

The greatest gift for all of us this Christmas is JESUS. Let Him be the inspiration to transform our lives and give us the wisdom to accept his guidance. As St. Augustine said: *“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest achievement”*.

Let His light shine for all of us this coming year 2020.
Wishing you and your families a most Holy and Happy
Christmas and Blessings in the New Year!

Fr. Paul, SDS

Fr. Konrad, SDS





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKS

Greetings!

Since arriving here in July, one of the things that has been consistent, is your generosity and support shown, not only to those in our Parish, but also to others in our Community. At times, it feels that Christmas is celebrated every day!

Keeping with the time of year, a perfect example of this is our Annual Share Christmas Program – which Holy Cross has been doing for the past 27 years!!! The actual days were over 2 weekends and involved hundreds of generous parishioners and outsiders, our Holy Cross School staff and students, as well as our own parish staff. The wheels started rolling back in October with collecting of boxes in which to put collected food items in. Closer to December, Christmas trees were donated, helping of registering cards taken from trees, etc. The list goes on and on....many, many hands were involved.

Was it a success???? Oh, yes!! Thanks to those who loaded food items on to a donated large truck and the parishioner that drove it, we were able to deliver an abundance of food to the Missionary Sisters of Charity downtown. They will distribute all these donations to needy people in downtown eastside, and to other parts of the Archdiocese. Another undertaking was making up food hampers that were distributed to Luke 15 House as well as other families in need.

Our Holy Cross School reached out into the community by collecting over 300 toys and various items of children's clothing which were donated to RayCam Community Centre in Eastside Vancouver; the staff went to a Food Bank in Burnaby and spent an evening working there; Gr. 6 class went to Rideau Manor and did Christmas Crafts with the seniors and school choir went to Fellburn Hospital and had a sing-along- with residents there.

Thank you for all these wonderful acts of mercy, allowing God's blessings to guide us to make a small difference in the lives of others. It is true when we hear the saying: "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". This should not only be remembered at this time of year, but the whole year through.

God Bless....and a very Merry Christmas and the Best in the New Year!

Fr. Paul, SDS
Pastor.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Our Parish weekly budget is \$9,460.00

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
December 1	\$6,615.00	\$1,158.00	\$ 7,773.00
December 8	\$7,733.80	\$ 933.00	\$ 8,666.80
December 15	\$7,215.55	\$ 797.70	\$ 8,013.25
Second Collections			
Youth Ministry (Dec 1)	\$2,274.20	\$ 115.00	\$ 2,389.20
School Support (Dec 8)	\$2,829.50	\$ 117.00	\$ 2,946.50
Preauthorized Monthly Collection for December			\$13,553.50

MONEY COUNTERS

December 23 – Marlene W., Elia, Mary
FRIDAY December 27 (Christmas Collection) – Lawrence, Grace, Rosina, Liliana
 December 30 – Raffy, Marisa, Nicole
THURSDAY January 2, 2020 (New Year's Day Collection)
 – Liliana, Marie, John
 January 6, 2020 – Betty, Marlene W., Elia

MASS INTENTIONS (REQUESTED BY)

December 23 - 25, 2019

- Mon 9:00 am +Louis Moreau (Family)
- Tues. 9:00 am Spl. Int. Christopher Leong (Family)
- Christmas Masses**
- Tues. 5:00 pm +Fernando Di Cesare (Family)
+Frank Folino (Family)
+Rosa Corrado (Family)
+Silvano Marchiori (Zucchetto Family)
- No 7:30 pm Mass
- Tues. Midnight ++Marina Juezan Parado and Domingo Parado Jr. (Parado and Ly Families)
++William and Mary Gene
Spl. Int. for Healing of Kelly Marcotte (Carmine and Makiko)
- Wed. 8:00 am +Augusto Achacoso (Family)
Spl. Int. May and Don (Family)
Spl. Int. Jason Fong (Family)
- 10:00 am +Sixto Velasco (Chit and Ria)
++Deceased Members of Lopez and Veltri Families (Family)
+Antonio Patano (Family)
+Domenic Luongo (Franca Z.)
- Noon +Augustino Velenosi (Wife)
+Simira Zomperelli (Family)
+Attilio Pannoizzo (Family)
++Deceased Members of Realina and Beltran Families (Lourdes R.)

