, long steeped in the Jewish tradition waiting, longing for the Messiah. She must have read the Isaiah passages many times and prayed over them as her heart filled with gratitude and great dreams.

Her simple life probably included dreams of marriage, raising a family, teaching children the laws and traditions. But perhaps it was bigger than that. We might imagine that Mary's heart had grown in her humility and generosity to God. Now she would be asked for the ultimate sacrifice. It invites us to wonder what kind of woman Mary was.

Suddenly she was aware of a young man standing in her kitchen his presence was oddly comfortable until he dropped to one knee. "Hail, favored one. The Lord is with you."

Favored one? She was unsure and a small fear crept into her heart. What was this? Her first reaction was unexpected. "Oh, please no," she whispers. What was this invitation? She wanted only a simple life, to marry Joseph, go to the Temple each year, live in the town she knew so well. I can't do this. I don't know how. I'm not worthy. The man continues to reveal to her that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and the power of the Most High will overshadow her and her child will be called Son of God.

She stood in shock while the young man waited for her answer. Fear. Wasn't that always what sent her to God? She breathed deeply and prayed. *Open my heart. Let me be your servant. Lead me where you desire. You will be with me.* Then, she knew. She turned back to the young man and nodded. *I will do just as I have been asked*, she said. And deep in our own souls, we pray with the same heart, asking for the fears to be eased, asking to feel God walking with us in this daily path of life, not certain that we can handle everything that is coming.

Mary, show us how. Teach us to trust in God as you have. Let us do what sometimes seems unthinkable in this world: to be humble and to accept without always understanding why or how.

Creighton Online Ministries.



Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24th

8:45 am & 10:30 am

**** Note – No 12:15 pm Mass**

4:00 pm

(including children's choir & pageant)

8:00 pm & 12:00 midnight

The 8:00 pm mass will be livestreamed.

**** Our choirs will welcome parishioners
1/2 hour before each mass on Christmas Eve**

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25th

10:30 am & 12:15 pm

The 10:30 am mass will be livestreamed.

Boxing Day – Tuesday, December 26th

9:00 am

New Year's Eve – Sunday, December 31st

8:45am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm & 5:00 pm

New Year's Day – Monday, January 1st

10:30 am & 12:15 pm

The 10:30 am mass will be livestreamed.



Soon we will celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. We share time with our loved ones and give thanks to God for our blessings. For some it is a difficult time of year because we miss loved one's but we all have hope because Jesus came to save us all.

May God Bless you and have a Merry Christmas and thanks for all your cards and good wishes Peace & love to you all.
God Bless, Fr. Mark



NEW YEAR'S EVE POT LUCK PARTY

Help us ring in New Year 2023 with a variety of delicious food, music, dancing & good company!

Where: Our parish hall

Bring: Family & friends
Your favourite dish to feed a few people
Your favourite dance song requests

Dress: As you wish

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per person for decorations
There will also be a cash bar

Sign Up: Sign up at the table in the narthex

Contact: Greg Benoit
Email: greg.benoit@rogers.com
Phone or text Greg at: 647-296-6851

Or simply scan this bar code and fill in your information on the Google spreadsheet



The Parish office will be closed
Monday, December 25th & Tuesday
December 26th and on Monday,
January 1st.
Merry Christmas everyone!



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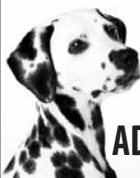
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