



December 4, 2022 | Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

**GROW:** Harmony. It can seem so elusive in these times when our newsfeeds bombard us with reminders of what’s wrong with our world: War, political conflicts, hunger, injustice, violence. We may also experience discord in our homes or within our hearts. Perhaps that is why the beautiful imagery in Isaiah’s prophecy, where Isaiah envisions a world transformed by the coming of the Messiah, strikes a chord as we prepare for Christ’s coming: We picture the wolf lying beside the lamb, and the calf with the lion. All will be right with the world. As we reflect on the areas in our lives that lack harmony, we are reminded to focus on Jesus and the Father, the source of all good. Through prayer and reflection on our Advent readings, we can “**prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.**”

**GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

**GO:** I have a “smart” alarm clock. To shut it off, I just have to say, “Alexa, turn off my alarm.” Easy, right? Well, too easy, it turns out, because lately I’ve slept right through the one-sided conversation. But it’s hard to miss John’s wake-up call: “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!**” Perhaps, though, we’ve become complacent; we’ve heard it so often that we skip right past it. That can happen during Advent, this season of preparation and, yes, repentance. I love our family traditions – candy every day, in the morning!; our well-worn Nativity set; lighting the Advent candles; Christmas concerts and gatherings. None of those are bad, of course, but in the blur of the season we must be challenged by John the Baptist’s words to prepare not only our homes but our hearts for Christ’s coming. During this season, we can examine our lives to separate the wheat from the chaff, focusing on those things that bring us closer to the Lord and one another. As St. Paul encourages the Romans, “**Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.**”

**PRAY:** St. Paul’s words above give us pretty clear instruction for how to live out our faith by welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. Reflect on these words during daily Advent reflection this week: When have we welcomed others in our lives – and truly loved them? How can we do that for someone in the coming days?

*The Call to be Loving : What would you need to make your whole life an act of love? Ask for this as a Christmas Gift. –John Pungente, SJ & Monty Williams, SJ*



## ST. MONICA PARISH

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334

Website: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) Email: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**  
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday – Friday  
**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

“  
THE  
*Kingdom  
of God*  
HAS COME NEAR  
”

**MASS SCHEDULES**  
WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**  
SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**  
SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**CONFESSION SCHEDULES**  
SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm—4:55 pm**  
10 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL,  
HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**  
Please call the Parish Office

December 4, 2022  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**

\*\*\*

### Liturgy of the Word

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*

Isaiah foretells the advent of the Messiah: Upon him will rest the Spirit’s gifts, and with him will come knowledge of the Lord. Saint Paul challenges the community to live in harmony with one another and to *glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist preaches a message of repentance.

\*\*\*

### Today’s Readings:

*1st: Isaiah 11.1-10*

*Psalm: 72*

*2nd: Romans 15.4-9*

*Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12*



---

### Project Advance - Gather Us, Lord

We mailed out the last pledge cards this week. Thank you for your gifts to this year's appeal. Our parish needs the participation and support of registered households and individuals. December 31 is the final date for your donation to qualify for 2022 tax-receipts. God bless your generosity!

#### PROJECT ADVANCE as of 28 November 2022

Parish Goal: \$75,000.00 | Donations: \$50,605.00 (67%)

Participation: 112 of 374 families (30%)

### Advent Retreat/Mission

Kudos – Thank you for your participation and prayerful support for our Parish Mission!

### New Sunday Missal

We have a limited copies of the Living with Christ's Sunday Missal for your purchase, \$5.00 a copy. Please get it in the foyer. Thank you for your patience.

### Advent Confessions

Our parish Advent confession is on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30pm. There will be 3 priests here. Please make this Christmas preparation a priority in your spiritual life. Mark your calendar!

### Diaconal Ordination of Patrick Le and Medard Kamanzi

Patrick Le and Medard Kamanzi will be ordained as deacons on Dec. 9 at Holy Rosary Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. Please pray for Patrick and Medard as they prepare for their ordination.

### Our Refugees Family

Your prayers are needed especially this week for the interview success of the Khumpis family on Dec. 2 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their names are **Mathias, Veronica, Nicholas, and Elizabeth**. May the Lord give them courage and wisdom!

### Carols at St. Monica's 2022 - Saturday, December 24th, 10pm

Join us just the hour before the Christmas Mass During the Night for an evening of choral Carols celebrating the birth of Jesus. This year, the St. Monica Parish Sunday 11am Choir led Michael Goco and guests will sing Carols hailing from England, Germany, and France and will feature traditional and contemporary renditions. **Come and start the Christmas season full of music!**

### Pro-Life Prayer Service

Join a pro-life prayer service for abortion victims on the feast of Holy Innocents in the Byzantine tradition on Dec 28 at 7:00 p.m. Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

---

### A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel reading John the Baptist warns his listeners: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" The Church's yearly Advent herald is a call to repentance. The season of Advent urges us to be open to a conversion of heart. Christian stewards heed this call daily and take the need for conversion in their lives seriously. As a family of faith, do we hear this call to conversion amidst the massive holiday spending? The increase in credit card debt? The urge to buy things that are not necessary? Are there patterns in our own lives that need to be converted?

### Advent Retreat: Angels We Have Heard on High

A prayerful invitation to the Advent season. This scripture-based morning retreat invites us to enter this season's mystery. Retreat Director Catherine M. Kelly, M.Div. will offer inspiring inputs on the role of and perspectives of the angels (messengers of God) in Jesus' birth narratives and our lives. All are welcome. The online retreat will be held on Dec. 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Learn more and register at [https://www2.rcav.org/e/897551/e-advent-retreat/3jgxc7/1234967772?h=xfZPZlxjqRA3q8BQYE2PI9-eL9xAnRQmOdN4CPPp\\_5c](https://www2.rcav.org/e/897551/e-advent-retreat/3jgxc7/1234967772?h=xfZPZlxjqRA3q8BQYE2PI9-eL9xAnRQmOdN4CPPp_5c)

### The Pope's Prayer Intention for December

*For volunteer not-for-profit organizations:* We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

*Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him! -Pope Francis*

#### Mass Intentions | Dec 4 - 10, 2022

Mon, Dec 5 - Feves Moran (+)	Thu, Dec 8 - Marina Lo (INT)
Tue, Dec 6 - Alfredo Family (INT)	Fri, Dec 9 - Alice Leung (+)
Wed, Dec 7 - Pepita Mendoza (INT)	Sat, Dec 10 - Jose Coronel (+)

*We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another. –St Teresa of Calcutta*

---