

January 26th, 2020 Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Our Sunday cycle of Scripture readings this year is based on the *Gospel of Matthew*. In today's selection, Matthew describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and quotes a passage from *Isaiah*, which the liturgy uses for our first reading. The quote sounds familiar since we heard it in the Christmas liturgy: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light."

Midnight Mass, when the beauty of the birth of the infant Jesus is before us is a contrast to today's scene. In the light of day Jesus walks by the Sea of Galilee, and our thoughts turn to the adult mission of the Messiah. That mission takes place in the midst of the Jewish people, laboring under Roman rule. Along the dusty roads and in towns and synagogues, in the face of human suffering and sin, and eventually from Calvary's hill, Matthew is proclaiming that the light of Christ will conquer death.

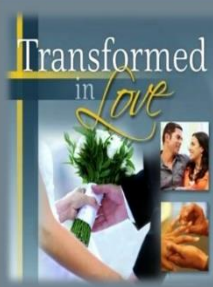
And lest we think we can remain spectators—as perhaps we were on Christmas before the lovely nativity scene in our church—the liturgy invites us to shoulder the role of disciple, as Jesus calls his first followers. These simple Galilean fishermen left everything in response to that call. Can we hesitate, think it over, and give Jesus an answer next week or next month? Not if we take to heart the urgent message of today's *Gospel*: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Father Greg Friedman, O. F. M.



Please make cheques out to R.C.E.C. Immaculate Conception Church or R.C.E.C. I.C. Parish.

Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26th – Jan. 31st



Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program

This program is intended for those marrying in the Catholic Church

April 24-26, 2020

For details and registration click here:

<https://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca/marriage-preparation-retreat>

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JENSEN REGARDING CHANGE IN THE DIOCESAN CURIA

After four years in the role, Fr. Rectorino Tolentino has asked to step down as Vicar General to return to full-time parish ministry. I have accepted his request and on behalf of the clergy and laity of the diocese I thank him for his dedicated service.

I'm pleased to announce that Fr. Terence Brock is appointed the new Vicar General, while continuing in his role as pastor of Annunciation Parish in Prince Rupert. I assure him of our prayerful support as he begins to serve the diocese in this new capacity.



Again and again Jesus says to each of us, "Follow me." By God's grace we too can respond with a complete gift of self, again and again giving our "yes" to his invitation to let ourselves be loved and to bring his love to others.

Kathleen Giffin

those patients in need, free of charge. Please place your items in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.

WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE FEBRUARY 2ND

The purpose of the day is "to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels" as well as "to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord" (Saint John Paul II, 1997).

HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE: The federal Department of Justice is conducting an online consultation about broadening access to euthanasia.

The diocesan website and Facebook page have information to help parishioners participate in the consultation and make known their concerns. The survey is only available until January 27. Go to: <http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2020/01/guide-to-answering-canadian-maid.html>

Pre-authorized Debit

We are offering pre-authorized debit as a way to simplify your Mass donation on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. If you are interested, please pick up a pre-authorized sheet from the Church foyer (wall) and hand it in to the parish office with a **void cheque**.

Please update the parish office if you have moved or going to move this year. We will be printing off the tax receipts next month.

Support Our Sponsors

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

Wills

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

Wanted

We are collection stamps with 1/2" border and postcards. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to provide cancer dressings to

Vocation Live-In

On the weekend of **February 7th – 9th**, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the **Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC**. For more information call 604-826-8715.

If you want to attend, please contact:

College Seminary Live In:

Father Matthew Gerlich, OSB

Email: rector.majors@yahoo.ca

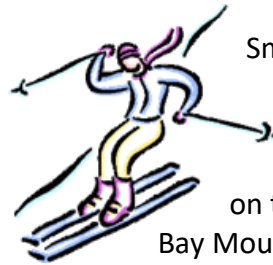
or

High School Seminary Live In:

Father Peter Nygren, OSB

E-mail: frpeterosb@gmail.com

THE ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT SMITHERS SKI RETREAT: 'VERSO L'ALTO'//TO THE HEIGHTS



Smithers. Skiing. Retreating. Bl.

Pier Giorgio Frassati. What

more could one ask for?

Come join us **Feb. 14th-16th**
on the beautiful slopes of Hudson

Bay Mountain and the beautiful parish of St. Joseph's for a time away from the busyness of daily life. Ages 19 and up.

This retreat will fill out quickly, and registration is up and running, so don't delay! Registration will close February 10th. All information such as prices and car-pooling will be on the registration link. To register or for more info, email Lisa at lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca.

DYC 2020 – MAY 1ST-3RD, 2020

The 25th anniversary of DYC in the Diocese of Prince George:

The Gateway: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

