

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Diocese of Prince George

3285 Cathedral Avenue - Prince George, BC V2N 6R4  
TELEPHONE: 250-964-4898 WEBSITE: [www.icparish.ca](http://www.icparish.ca)



December 24 & 25, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**The Nativity of the Lord –Christmas**

### OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic community nourished through the Word and the Sacraments.

Striving to follow Christ,  
we reach out and welcome all,  
witnessing through loving actions  
in service, education, and celebration.

OFFICE HOURS:	Monday to Friday	9:30AM – 3:00PM
MASS TIMES:	Daily	Monday – Friday 9:00AM
	Sunday	9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:00PM
SACRAMENTS:	Baptism	Contact Parish Office
	Reconciliation	Before Mass, or by appointment
	Marriage	Contact Parish Office at least six months in advance

BISHOP -DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

Most Rev. Stephen Jensen

Email: [sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

PASTOR -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH  
ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev. John Garden

Email: [jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

Rev. Matthew Bellerive

Email: [mbellerive@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:mbellerive@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. Martha Primus

Email: [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

PRINCIPAL -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Barth

Email: [icsoffice@cispg.ca](mailto:icsoffice@cispg.ca)

### PASTORAL MINISTRIES CONTACTS

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: Jennifer Wilczek

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITS: Contact Parish Office

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Daniel Burri

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: TBA

HOSPITALITY/COFFEE Daniel Burri

CHURCH

SUNDAY:

ENVIRONMENT: Phyllis Sarrazin

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Fern Cote

SOCIAL ACTION &

GRAND KNIGHT:

SOUP KITCHEN: Sr. Michaela

K of C Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

VOCATIONS: Fr. Terry Brock

*All flesh will see the salvation of our God.*

DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2023

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Nativity of the Lord –Christmas



Sat	Dec 23	5PM	For the Parishioners of IC
Sun	Dec 24	9AM	RIP of Antonio Figueiredo and all deceased relatives
		5PM	RIP of Roy Fuller
		8PM	RIP of Antonio and Carolina Da Canto
Mon	Dec 25	10AM	For the Parishioners of IC
Tues	Dec 26	9AM	RIP of Joao and Emerlinda Sousa and deceased relatives
Wed	Dec 27	9AM	RIP of Frank and Pieadade Luis and deceased relatives
Thu	Dec 28	9AM	RIP of Doug Parker 20th Anniversary of his passing
Fri	Dec 29	9AM	RIP of Arlette Santos
Sun	Dec 31	9AM	RIP of Stella Caglioti
		11AM	For the Parishioners of IC
		7PM	
Mon	Jan 1/24	9AM	For the Parishioners of IC
Tue	Jan 2	9AM	RIP of Larry Olson
Wed	Jan 3	9AM	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu	Jan 4	9AM	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri	Jan 5	9AM	RIP of Laurina De Jesus

Mass intentions may be requested for various reasons (eg. a deceased loved one, someone who is ill, a birthday or anniversary, etc.) A Mass offering may be given for the intention but is not required.

**Fr. John will be also accepting Mass intentions while in Rome. There will be two Mass intentions for each day.**

If you have a Mass intention, please call the parish office by Wednesday of each week so that the intention can be published in the bulletin.

### PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed from December 25, 2023 to January 1, 2024 inclusive.

Office will be open from 8:30 to 12Noon January 2 to 5, 2024 inclusive.

**Please note: There will be no bulletin on Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Attached is Fr. John's Christmas Message to the Immaculate Conception Parish/School Community.

IC=

**Immaculate Conception  
Incredible Community**



Monthly Adoration at Domano Chapel – Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

- K of C Monthly Meeting (every 2nd Thursday of the month @ 7:00PM) – Next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024
- RCIA Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7PM at St. Mary's Church
- K of C Pancake Breakfast –January 14, 2024 after the 9AM and 11AM Masses

### HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER 13, 2023 PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

***Please find full minutes posted on the Bulletin Board***  
**PUT NAMES TO FACES**

See the display in the foyer of parishioners currently serving on the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council.

### PARISH SURVEY

Thank you to all who completed the recent Parish Survey. Your input is valuable as we continue to grow as a faith community. More information will be forthcoming as your responses and insights are tabulated.

### REPEAL SECTION 43 OF THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL CODE

Section 43 of the Criminal Code currently states: *“Every schoolteacher or person standing in place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances. R.S.C., 1985, c. C-4”* NDP Member of Parliament has tabled a Private Member's Bill (C-273) in the House of Commons calling for a repeal of this section of the Criminal Code of Canada. *The bill is now scheduled for a vote in the House in January 2024.* It is therefore imperative that those who would like to see the repeal of Section 43 write to their MP to urge him/her to pass this bill to outlaw the physical punishment of children in Canada.

- Minister Todd Doherty 1520 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Prince George BC V2L 3GA
- Minister Bob Zimmer 9916 100<sup>th</sup> Ave Fort St John BC V1J 1Y5

Both Ministers can also be reached at House of Commons Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 (no postage required!)

For more information, please contact TERESA SAUNDERS 250 981 1709

## HOME/HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or someone you know are confined to home and are unable to come to Church please call or email the parish office and let us know. Also, when being admitted to the hospital let the registration clerk know that you wish to be visited as the Privacy Act limits the information that hospitals can release and we have no other way of knowing you are in hospital.

