

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Diocese of Prince George

3285 Cathedral Avenue - Prince George, BC V2N 6R4

TELEPHONE: 250-964-4898

WEBSITE: [www.icparish.ca](http://www.icparish.ca)

December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord –Christmas



### OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic community nourished through  
the Word and the Sacraments.

Striving to follow Christ,  
we reach out and welcome all,  
witnessing through loving actions  
in service, education, and celebration.

OFFICE HOURS:	Monday to Friday	9:30AM – 3:00PM
MASS TIMES:	Daily	Monday – Friday 9:00AM
	Sunday	9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:00PM
SACRAMENTS:	Baptism	Contact Parish Office
	Reconciliation	Before Mass, or by appointment
	Marriage	Contact Parish Office at least six months in advance

BISHOP -DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

Most Rev. Stephen Jensen

Email: [sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

PASTOR -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Rev. John Garden

Email: [jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. Martha Primus

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PRINCIPAL -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Barth

Email: [icsoffice@cispjg.ca](mailto:icsoffice@cispjg.ca)

### PASTORAL MINISTRIES CONTACTS

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: Matt Brown

HOME VISITS: Contact Parish Office

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Eva Gillis

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: TBA

HOSPITALITY/COFFEE SUNDAY: Dan Burri

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT: Phyllis Sarrazin

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Dennis Fedyk

SOCIAL ACTION: Sr. Michaela

GRAND KNIGHT:

Soup Kitchen

K of C Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

VOCATIONS: Fr. Terry Brock

To you is born this day a Saviour, who is the Christ

Luke 2.1-16

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN

When the Angels had left them and  
gone into heaven,  
the shepherds said to one another:  
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see  
this thing  
that has taken place, which the Lord  
has made known to us.  
” So they went with haste  
and found Mary and Joseph, and the Child



lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what  
had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were  
amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured  
all these words and pondered them in her heart

(Lk 2:15-19)

Dear Parishioners of I.C. (our Incredible Community),

When our Blessed Mother Mary was first told by the Angel Gabriel that she was to conceive the Christ Child within her womb and play a significant role in God's great plan of salvation by being both our Lord's mother and the Church's Mother (our spiritual Mother), the Gospel of St. Luke 1:29 tells us that she was "much perplexed" by the angel's words, and that she, in turn, "**pondered**" the angel's words. We hear again in scripture (as noted in the verses above from St. Luke) that Mary also pondered the words of the shepherds within her heart. To ponder is to "consider something deeply and thoroughly". And so, Mary considered **deeply, thoroughly** all that was to happen to her. And after this pondering, despite her having been "perplexed", she said "Yes!" to God's plan for salvation --- out of love for God, for humanity, and for the Divine and Human Child that would develop within her womb.

As we heard in the gospel passage for this past Sunday, Joseph, too, had much to ponder for he was also perplexed by the circumstances that he found himself in: his fiancée was pregnant before marriage and he knew that the Child was not his! Therefore, he was planning to end the engagement in a discreet manner for he was, as the scripture tells us, a "righteous man" who did not want to "expose [Mary] to public disgrace" (Mt.1:19). In the midst of pondering how he might end the engagement in a discreet manner, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and explained the situation: Mary was with Child by the power of the Holy Spirit! And so, instructed by the angel to continue his betrothal to Mary, Joseph, like Mary, said "Yes!" out of love for God, for Mary, for humanity, and for the Divine and Human Child within Mary's womb.

And so, both Mary and Joseph pondered, considered **deeply, thoroughly**, all that God asked of them and they discerned the best way that they might fulfill their 'Yes!' to God in their respective roles as children of the Eternal Father, disciples of the Son, and instruments of the Holy Spirit. They both faced uncertainty with **courageous faith** and moved forward, one day at a time, as they watched their lives and discipleship unfold in the company of the beloved Christ-Child, Jesus. In turn, they trusted in the Eternal Father and Holy Spirit who sent both of them angels with a common message: **Do not be afraid!** (Mt. 1:20; Lk.1:30).

As we enter into the spirit of the Christmas Season, may we, in imitation of Mary and Joseph, live our days with courageous faith. Let us place any perplexities, uncertainties, or fears, at the foot of the Christ-Child, trusting that the Motherhood of Mary, the Guardianship of Joseph, and the LOVE of God watches over us, and those we love and pray for at this time of the year.

On behalf of Martha and Sr. Michaela, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's gracious blessings in the New Year of 2023!

