

# 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)

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time—September 24, 2023**



### 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<br>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  
ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev. John Garden  
Rev. Matthew Bellerive

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. Martha Primus

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

PRINCIPAL -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Barth

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

### PASTORAL MINISTRIES CONTACTS

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: Jennifer Wilczek

HOME VISITS: Contact Parish Office

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Daniel Burri

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: TBA

HOSPITALITY/COFFEE SUNDAY: Daniel Burri

CHURCH

ENVIRONMENT: Phyllis Sarrazin

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Fern Cote

SOCIAL ACTION &

GRAND KNIGHT:

SOUP KITCHEN: Sr. Michaela

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

VOCATIONS: Fr. Terry Brock

**Are you envious because I am generous?**

Matthew 20.1-16



|      |        |      |   |
|------|--------|------|---|
| Sun  | Sep 24 | 9AM  | For the intentions of Bob Westle on his BD                          |
|      |        | 11AM | For the People of IC  |
|      |        | 7PM  | RIP of Lydia Roja & Nicholas Tan                                    |
| Mon  | Sep 25 | 9AM  | For the intentions of Andrea Honeyman Rebillard and family          |
| Tues | Sep 26 | 9AM  | For the intentions of Archbishop Pettipas as he undergoes treatment |
| Wed  | Sep 27 | 9AM  | RIP of Gerry Gillis   |
| Thu  | Sep 28 | 9AM  | For a Special intention   |
| Fri  | Sep 29 | 9AM  | For a Special intention   |

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.

### CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN

Children who are not registered in a Catholic School and wish to receive the sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation, are asked to email the parish office at [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

### HOSPITALIZATION AND VISITING THE SICK

Just a reminder to our parishioners, if you or one of your loved ones are hospitalized, and/or you would like a visit from either Fr. John or Fr. Matthew or a minister who visits the sick, please call or email the parish office to let us know. Also, when being admitted to the hospital let the registration clerk know that you wish to be visited, as the Privacy Act limits the information that hospitals can release, and we have no other way of knowing you are in hospital.

There are also wallet-sized cards available in the foyer to request a priest in case of an emergency.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Giving Tree Committee would like to thank all parishioners who supported us in the sponsorship of a blanket or who made a donation. Your continued support is appreciated. We are still accepting donations. If you would like to donate or have any questions, please contact Sr. Michaela.

### WHAT IS A SYNOD

Please see attached information with links and updates on the current 2021-2024 Synod.



### PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

Are you new to our parish? If so, **welcome!** Registration forms are in the foyer OR check out our webpage at [www.icparish.ca](http://www.icparish.ca) for a fillable form. Please submit via email [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) or drop off at the parish office.

Has your contact information changed? Please contact the parish office at 250 964 4898 or send an email with your changes.

### 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 Faiths, and Baptised Adults from the Roman Catholic Faith who have not received First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. If you are interested in RCIA please contact Martha 250-964-4898 or email the parish office at [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

**We will begin our first session on Thursday, September 28 at 7:00PM to 8:30PM in the Meeting Room at IC.** This will be a collaborative program with St. Mary's Parish.



• **SVDP Thanksgiving Food Drive --next 2 Sundays September 24 & October 1, 2023-- bags are in the foyer.**

• **K of C Monthly Meeting** – Next meeting will be **Thursday, October 12, 2023** –every 2nd Thursday of the month @ 7:00PM

• **K of C Pancake Breakfast** –October 15 after the 9AM and 11AM Mass

• **Commissioning of IC School Teachers** September 24 @ 11AM Mass

• **Ministry Workshop for NEW Liturgical Ministers** September 27, 2023 @ 7PM

• **RCIA Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7PM in the Church Meeting Room**

• **Review of Liturgical Ministries for current ministers**--October 4, 2023 @ 7PM

• **Monthly Adoration at Domano Chapel** – Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

## BLESSING OF PETS



The blessing of animals is a Catholic custom that is centuries old, and one that is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. St. Francis was known for his love of animals and for all of God's creation. He even wrote a lyrical poem titled, *Canticle of the Creatures*.

an ode to God's living creatures and all of creation. The blessing of animals, therefore, is often, by custom, held on or near October 4<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessing of animals celebrates the companionship and service of pets and livestock, the beauty of God's creation, and our gratitude and concern for all of God's divine handiwork.

In keeping with this centuries-old tradition, we will have a blessing of pets on **Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.** Pet owners are invited to bring their pets to this ritual blessing. Please form a circle or oval in the lower school field (section inside the fenced area closest to Cathedral Avenue) when you arrive.

For safety and organizational reasons, pets must be on a leash or in a carrying device. Should your pet need to use the field for 'washrooming' purposes, please ensure that you remove any 'deposits' from the field as children use it for play and sports activities. 😊

## CALLED TOGETHER, GIVING, SHARING, SERVING



On this Commitment Weekend for ***Called Together***, and our **BC Bishops' appeal in support of Healing and Reconciliation**, we want to gratefully acknowledge the gifts already made and to encourage all those who

have not yet made a commitment to support these very important works of charity.

***Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving*** is more than just another collection. Christian stewards recognize God as the source of all of our many gifts. We are grateful for these abundant gifts and are eager to give back in appreciation to demonstrate our love for Christ and for one another and to assist those who need our support. Many people in our smaller parishes, missions and ministries rely on funding from Called Together to help support the work they do. All of us share as Christ's disciples in the mission of the Church. Many thanks to all who completed a pledge form and have moved us closer to our goal as a parish family.