No 7:30 pm Mass

December 26 - 29, 2019

- Thurs. 9:00 am ++Paul and Lucia Sigurnjak
- Fri. 9:00 am Spl. Int. Lucille Sandhurst (Giuseppina G.)
7:30 pm +Ilse Jacobsohn (Jacobsohn Family)
++Zacarias and Alfredo Nopre (Albina Halfar and Family)
+Souls in Purgatory (Pasqua R.)
Spl. Int. Angelina Mariano (Family)
Spl. Int. Daphne Aslam (Family)
Spl. Int. Carmela Ruhr (Jacobsohn Family)
Spl. Int. Pilar Farah (Jacobsohn Family)
Spl. Int. Allen Phillips (Family)
Spl. Int. Catherin Chen (Agnes and Family)
- Sat. 9:00 am +Rosanna Manelli (Giuseppina G.)
5:00 pm Parishioners
- Sun. 8:00 am +Peter Laviolette (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Cathy K. (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Father Robert Uffland, SDS (Diva and John)
- 10:00am +Arnaldo Ruscitti (Santina Ciaccia)
++Dina and Lino Natola (Giuseppina G.)
+Antonio Caro (Family)
++Marko and Mare Vuletin (Mirjana Crnica)
Spl. Int. Anna Patano (Family)
- Noon Spl. Int. Father Konrad (Daphne)
Spl. Int. Thanksgiving to the Charismatic Prayer Group Prayer Warriors (Malakieh Family)
- 7:30 pm ++Halina and Geoff Molyneux (Krys, Robert and Nick)
Spl. Int. Father Konrad (Lanny and Danny)
Spl. Int. Ortiz Family (Family)
Spl. Int. Dorothy & Dave Demare (May and Don)

SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Break Mon Dec 23 to Sun January 5, 2020
School reopens Mon January 6, 2020

MASS INTENTIONS (REQUESTED BY)

December 30, 2019 - January 1, 2020

Mon 9:00 am Spl. Int. Father Konrad (John and Diva)
Tues. 9:00 am ++Aurelio and Irma Nicoletti (Giuseppina G.)

New Year's Day Masses

Tues. 5:00 pm Spl. Int. Alice and Ernest (May and Don)
No 7:30 pm Mass
Wed. 8:00 am ++Guiseppe and Loretta Romano (Family)
10:00 am +Antonio Patano (Wife and Family)
Spl. Int. Priscilla, Dave, Lucas, Gracelyn and Matthew (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Peggy and Nicholas (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Linda, Carlos, Chloe and Claire (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Adeline, Damien, Gladys and Annette (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Anna Patano (Family)
Noon ++Deceased Family and Friends of Lourdes (Lourdes)
++Deceased Members of McDermott Family
+++Enrico, Ines and Primo Bondi (Family)

No 7:30 pm Mass

January 2 - 5, 2020

Thurs. 9:00 am Spl. Int Brian Wong (Kit and Family)
Fri. 9:00 am Spl. Int. Kit and Thomas (May and Don)
7:30 pm +Souls in Purgatory (Pasqua R.)
Spl. Int. Phillip Stevenson (Family)
Sat. 9:00 am Parishioners
5:00 pm +Vincenzo Misceo (Family)
+Salvatore Demare (Nick and Marisa Gentile)
Spl. Int. Krys and Robert (May and Don)
Spl. Int. Yang Family (Lanny and Danny)
Sun. 8:00 am ++John and Emilia Mauro (Family)
Spl. Int. Bozena Szucs (May and Don)
10:00am +Lina Maria Vassallo (Family)
+Arnaldo Ruscitti (Family)
+Angelin Peretto (Family)
+Eufrasia Sovernigo (Pierina Ceron)
Noon +Manlio Mottes (Margaret Tonin)
Spl. Int. Private Intentions
7:30 pm +Maureen Premack (Parishioner)

PROJECT ADVANCE

Update as of December 12, 2019.

Thank You

We have received \$106,869.39 in donations. Thanks to the 385 families who have donated, **we have reached of our diocesan goal of \$62,000! Now, all funds raised for Project Advance stay in the Parish!** If you haven't contributed yet, please consider giving today. Online donations may be made directly at www.projectadvance.ca

Live gratefully, give generously.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, December 24th (Tue) 5pm and Midnight
Christmas Day, December 25th (Wed) 8am, 10am and Noon
There is **no 7:30pm Mass on Christmas Day.**

New Year's Eve, December 31st (Tue) 5pm
New Year's Day, January 1st (Wed) 8am, 10am and Noon
There are **no Masses at midnight and 7:30pm on New Year's Day.**

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES from December 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020 are at 9:00 am (except for the Christmas Day and New Year's Day Masses as shown above).

