

## LIST OF PARISH MINISTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND MEETING SCHEDULES

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Jun Lastica

**BEREAVEMENT & LOSS:** Fe Arias

**CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE):** Ameer Inocencio meets every 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**CENACLE PRAYER GROUP:** Elizabeth Tanase meets every Thursday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**CHOIR:** Vic Festejo at 5:00 pm; Chris Mok at 9:00 am; Michael Goco at 11:00 am

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST:** Erick & Rhona Cadlaon meets every 3rd Saturday, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**DEVELOPMENT & PEACE:** Evelyn Victoria

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:** Teresa Santos

**INTERFAITH ALLIANCE:** Edward Wong

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Addie Comilang [Executive Meetings: 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 am]  
[General Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00 am]

**LECTORS:** Marlytel Decena

**LEGION OF MARY:** Elizabeth Taboada meets every Tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**LEGION OF MARY JUNIOR:** Fe Arias meets every Sunday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**OUTREACH MINISTRY:** Deacon Wilbur Victoria

**P.R.E.P. (PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM):** Teresa Santos classes every Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

**PROJECT ADVANCE:** Ed & Baby San Jose

**RELIGIOUS GOODS:** Linda Zamora

**R.C.I.A. (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS):** Sam & Chic Mallare meets every Thursday, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**SACRISTANS & USHERS:** Marlytel Decena

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST:** Javier San Pedro & Naomi Mallare meets every 1st & 3rd Saturday, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**KIDS FOR CHRIST:** 1st Saturday, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC

#### RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Are you, or do you have friends who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Whether you or your friends were baptized in another Christian denomination or have never been baptized and are exploring Christianity for the first time, we will be happy to answer your questions and explore the possibilities. We also have a program for Catholics who are returning to the practice of their faith.

FIND OUT MORE, WITH NO OBLIGATIONS, BY CONTACTING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

**SAM/CHIC MALLARE** [smallare@gmail.com]

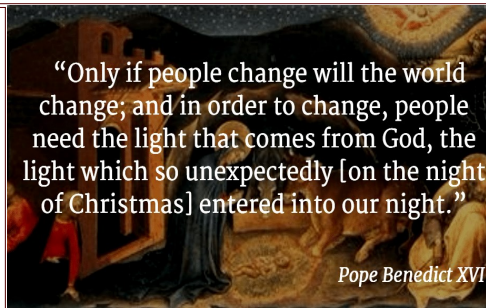
**WILBUR/EVELYN VICTORIA** [wevnet1@gmail.com]

**TEL DECENA** [tel.decena@hotmail.com]

**TERESA SANTOS** [artasantos@hotmail.com]

**YOU CAN ALSO REACH OUT TO**

**ST. MONICA PARISH** At [parish.smon@rcav.org].



"Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night."

Pope Benedict XVI

"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, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

Bl Teresa of Calcutta



## St. Monica Parish

21011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

WEBSITE: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca)

TEL. 604.278.0844

EMAIL: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

FAX. 604.279.0334

**PASTOR:** Rev. Mark Bautista  
**DEACON:** Wilbur Victoria

### MASS SCHEDULES

Weekdays: 9:00 am

Saturdays: 9:00 am & 5:00 pm

Sundays: 9:00 am, 11:00 am / 4:00 pm (YVR)



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm



### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 9:45 am to 10:30 am

[20 minutes before Daily Mass]

**BAPTISM:** Every Saturday at 11:00 am

**WEDDING:** Please call the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance

### FUNERAL, HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL

Please call the Parish Office



### WEDNESDAY

Perpetual Help Novena after the 9:00 am Mass



**FRIDAY:** Holy Hour after the 9:00 am Mass



### FIRST SATURDAY

Rosary for Vocations after the 9:00 am Mass

## PROJECT ADVANCE 2023

Empowering our Parish Vision

Donate online at [projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca)

DECEMBER 17, 2023 - YEAR B

### Today's Readings

ISAIAH 61.1-2A, 10-11

PSALM: LUKE 1

1 THESSALONIANS 5.16-24

JOHN 1.6-8, 19-28



**Reflection...** "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Let us rejoice in the Lord! Such is the invitation of today's liturgy on this Third Sunday of Advent. We should rejoice because Christmas is not just the commemoration of Christ's birth but also, and especially, the reliving of that saving event in our personal and community life.

We should rejoice because Jesus is already in our midst. The purpose of his presence is not to judge us but to show his solidarity with us in our effort to set ourselves free from sin and its disastrous consequences. But there is more: Jesus is also with us to make us instruments and dispensers of his joy for all.