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| OUR PARISH GOAL:                       | \$ 25,623         |
| OUR PROJECT GOAL:                      | \$ 7,500          |
| <b>TOTAL PARISH GOAL</b>               | <b>\$ 33,123</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE:</b> | <b>\$2,480.00</b> |

## PARISH MINISTRIES FORMATION & TRAINING

The opportunity for training and formation is on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00PM** for all of those who are new **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) and Lectors**. **Review for existing EMHC and Lectors is on October 4, 2024 at 7:00PM.**

If you missed the sign-up, it's not too late, especially for those who are considering these ministries and want to know more, you are welcome. This is a great opportunity to serve our community. We encourage all, including our young people, to consider this invitation.

If you are interested, please email the parish office at [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) or call 250-964-4898.

## HOW CAN YOU SHARE YOUR 'TREASURE'?

As a follow-up to our Stewardship Sunday presentation here are some of the ways you can share your treasure:

1. **Envelopes:** If you don't have an envelope and would like one, contact the parish office. A reminder to make all cheques payable to RCEC Immaculate Conception Parish or RCEC-IC
2. **Pre-Authorized Debit:** Consider having your offering come directly from your account to ours. This option is available on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. If you are interested, please pick up an application form from the church foyer or access it on our webpage at <https://www.icparish.ca/> and fill in your PAD application.
3. **E-transfer:** This is at your fingertips you can make the offering online. Registered through [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) for a direct deposit.

**A TAX RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED FOR ALL DONATIONS.**

**THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET A TAX BREAK  
AND TO SHARE YOUR TREASURE.**

**THANK YOU for sharing your  
TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE**

**Diocesan Wednesday Weekly**  
**will be September 20, 2023**

**"So the last will be first,  
and the first last."**

**IC=  
Immaculate Conception  
Incredible Community**



## WHAT IS A SYNOD?

“Synod” comes from the Greek words *syn* and *hodosj* (“together” and “path”), meaning to walk together the path of our Lord. Traditionally, this sense of walking together the path of our Lord in a synodal process has been linked with the image of the two disciples walking with the Lord on the road to Emmaus as He opened their minds, hearts, and souls to the meaning of the Divine Word and enlightened them to his very Presence in the Breaking of the Bread.



Synods in the Catholic Church have generally featured an assembly of bishops who come together to assist the Holy Father in addressing the issues, concerns, and needs of the Church of a particular time. Such gatherings of bishops with the Holy Father can be traced back to the early centuries of the Church. With his 1965 *motu proprio* (*edict*) titled, *Apostolica Sollicitudo*, St. Pope Paul VI emphasized the importance of the synodal process by establishing the formal practice of such gatherings under the term, *Synod of Bishops*.

While synods have typically focused on the gathering of bishops with the Holy Father for matters of discernment (as described above), Pope Francis has inaugurated the present Synod of Bishops with an instruction that *the entire People of God* (bishops, lay men and women, religious, and priests) participate in the process of discernment; a discernment which is to involve a listening to the Word of God in scripture, an attentiveness to the wisdom of the lived Tradition of the Church, and a listening to one another, especially those at the margins, that we might together, as Church, discern the signs of the times.

The *Vademecum* for the Synod (September 7, 2021) says this about the Synod:

“[...] the whole Synodal Process aims at fostering a lived experience of discernment, participation, and co-responsibility, where a diversity of gifts is brought together for the Church’s mission in the world.

In this sense, it is clear that the purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission (*PD*, 32). Thus the objective of this Synodal Process is not only a series of exercises that start and stop, but rather a journey of growing authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls the Church to live out in the third millennium.

This journey together will call on us to renew our mentalities and our ecclesial structures in order to live out God’s call for the Church amid the present signs of the times. Listening to the entire People of God will help the Church to make pastoral decisions that correspond as closely as possible to God’s will (*ITC, Syn.*, 68) The ultimate perspective to orient this synodal path of the Church is to serve the dialogue of God with humanity (*DV*, 2) and to journey together the kingdom of God (cf. *LG*, 9; *RM*, 20). In the end, this Synodal Process seeks to move towards a Church that is more fruitfully at the service of the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

Let us, the People of God, ask for the paternal protection of our Eternal Father, the love and teaching of the Divine Son, and the wisdom of their Spirit over the Synod in Rome that it may inspire and inform us about the ways that we are called to journey forward as Church.

Links to documents about the Synod:

- [For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/doc/2021/09/07-vademecum-synod-synodality_en.html)
- [North-American-Final-Document-English.pdf \(cccb.ca\)](https://www.cccb.ca/ressources/documents/synod-on-synodality-2022-08-31.pdf)
- [Synod-on-Synodality-EN-2022-08-31.pdf \(cccb.ca\)](https://www.cccb.ca/ressources/documents/synod-on-synodality-2022-08-31.pdf)





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**IDLPROJECTS**

Head Office:  
1088 Great Street  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 2K8

T. 250.649.0561

F. 250.649.0581

[www.idlprojects.com](http://www.idlprojects.com)



**William Hellyer, B. Comm., CFP, CIM**  
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T: 250 614 2908 • 1 866 230 3188 • F: 250 561 1735 • E: [william.hellyer@td.com](mailto:william.hellyer@td.com)