

October 22nd, 2017

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

We often say, "Religion and politics don't mix." Our nation has a tradition of separation between Church and state. But today's Sunday Mass readings bring these two realities together. The first reading comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah, a text written in the sixth century before Christ, some two hundred years after the original Isaiah prophesied. The situation: the people are in exile, under the domination of the king of Persia, Cyrus. He's a pagan king, but the prophet calls him God's "anointed." God will use this pagan king to restore his people to their homeland. In the Gospel, the civil ruler in the spotlight is the Roman Emperor. Here the religious-civil issue is raised by the Pharisees. Seeking to trap Jesus, they want his opinion on paying taxes. It seems like the subject of taxes is a timeless human issue! At any rate, you know the Lord's response: *Give to Caesar what belongs to him; but give God what belongs to God.*

It's all a matter of priorities. The state is an institution that commands our response to legitimate responsibilities. Christians have an obligation to be good citizens. But God can and will call on us for a response which comes first. Today let's allow our Lord's timeless priorities to guide us.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

Important Change

The bank has asked us to let our parishioners know to make their cheques payable to RCEC – Immaculate Conception. When you are making cheques payable to the Diocesan Appeal please make them out to RCEC – Diocesan Appeal.

Book of Remembrance

This is located on a table in the Foyer to write the names of your deceased loved ones in it. Throughout the month of November we will be praying for them at each Mass.



Blessing of the Graves

We will gather at the entrance of the City Cemetery on **Sunday, November 5th**

at **1.30 pm** for prayer and then go to bless individual graves.

World Mission Sunday

Today we are called to offer our prayers and generous financial support, through the Society for the Propagation of Faith, for the worldwide mission of Christ. We are asked to reach out to the peripheries, people in remote villages, towns and cities by using the witness and work of missionaries and local priests. Please keep all missionaries in your daily prayers.

Immaculate Conception School

All parishioners are invited to attend our school's Rosary Assembly in the Church and join our students in praying the Joyful Mysteries on **Thursday** at **11 am**.

We are also inviting any parishioners who would like to lead an activity or simply help with an activity for our **Explore Fridays**, which will begin **Oct. 27th** from 12:45-1:45pm. Thank you to all who have already graciously volunteered! For more details, please contact the school office at **250-964-4362**.

Play and Learn is a program that allows children to explore play with their parents, to help foster and nurture development. Play allows children to problem solve, explore, create and imagine, while also focusing on several domains including, social/emotional, language, physical and cognitive abilities.

We are offering the following sessions for parents of children ages 3-4 years old. We ask that older siblings do not attend.

November 6th	7 pm
December 4th	7 pm
January 8th	7 pm
February 5th	7 pm
March 5th	7 pm

Come and spend an hour playing with your child, connecting with other parents and engaging in an amazing experience. If you are interested, please email the school office at icsoffice@cispg.ca or call 250.964.4362 to confirm your attendance.

Immaculate Conception School

Parent Support Group

We are in need of volunteers for the Prince George Cougars Hockey games. The Parent Support group has a bunch of games that we need to supply 13 volunteers to usher. In return the Cougars organization donates money to our group. I thought that perhaps there may be parishioners interested in helping out. I have attached the list of our scheduled games:

Tuesday, November 21st,

Sunday, December 10th (Teddy Bear Toss),

Saturday, January 6th,

Wednesday, January 17th,

Tuesday, February 27th, Saturday,

March 3rd (Don Cherry Night).

If anyone is interested they just need to contact the school office at 250-964-4362.

We are selling tubs of cookie dough between **Oct 16th** and **Nov 3rd**. There are 10 classic flavours and 2 gluten free flavours. Tubs are \$16 for classic and \$18 for gluten free. The profit from the cookie dough sales will be allocated towards the technology needs of each classroom (including updates and new equipment). If anyone is interested in purchasing some cookie dough and supporting our fundraiser they can place their order in the school office.

Just a reminder about our Craft Fair on **Saturday, November 18th** from **10 - 4pm**

Hospital Ministry

We are looking for **volunteers** to take Communion to the Hospital on the Second Sunday of each month. If you would like to be part of this Ministry, please contact Sr. Michaela at 250-964-9429 or by email at michaela_marques@hotmail.com

Hospital Stay

Hospital staff no longer are allowed to ask you for your religion when they admit you to the hospital. If you wish to have a priest visit you or communion brought to you while in the hospital, please go to the **switchboard** on the main floor by the elevators and ask to have your name added to the Catholic list. A family member can do this for you, if you are unable to do so yourself.

The Knights of Columbus Giving Tree Committee

We are looking for sponsors for their six remaining blankets at \$30 per blanket. If you are able and wish to sponsor one of these blankets, please contact Debbie Matwyuk at 250-964-6285 or Sr. Michaela at 250-964-9429.

St. Vincent de Paul

The next General Meeting for the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be held on **Tuesday** at **6:00 pm** at the Drop-In Centre, 1220 - 2nd Avenue.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners who participated in or volunteered for our Thanksgiving Dinner and those who attended and/or helped with our First Annual High Tea and Fashion Show at the Columbus Centre. These events are only possible with the support and involvement of our community and we thank you sincerely.

The St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store is in need of plastic grocery bags. If you have some you can spare, please drop them off at the old store, 1180 Third Avenue.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

"Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving."

Our Parish Goal is: \$44,336.00

Received to date: - 30,965.00

Total to Goal \$13,371.00

of people donated: 101

*This represents **69.84%** of our Goal.*

Please make cheques payable to:

RCEC - Diocesan Appeal

Diocesan Goal: \$400,000

500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

You are invited to join with Bishop Stephen Jensen and Bishop Greg Mohr of the Lutheran Church for Common Prayer to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This service "From Conflict to Communion" will take place on **Sunday October 29th** at **7 pm** at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 3590 Dufferin Ave (On Ospika beside the Mennonite Church). Refreshments to follow the service.

Vocational Discernment & Dinner

For those who would like to learn more about the vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life, we will share a meal and talk about God's call in your life at **6 pm Friday** at **Sacred Heart Cathedral Rectory**. This month men are invited to join the Bishop for dinner.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday, Oct. 26th to bishop@pgdiocese.bc.ca or call 250-564-5225.

Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.

St. John Chrysostom