## St. VINCENT de PAUL FOOD BANK

The focus in **December** is CANNED FISH/MEATS, CAKE MIXES And CEREAL, but **ALL** non-perishable food items continue to be accepted.

**There is a box in the foyer for your donations.**

## Shepherd's Corner

Located on 2nd Avenue. Shepherd's Corner is a diocesan outreach that ministers to street people. We are supporting the work of this outreach by collecting hygiene items. Suggestions include (small sizes): toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss, combs, hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, nail clippers, lip balm, hand sanitizers, Kleenex pouches, hand lotion, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors.....

**THERE IS A BOX IN THE FOYER FOR YOUR DONATIONS.**

## 2024 Church envelopes

There are still some envelopes in the church foyer. Please pick up..

Office if you do not currently have envelopes and would like to use them, please call or email the parish. There are Special Collection envelope packages for those who are currently using or considering EFT and PAD.

For the current users PAD there are Special Collection envelopes in the foyer.

If you would like to donate by PAD you will find the application [here](#).

Or if you would like to donate by EFT, we are registered through [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) for a direct deposit. [Click here for instructions on how to e-transfer.](#)

## Diocesan Wednesday Weekly for December 20, 2023

## CALLED TOGETHER, GIVING, SHARING, SERVING



OUR PARISH GOAL:	\$ 25,623
OUR PROJECT GOAL:	\$ 7,500
<b>TOTAL PARISH GOAL</b>	<b>\$ 33,123</b>
<b>TOTAL PLEDGES RECEIVED AS OF</b>	
<b>DECEMBER 13, 2023</b>	
<b>\$25,820 OR 77.95% OF OUR GOAL</b>	

## DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL CARE TRAINING SESSIONS – WINTER 2024

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on January 20 and running until March 23, 2024 (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. Please register through your local parish by January 12. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

## Statement of CCCB on Vatican's Document Addressing Pastoral Blessings

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, the CCCB released a statement regarding the recent publishing of *Fiducia Supplicans* from the Vatican. In the statement, Bishop William McGrattan, president of the CCCB, says: "While explicitly affirming the Church's traditional understanding of marriage, *Fiducia Supplicans* allows pastors to bless people who freely request a blessing, seeking divine help to live in fidelity to God's will. The Declaration makes clear that such blessings must be directed to the persons themselves rather than their situation and that they must be spontaneously requested and are not ritual or liturgical actions."

For the full statement, please visit the CCCB website here: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/statement-of-ccb-on-vaticans-document-addressing-pastoral-blessings/>

*Dear friends,  
The Christmas season is an  
invitation to experience the  
renewed joy and hope that  
comes to us in the realization of  
God's promises.  
In the words of Pope Francis:  
"It returns us to the horizon of  
hope, a horizon that does not  
disappoint because it is founded  
on the Word of  
God".*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the celebration of the Christmas Season, we turn our gaze to the little town of Bethlehem, whose name in Hebrew means, “house of bread” or “house of food”.



How appropriate! For within a stable in that little town of Bethlehem, the Christ Child was born: a Child, both human and divine, who became Sacred Food for us, who became the Bread of Life for us! In sacred scripture, we read: ***“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...” (John 1:14)*** And in the synodal document, *The Eucharist: Source of the Life and Mission of the Church*, we read: *“St. Hilary maintained that “if it is true that the Word was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), then it is also true that in the food of the Eucharist, we receive the Word-Made-Flesh.”*



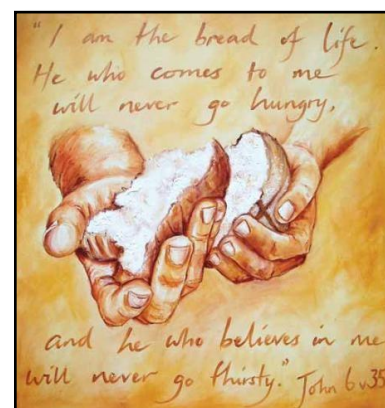
According to the plan of our Triune God, the Divine and Eternal Word took on our humanity in the form of an Infant Child, as One conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born from the humanity of Mary. And this Infant Child was laid in a trough with hay beneath Him: a place usually meant for animals to gather and graze. This is not happenstance. This is a necessary event (as well as divinely-directed symbolism) for the Infant Child laid on hay in a trough came to us, as Pope Francis once said, to feed *“a starving humanity with his tender love.”*

The Divine Eternal Son came to feed us with Himself so that in taking Him (who *IS* Love, Peace, Hope, and Healing) into our very person, we might become, more and more, His spiritual Body in the world: a People called to act as effective instruments of love, peace, hope, and healing for others – both in word and action.

It is in the sacred meal and holy sacrifice of the Mass that we meet the Christ Child, our Saviour, who came to feed a starving humanity! We are hungry in many ways in our lives: hungry for regular food, yes. But hungry, too, for love, peace, hope, and healing. And in that hunger, we ultimately hunger for God.

As we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child into our lives as our Saviour and the Bread of Life, I, with the Pastoral Team (Martha, Sr. Michaela, and Fr. Matthew) offer this prayer:

***May our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception, watch over you and yours – just as she, St. Joseph, the Eternal Father, the Spirit, the shepherds, and the angels watched over the Son of God laid in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. May Christ, the Bread of Life, quench our various hungers, and help us to be effective ministers of his love, peace, hope, and healing. Amen.***



Peace+ Fr. John  
December 24, 2023.



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