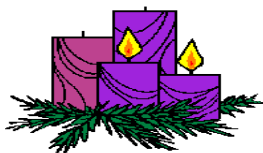


## December 9th, 2018 Second Sunday of Advent



Imagine what John the Baptist would have made of our modern ability literally to “move mountains”! When I read today’s Scriptures with their descriptions of filling valleys, leveling mountains, and road-building, I picture a vast fleet of earth-moving equipment and thousands of people at work. Could those Biblical visionaries have had the same picture?

Such imagination is helpful in the Advent season as we wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled. Some of the obstacles to the coming of the Kingdom seem overwhelming. The evil that confronts us in the world—in the form of human greed, violence, and injustice is formidable.

But I often find that *inner* obstacles are just as daunting. My own selfishness, greed, intolerance, and even the temptation to violence, seem so hard to root out. I could use a bulldozer or two to help!

Paul, in the second reading, offers us another source of power to effect change: the power of prayer. Paul is confident that God, who has begun to work in the lives of the Philippians, will bring that work to completion. He prays that they will grow in love, knowledge, and the ability to choose what’s right.

Thanks to the witness and example of fellow Christians I can believe in the power of prayer. Let’s pray for each other in these Advent days.

*Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.*

### **Advent Reconciliation Services**

**Sun. – Dec. 9th – 2:30 pm – St. Mary’s**

**Tues. Dec. 11th – 6:30 pm Christ Our Saviour**

**Fri. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – 7 pm Immaculate Conception**

## **Immaculate Conception School News**

### **Caroling Party/Potluck Supper**

This will take place on **Sunday, December 16th** from **3:30-6:30pm** in the Church Hall. Please bring food to share and voices to sing.

### **Immaculate Conception School Christmas Concert**

Our Christmas Concert will be held on **Tues. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will have two shows in the Church Hall: **1 pm & 7 pm**.

### **Monthly Adoration**

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday** at the Domano Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at **7:30 am** and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from **8 am – 8 pm**.

### **Knights of Columbus**

Pancake Breakfast next **Sunday, Dec. 16th**. Everyone is welcomed. **A special guest will be present.**

### **St. Vincent de Paul Soup/Sandwich Preparation**

**Tuesday, Dec. 18th at 9:40 am** preparing sandwich and soup ingredients and **Wednesday, Dec. 19th at 9:40 am** making soup and sandwiches in the Church hall.

### **Knights of Columbus Christmas Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree Committee would like to express our sincere thanks to all Immaculate Conception Parishioners who were very generous in their donations and who supported us by making blankets and sponsoring the blankets that go out to the various agencies. We wish you are all a very Merry Christmas and blessings in the New Year.

### **Christmas Mass Choir Practice**

You are invited to join us in singing at the final **Christmas Eve Mass (10 pm with a carol service beginning at 9:30 pm)**. There will be a practice on **Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm -3pm**. The practice will take place in the church at IC. Please come and join us.

### **Stamps Wanted**

We are collecting stamps with 1/2" border and postcards. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to provide cancer dressings to those patients in need, free of charge. Please place your stamps/postcards in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.

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### **UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

With the help of the Canadian bishops' conference, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) is now addressing serious problems that have been identified with some of its partner organizations involving activities contrary to Catholic moral teaching. A letter outlining this review process is available on the diocesan website.

*In the light of this progress, the western dioceses have agreed to forward the proceeds of the Share Lent collection for 2018 with the stipulation that no funds be given to any of the compromised partners in developing countries.*

***Please note that our Share Lent collection for D & P went directly to Development & Peace and not through the Diocese.***

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### **SIMBANG GABI (FILIPINO "NIGHT MASS")**

A devotional nine-day series of Masses practiced by Filipino Roman Catholics in anticipation of Christmas and to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Filipino Canadian Community in the City of Prince George will be celebrating nine evenings to be held on **Dec. 15th to 23rd at 7:00pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral**. All are welcome to attend. Please see poster in Church foyer.

**FRENCH CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** offered by Bishop Stephen Jensen WITH **FRENCH CHRISTMAS CAROLS**, on the **24th of Dec. at 7:00 PM, at Domano Chapel**, 6500 Southridge Ave.

Christmas carols will begin at **6:45 PM**. Adults and children are invited to join the choir.

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### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Volunteers are needed to help with the Christmas Hamper Project. Please see the Church foyer for more information.

### **The Annual RiseUp Advent Coffeehouse Fundraiser**

Doors will be open at 6pm and will begin at **6:30 pm on Sunday, December 16th** at:

The Artspace - above Books & Company  
222 - 1685 3rd Ave (Upstairs)

Join us for a relaxing evening of talented performances, delicious baking, warm drinks and testimonies from the young adults attending Rise Up this year.

Tickets at the door \$12 adults, \$10 students/seniors and \$25 for families

For more information contact Lisa @ 250-925-4599 or Angelica @ 250-301-8135

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### **ST. MARY'S NOON HOUR ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

Facilitated by Sisters Irene Baker and Dorothy Ryan.  
**Noon to 1:30 pm** in the St. Eugene Room at St. Mary's. Please use the Freeman Street Entrance.

**Monday, Dec. 10th** Theme of Faith

**Monday, December 17th** Theme of Joy

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to join them in a time of Prayerful Reflection on the Themes of Advent as we prepare for the great feast of Christmas. Everyone is welcome!

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### **MOVIE WITH MEANING- GIFTED**

**Sun. Dec. 16th, 1:30pm - 4:00pm** in the St. Eugene Room, at St. Mary's Parish, from Admission by donation. Popcorn and drinks are provided!

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### **RISE UP CALGARY 2018 "COME AND SEE" ROAD TRIP!**

The Youth and Young Adult Office will be taking a 40-seater bus from Prince George to Calgary for Catholic Christian Outreach's (CCO) annual Rise Up conference! Young adults from the age of 18-35 are invited to join us on this amazing opportunity.

If you want a seat on that bus, contact Lisa at [lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca) OR phone 250-964-4424 (ext 2109) The bus will be leaving early **Fri., Dec. 28th** from PG, and returning late on **Tues. Jan. 1st**.

**The Rise Up** conference ignites faith, provides profound encounters with Christ, and changes lives!

Every young adult should experience RiseUp.