2020 SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES - If you did not receive any 2020 envelopes, please phone the parish office and we will provide them for you. **Please only use your envelopes for the year printed on the envelope as your envelope number may have changed.** Please use the **visitor** envelopes available in the back of the church in the shelves on the doors if you don't have envelopes and make sure that you fill out all the information on the visitors envelope.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Culture of Life Baby Shower

January - Please save your new or gently used infant (to 2 years) and maternity clothes and supplies (except furniture, car seats, strollers and big toys) for our collection at the January 25-26 Masses in the Church lobby for pregnant women and new mothers in distress. (Sponsored by Birthright Vancouver and the Knights of Columbus).

To our Holy Cross Community, we wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our members Christmas Dinner will be on Thursday Jan 10, 2020.
No pancake Breakfast for December.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) - To our Holy Cross Community, we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas.

Membership Drive - Thank you to our members who renewed their membership and thank you to those who joined us as new members at our Membership Drive on December 7 & 8. You can still pay your membership fee (\$35) by putting cash or a cheque (payable to Holy Cross CWL) in a sealed envelope in the Sunday Collection basket. Please mark the envelope "CWL".

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL MASS FOR LIFE - Join us as we celebrate life on Saturday Dec 28th (the Feast of the Holy Innocents) at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 am and Mass is at 12:10 pm.

PRO-LIFE MASS & PRAYER VIGIL - Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. Mass is Saturday, January 4, at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Parish, 20676 Fraser Highway, Langley. Please join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month at a different parish for a new culture of life. More information at 604 683-0281.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL PUB NIGHT DINNER AND DANCE

We invite you to attend the Holy Cross School Annual Pub Night Dinner and Dance. This year's event will take place on Saturday, February 8th in the Holy Cross Gymnasium. It will be a fun evening of dining, dancing, and bidding on both silent and live auction items. We would like to take this opportunity to send a warm welcome to all parishioners, alumni, family and friends of Holy Cross to join us at this memorable evening.

All tickets can be purchased at the Holy Cross school office. Donations for our auction are kindly being accepted at the school office. On behalf of the staff and students at Holy Cross school, we would like to thank you for your generous support, and we look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

For any questions, please contact Amber at amberchirico@gmail.com

For information on other events within the Diocese, visit www.rcav.org



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27th ANNUAL SHARE CHRISTMAS 2019

Thanks be to God, and to your generosity, our 27th Annual Share Christmas Program was fruitful once again.

	2019	2018	2017
Cards taken and returned	594	596	626
Approximate value	\$14,850	\$14,900	\$15,650
Cash donations	\$1565.55	\$1,595	\$1,285

The 27th annual Share Christmas was an effort of the entire parish, involving hundreds of generous parishioners, the cooperation of our school's staff and students, and flexible, efficient parish staff. In October, we began by collecting well over 150 empty boxes from local businesses. A parish business donated the Christmas tree. Many helped to register the cards taken from the tree. Teachers and some students from our school set up the gym for receiving the donations. Parishioners took cards from the tree, shopped for themselves and for those unable to do their own shopping, delivered the donations to the gym, and/or gave cash donations. Many donations generously exceeded the requested \$25 contribution per card. We received a record 66 turkeys. Hundreds of dollars of extra items (not included in totals) were also donated: 5 cases of high-quality produce, a case of European wieners, children's new clothing, toys and treats, over 300 pairs of new socks, laundry detergent, soaps, linens, candies and chocolates, and a gift food hamper. Volunteers received and organized donations, prepared refreshments for volunteers, made hampers for a few of our own families and Luke 15 House, while other volunteers delivered them. One parishioner arranged for his employer to donate the use of a 5-ton delivery truck and another parishioner drove it. Finally, over 30 volunteers loaded the truck, did the final gym cleanup and some carried on to unload the donations at the Missionaries of Charity in the downtown eastside. All cash donations were given to the Sisters. Our gifts will be distributed by the Sisters to many families and homeless people in the downtown eastside. These wonderful results are only possible because of the many helping hands of the whole parish family. The Sisters were very grateful and have promised to keep our entire parish family in their prayers and have asked us to do the same for them and those they serve. Thanks be to God for His blessings that allow us to make a small difference in the lives of our neighbors.