Peace+ Fr. John

Please note: There will be no Bulletin on  
Sunday, January 1, 2023

CHRISTMAS SEASON  
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be  
closed from December 23,  
2022 to January 6, 2023  
inclusive.



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Games Night - Crib and Scrabble 7:00PM  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday- Postponed until further notice.
- K of C Monthly Meeting – Next meeting will be  
Thursday, January 12, 2023
- RCIA - 7:00PM January 12, 2023 at St. Mary's
- K of C Pancake Breakfast –January 15, and every  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the 9 & 11AM Mass

# Mass Intentions

## FOR THE WEEK



Mass intentions may be requested for various reasons (eg. a deceased loved one, someone who is ill, a birthday or anniversary, etc.) A Mass offering may be given for the intention but is not required. If you have a Mass intention, please call the parish office by Wednesday of each week so that the intention can be published in the bulletin.

Sat	Dec 24	6PM	RIP of Joao & Ermelinda Sousa
		9PM	RIP of Antonio Figueiredo and the Intentions of Maria Figueiredo & her family
Sun	Dec 25	10AM	For the People of IC
Mon	Dec 26	9AM	RIP of Valerie Giles
Tues	Dec 27	9AM	RIP of Wanda Maria Chrobot
Wed	Dec 28	9AM	For the intentions of the VanHage Family
Thu	Dec 29	9AM	For the intentions of Murray Olson
Fri	Dec 30	9AM	Intentions of Sr. Maria Paz
Sun	Jan 1	9AM	RIP of Eldine Rolufs
		11AM	For a Special Intention
		7PM	For the People of IC
Mon	Jan 2	9AM	RIP of Larry Olson
Tues	Jan 3	9AM	RIP of Marta Meyer
Wed	Jan 4	9AM	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu	Jan 5	9AM	
Fri	Jan 6	9AM	RIP of Laurinda de Jesus

## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 56TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has released a message and reflection for 1 January 2023, the 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace. In it, he reflects on the difficulties that have faced the world over the last 3 years, but also on what those difficulties have taught us and how “no one can be saved alone.” The message from Pope Francis can be found on the Vatican website here:



<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

**IC=**  
**Immaculate Conception**  
**Incredible Community**

## 2023 DONATION ENVELOPES

**Envelopes for the 2023 year are available in the foyer for those who use envelopes.**

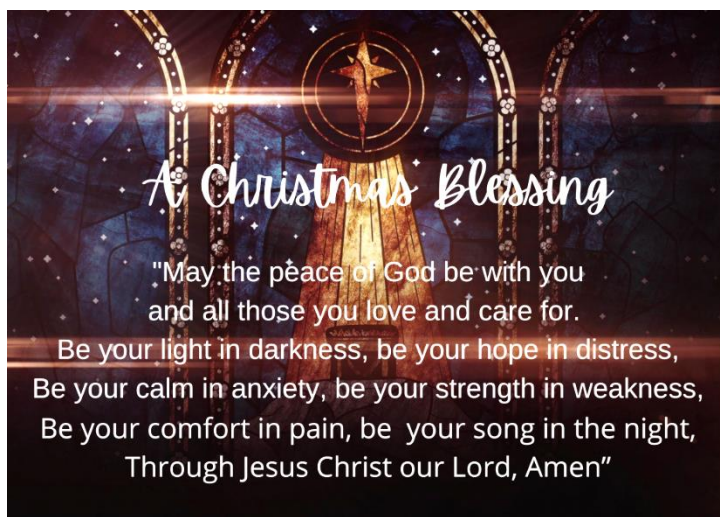
Because some parishioners have moved or some are now donating by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) and Preauthorized Debits (PAD), the number of envelope boxes required has decreased. If you had an envelope number higher than 160, you have a new number assigned to you. **Please be sure to indicate your name and contact information on the first few envelopes used to donate in 2023** to ensure that the receipt issued to the correct person. Please check your name and address on the label.

Please call or email the parish office if you do not currently have envelopes and would like to use them, or for the Special Collection envelope packages for those who are considering EFT and PAD.

For the current users of EFT and PAD there are Special Collection envelopes in the foyer.

If you would like to donate by PAD you will find the application [here](#).

Or if you would like to donate by EFT, we are registered through [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) for a direct deposit. [Click here for instructions on how to e-transfer.](#)



[Link for the  
Diocesan Wednesday Weekly  
for December 21, 2022](#)





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100 Tabor Blvd in **Tabor Plaza**  
Monday to Friday 8:30AM to 6:00PM  
Saturday 10:00AM to 4:00PM  
Closed Sunday  
(250) 562 3784



**Vincent Budac, O.D.**  
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