

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

There are many ways to appreciate today's *Gospel* story of the Prodigal Son. May I suggest one to take with you to Sunday Mass today?

Remember how the story ends? The forgiving father pleads with his older son to come in and celebrate his younger brother's reconciliation. When the older son protests that he's always obeyed the father—in contrast to his younger brother's betrayal—the father reassures his older son of his love. But the father tells him they *must* celebrate. Why? His brother who was lost has been found; given up for dead, he's come back to life.

I'm intrigued by Scripture commentaries which suggest that Saint Luke aimed this ending at those in his own communities who wished to exclude some people from their Eucharist. Perhaps there were Christians who'd been disloyal in times of persecution, or sinned in other ways. Like the older brother, some in Luke's faithful community may have resented the reconciliation of these wayward members.

This slant on the story challenges me. I often make judgments about others and miss my own need to celebrate God's unlimited mercy and forgiveness. When I behave that way, I become the older brother in the story, who absents himself from the celebration. Today, let's hear the voice of the Father calling us to come in to the party!

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



**Sacraments for Children**

Children who are not registered in a Catholic School and wish to receive the sacraments of ***Reconciliation, First Holy Communion (Grade 2) & Confirmation (Grade 6)***. The city wide **Family Faith Formation**, at St. Mary's, begins on **Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 2:30 pm**. Registration fee is \$32/child and registration takes place on the first Sunday. If you are taking this program please email Fr. Chris at [clynch@pgdiocese.ca](mailto:clynch@pgdiocese.ca).

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**RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Are you or anyone you know interested in the Catholic Faith? The RCIA is a journey of faith for Unbaptised Adults, Baptised Adults from another Christian Faith, and Baptised Adults from the Catholic Christian Faith who have not received their First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. St. Mary's will be hosting RCIA sessions on **Thursday** evenings from **7 pm – 8:30 pm** starting on **October 10<sup>th</sup>** in the St. Mary's Eugene Room. Those who belong or wish to belong to Immaculate Conception Church need to contact Fr. Chris at 250-964-4898 or [clynch@pgdiocese.ca](mailto:clynch@pgdiocese.ca).

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**ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP RETURNS!**

All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend the St. Mary's Youth Group kick off on **Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** from **6:30-8:30 pm** at St. Mary's in the school gym.

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**Support Our Sponsors**

Please support our sponsors who advertise in the back of the bulletin.

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**Wills**

*Please remember Immaculate Church and School in your will. Thank you.*

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***Prayer is to our soul what rain is to the soil.***

***St. John Vianney***



## **Diocesan Annual Appeal – “Called Together”**

Today is the Educational Weekend of the Annual Diocesan Appeal: **“Called Together – Giving, Sharing, and Serving** which supports the mission of our local Church across our diocese. Your gift to Called Together is one way that you can practice stewardship and participate in the mission of the Church.

**Our Parish Goal is: \$39,599**

Please make cheques payable to:

**RCEC – Diocesan Appeal**

Diocesan Goal: \$400,000

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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## **Employment Opportunities**

THE DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE is seeking individuals for the following positions:

**Administrative Assistant & Resident Caretaker for Camp Morice.** Contact

Very Reverend Rectorino M. Tolentino, Jr.

**E-mail:** [vicargeneral@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:vicargeneral@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

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## **Our Refugee Family**

The Semmu family have been in Canada just over two years now. The youngest son, Malik, has severe scoliosis and his lungs were being compromised. This summer he had two surgeries at Children's Hospital and now has a rod in his spine keeping it straight - nothing short of a miracle! Also, Malik had almost no hearing - now he has a special device that helps him to hear - another miracle for him. We want to celebrate these blessings and are including the whole family in a celebration that they found freedom in Canada.

You are invited to a celebration acknowledging Malik's recovery and the family's finding freedom in Canada. We will have a surprise guest from out of town who will lead the outdoor activities. The sports activities are for children and adults. Bring your families ---the more the merrier.

On **Sunday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** at **St. Mary's** from **2 pm to 6:30 pm**. The outdoor sports and games start at 2 pm. Please bring your running shoes/cleats (if you have them) and lawn chairs.

The Pot luck Dinners starts at 4:30 pm. Please bring your favourite dish to share.

**RSVP by Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** to Eva Gillis at 778-349-7001 or [plionheart@shaw.ca](mailto:plionheart@shaw.ca)

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

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, Prince George, will hold their Annual General Meeting [AGM] on **Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**. Fr John Garden will celebrate **Mass** at **5:30 pm** at the Domano Chapel, 6500 Southridge Ave. A light supper and the AGM will follow at approximately 6:15 pm in Bethany House on the Domano Renewal Centre grounds. Everyone is welcome!

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## **LECTIO DIVINA**

*Lectio Divina* at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. The evening starts with a social and refreshments at 6:30 pm followed by Vespers (evening prayer) and Lectio Divina at **7:15 pm to 8 pm**.

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## **Diocesan Convocation**

**October 3rd – 4th** at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Founder of Catholic Christian Outreach Andre Regniér, will be the presenter. All members of the diocese are invited and welcome to attend. To register go to: <https://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca/2019-diocesan-convocation/> Registration deadline is Mon. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## **THEOLOGY OF THE BODY YOUNG ADULT**

### **FALL RETREAT**

**September 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>**

**All Young Adults ages 18-35 are invited to attend.**

Guest speaker Fr. Derrick Cameron (Diocese of Kamloops) will provide a deeper insight into St. John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person **Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** (start at **6:00 pm**) to **Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** end at 1:00 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre. The cost of the retreat is \$50/person. **REGISTER:**

Email Lisa at [lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

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## **MONDAY NOON HOUR REFLECTIONS RETURNS!**

Two Series by Bishop Robert Barron will be offered this fall facilitated by Sisters Irene and Dot in the St. Eugene Room at **St. Mary's** from **Noon to 1:30 pm**. Coffee and refreshments will be provided along with good conversation and good company.

**Mystery of God: Who God is and why He Matters**

**Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>** – This is a three part Series presenting the **Mystery of God: Who God is and why He Matters** by Bishop Robert Barron, using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope Benedict XVI.