

December 21, 2025 ❖ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Wednesday, DEC 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm

* Child Friendly Christmas Mass *

7:00pm & 12:00 Midnight
(Christmas Carols at 11:45pm)

Thursday, DEC 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am , 11:00am
4:00pm

DEC 26, 27, 29, 30 - Morning Mass at 9:00am

Sunday, DEC 27/28 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

5:00pm (Sat), 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm (Sun)

Wednesday, DEC 31 New Year's Eve - 9:00am & 5:00pm

2026

Thursday, JAN 1, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, Mother of God 9:00am & 11:00am

JAN 2 & 3 - Morning Mass at 9:00am

JAN 3/4 - Regular Sunday Mass Times (Regular Morning Mass Schedule Resumes Jan 5)

Recruiting Children's Christmas Choir

Come Sing With Us at the 4pm Christmas Family Mass on Dec 24. If your child is interested, please email Claudia at prep.olph@gmail.com by Dec 21. Thank You!

WITH DEEP JOY & GRATITUDE... We extend our warmest wishes to everyone in our parish community for a joyful Christmas filled with God's peace and joy!

~ Frs. Leo, Alfredo, Mark & Parish Staff

❖ **2025 Donation Tax Receipts Cutoff:** To ensure you receive a 2025 Donation Receipt, please be reminded to **make your donations by Dec 28 (in Person/at Mass) or by Dec 31 (Online)**. Please note: Donations dropped off at the Parish office AFTER DEC 28 will NOT be eligible for a 2025 Charitable Tax Receipt. This includes ALL donations to the parish, Project Advance, Second Collections, etc. Thank you for your support!

❖ **Sunday Coffee Volunteer Sign-Up for January 2026** ~ Please click the link below to sign up if you are able to help. Again, our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who make Sunday Coffee a cherished community event. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CAEA728A7FC1-48231572-sunday#/>

PROJECT ADVANCE 2025

We are still accepting 2025 Project Advance Donations which can be made online at projectadvance.ca, in person/at Mass or by phone.

To ensure you receive a 2025 Donation Receipt, please be reminded to make your donations by Sunday, Dec 28 (in person/at Mass/phone) or by Wednesday, Dec 31 (online).

**DONATE
TODAY**





Pastor's Letter ~ Widening Our View



I just sat at my desk, back from the School Christmas pageant. Earlier this morning I saw a dress rehearsal of Junior Kindergarteners, in all their Christmas glory. Nothing like the pure innocence of eager children, to lift your heart and soul in the middle of an atmospheric river.

Kudos to the Administration and staff of our Parish school and the Junior Kindergarten program. You have given endless hours of dedicated service throughout the school year. In 2027 we will celebrate 100 years of a rich legacy of academics, faith and spirit, woven together in a rich tapestry here in West Point Grey.

Looking back over the Fall season I am so grateful for all the ongoing adult faith efforts like Alpha, RCIA, the Adult Faith Sessions and our Advent Retreat. Together we are deepening our faith understanding and widening our view. A huge shout out to all volunteers who have worked so hard in all of this to fruition. Sacramental preparation is an often-hidden treasure of the Parish - this dynamic team meet on Tuesday evenings forming young minds and hearts.

We have scores of willing volunteers to bring to the Lord in our thoughts and prayers: a huge group of Altar Servers, regular ushers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, a persevering sacristan with years of experience, Altar Guild members and collection counters. Carrying the mission of the church into the community we acknowledge our Pastoral care workers who seek to be face of Christ to the home bound and sick.

We have a strong Marian devotion here at the Parish and we acknowledge those who gather regularly for rosary and devotion. Come and join a faithful persevering group every Thursday morning after mass and OLPH Devotion. We may be a small parish; however, we are blessed with a mighty strong spirit. We salute all the efforts of our Music Ministry throughout the year. Acknowledgement must be expressed regarding our Advent Concert. As I said at the end of the performance - WOW! Music is such a vital part of good liturgical celebration, thank you for all the practices, music selections, and instruments.

We continue to raise consciousness about the needs of so many who have less. Thank you to young people making sandwiches, your Christmas cookies and socks, volunteers making meals, and those delivering non-perishables every Sunday evening. Through the generosity of our Parishioners, we can financially support: Sancta Maria House, Luke 15 House, Living Waters Foundation, Talitha Koum, and others. We continue to support Development and Peace. Thinking globally and Acting Locally!

In widening our view, you have actively supported: Project Advance, St Mark's Breakfast & the Archbishop's Dinner. Connecting with core realities beyond our parish boundaries. Underpinning all these significant efforts, you need to know what great office staff we truly have. Going beyond is their rallying cry. Countless hours are spent in Committee meetings – Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Education Council, Parish Finance Council. All woven together like a seamless garment serving you - our Parish Family. Thank you for all the minutes and motions. We are overjoyed with such great annual events as Harvest Fair, Walkathon, and the CWL Craft Fair. Loads of commitment from so many!

LOOKING AHEAD

In JAN and FEB, our Adult Faith Committee have chosen an Ascension Press program called “**A Biblical Walk Through the Mass**”. The celebration of the Eucharist is the core of all Parish and School life for our Catholic community. I invite you to **save the dates Jan 12, Jan 21, Jan 26 , Feb 2 & Feb 11**. These sessions will be approximately one hour – a half hour video couple with discussion time - 7pm each evening in the Parish Hall. A word of welcome to school families preparing their children for receiving sacraments.

The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. In his video-based study A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words, gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. This tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

Back home on the Far East coast of this mighty country, they might say Steady the Course - allow me to repeat the words -Steady the Course OLPH. In the middle of an atmospheric river, we are heading in the right direction! As Christmas fast approaches, every blessing and grace for safe travels, sturdy umbrellas, happy families, eager children, full plates, and grateful hearts.

~ Peace fellow pilgrims Fr Leo for the Redemptorist Trinity of Mark, Alfredo, and Leo.

Less gifts, more memories, less busyness, more peace. Less stress, more joy, less chaos, more calm.

Less excess, more gratitude . Amen