



## ADVENT: A Gift of Hope

God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes and peacefulness. God of Hope, come! Enter in my memory and remind me often of the yearning of the people of history. Stir up stories of how the ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope from tiny glimmers about you, passed on from age to age. Help me to heed the loud, crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn!

**God of Hope, come!** Enter into this heart of mine which often loses itself in self, missing the message of your encouragement because I am so entangled in the web of my own whirl of life. Enable me to not lose sight of the poor in our presence or the truth of your consolation.

**God of Hope, come!** Enter into the lives of those I hold dear, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. Come and gift them with a deep belief in you and your never-ending faithfulness and companionship.

**God of Hope, come!** Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimpse of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the aches of the human journey.

**God of Hope, come!** Enter into this Advent season with a grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within. Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring. God of Hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make of our lives a home, where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope.

Joyce Rupp



## ST. MONICA PARISH

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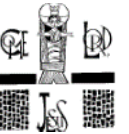
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December 2, 2018  
1st Sunday of Advent

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Advent begins with a call to persevere and stay alert as we prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who will come in glory to judge all.



### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah reassures the Israelites of better days to come during their upheaval and chaos when a descent of David will rule them with integrity and honesty. Looking forward to the return of Christ in glory, St. Paul reminds us to strive for holiness now. In the gospel, Jesus reminds to put our confidence in him no matter what befalls us in this life.

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### Today's Readings:

1st: Jeremiah 33.14-16

Psalm: 25

2nd: 1 Thessalonians 3.12-4.2

Gospel: Luke 21.25-28, 34-36

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

### MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: 9:00 am

SATURDAYS: 9:30 am & 5:00 pm

SUNDAYS: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: 4:30 pm – 4:55 pm

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

### NOVENA TO

### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: 7:00 pm

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA & BENEDICTION

### BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6 pm

### BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

### HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

## PARISH UPDATES

**Advent Penitential Service** – Thursday, December 6, 7pm. At least two priests will be available for confessions. Please make this Sacrament a priority in preparing for the birth of Our Saviour.

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**Organist/Pianist and Musicians** – Our parish needs your musical talents for the Saturday 5pm Mass. Please contact the Parish Office or see one of the Choir members. Thank you in advance.

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**CWL Christmas Bake Sale** – Your support for their efforts on December 9, after the 9am and 11am Mass, in support of the St. Vincent De Paul Society is much appreciated. God bless you.

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The Wednesday Zumba Gold Class is picking up. Class is from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. For those who attend the Novena please join us from 8:00 pm. Pay half of the \$5.00/per person. This is a Fund Raising activity.

**Prayer to St. Michael**— St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT** – “Generations,” a miniature of *the Holy Family, St. Ann and St Joachim* is available for your keeping or a gift to a beloved and family in time for Christmas. The cost is \$70.00 including taxes and shipping. A display sample is on the PA table. You may place your order there too. Thank you!

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**PROJECT ADVANCE 2018** – “Support the Faith - Continue the Legacy.” We have met our Archdiocesan commitment of \$25,000. The rebates will help to recover expenses for the new sound system in the hall and the repairs of the church roof. Our parish total goal is \$75,000. Thank you for your generous response.

You may also make your pledge online at [www.projectadvance.ca](http://www.projectadvance.ca) anytime.

### **Immanuel Prayer Service & Devotions to the Mother of God**

Prayer service (with Scripture) to Immanuel the Messiah the Byzantine Tradition, in preparation for the Nativity of Christ (Christmas) with short devotions to the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord...during St. Philip's fast, we spend 40 days preparing for the "Winter Paschal" – the Great Holy Days of Theophany, Nativity, Circumcision, St. Basil etc. Join us for these special prayer services and discover God preparing us and the world for salvation. Each Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. (until Dec. 19) at Eastern Catholic Church, 8700 Railway Avenue, Richmond.

### **Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events**

Join us for a day of recollection with Fr. Nick Meisl and Fr. Lucio Choi – *Hearing the Voice of God in the Eucharist* on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver. Event open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at [vocations@rcav.org](mailto:vocations@rcav.org) or call 604-443-3254.

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### **Fiat: Women's Discernment Events – Day of Recollection**

Join us for an advent evening of recollection – *Fiat of Women in the Old Testament* on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. at the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist Convent, 2811 Venables Street, Vancouver. Fiat, the women's vocation discernment group for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is getting ready for another year of events. Events are open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning and responding to God's call in their life. Sign up now to receive emails of events throughout the year. Email [womensvocations@rcav.org](mailto:womensvocations@rcav.org) for more information. <https://rcav.org/event/fiat-day-of-recollection-2>

### **Stewardship Reflection**

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today's Gospel, “so that your hearts are not weighed down.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

See Luke 21:34

### **Mass Intentions**

#### **Dec 2 - 8, 2018**

Mon, Dec 3—	Arthur Man (TG)
Tue, Dec 4—	Mareena Joseph (TG)
Wed, Dec 5 —	9am, Virginia Pillas (RIP) 7pm, Fay D'Silva (RIP)
Thu, Dec 6—	Racquel Gonzalo (RIP)
Fri, Dec 7—	Alma & Aida (TG)
Sat, Dec 8—	9:30am, T L (INT) 5pm, Alfredo Baluya Pates (INT)