**PARISH GOAL: \$75,000.00**

Donations: \$ 50,465 (67%)

Participation: 94 out of 374 families (25%)



# St. Monica Parish, Richmond

## AGUINALDO MASSES, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

### MASS SCHEDULE 2023-2024

#### DAY 1 - DECEMBER 16 - SATURDAY

##### Couples for Christ

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:45 – 10:30 AM Confession  
 5:00 PM Mass

#### DAY 2 - DECEMBER 17 - SUNDAY

##### Catholic Women's League

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 11:00 AM Mass

#### DAY 3 - DECEMBER 18, MONDAY

##### Knights of Columbus

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass

#### DAY 4 - DECEMBER 19, TUESDAY

##### Legion of Mary

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 6:30 PM Parish Penitential Service

#### DAY 5 - DECEMBER 20, WEDNESDAY

##### PREP & RCIA

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 9:30 AM Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help

#### DAY 6 - DECEMBER 21, THURSDAY

##### Knights of Columbus

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass

#### DAY 7 - DECEMBER 22, FRIDAY

##### Legion of Mary

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 9:30 AM Holy Hour

#### DAY 8 - DECEMBER 23, SATURDAY

##### Catholic Women's League

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:45 – 10:30 AM Confession  
 5:00 PM Mass

#### DAY 9 - DECEMBER 24, SUNDAY

##### Couples for Christ

6:00 AM Aginaldo Mass  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 11:00 AM Mass

#### DECEMBER 24, SUNDAY

6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass  
 9:00 PM Singing of Christmas Carols  
 10 PM Misa de Gallo

#### DECEMBER 25, MONDAY

9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass  
 11:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

#### DECEMBER 26, TUESDAY

9:00 AM Mass

#### DECEMBER 27, WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM Mass  
 9:30 AM Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

#### DECEMBER 28, THURSDAY

9:00 AM Mass

#### DECEMBER 29, FRIDAY

9:00 AM Mass  
 9:30 AM Holy Hour

#### DECEMBER 30, SATURDAY

9:00 AM Mass  
 9:45 – 10:30 AM Confession  
 5:00 PM Mass

#### DECEMBER 31, SUNDAY

9:00 AM Mass  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 5:00 PM New Year's Eve Mass

#### JANUARY 1, MONDAY

11:00 AM New Year's Day Mass

*Have a Holy Christmas &  
 a Blessed New Year!*

***Penitential Service***  
**DECEMBER 19 at 6:30 PM**  
*St. Monica Parish, Richmond*



Jesus says to every believer and to his Church: be open because the Gospel message needs you to witness to it and proclaim it! Church, be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit who pushes you to be missionary, to evangelize!

To celebrate Mary is to celebrate the closeness and tenderness of God who meets His people, who does not leave us alone, who has given us a Mother who cares for us and accompanies us.

Love makes us happy not only in heaven but also here on earth. If we want to be truly happy, then let us learn to transform everything into love, offering to others our work and our time, speaking kindly words and doing good deeds. We can all do it!

We are heading toward Christmas: Are we able to take concrete steps of peace? Let every effort be made to address and remove the causes of conflict, to protect civilians, hospitals, places of worship, to free hostages and guarantee human rights.

To proceed on the journey of life, we need to be stripped of the "more", because to live well does not mean being filled with useless things, but being freed from the superfluous, to dig deeply within ourselves so as to hold on to what is truly important before God.

**STAY UPDATED** on upcoming events in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! Visit [rcav.org](http://rcav.org) and [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events). Check our parish bulletin and other events at St. Monica ([stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca)). Join us for exciting events and activities. Thank you!

#### ARCHBISHOP MILLER'S MESSAGE FOR ADVENT

You are welcome to re-publish Archbishop Miller's Advent Message which can be found at [rcav.org/announcements/17028](http://rcav.org/announcements/17028)



#### *Embracing the Glowing Traditions: Simbang Gabi, A Radiant Celebration*

In the heart of the Philippines, a radiant tradition has woven its way into the fabric of Christmas joy for over 600 years. Simbang Gabi, or the "Night Mass," a fervent novena spanning from December 16 to December 24, is a sacred journey reminiscent of the nine months of Mary's pregnancy.

As the sun sleeps, Filipinos awaken to the enchanting call of church bells at 3:30 in the morning, guided only by the warm glow of parols, the timeless star-shaped lanterns. The spirit of Simbang Gabi paints a vivid picture of devotion and unity, a testament to the enduring faith that has illuminated the darkest hours for centuries.

Originating as a symbolic prayer accompanying Mary through her pregnancy, the Masses gained such popularity that they spilled beyond the church walls. In an era where the majority toiled in the fields or fished under the morning sky, the novena Masses transitioned to a pre-dawn spectacle, an offering of weary souls seeking solace and spiritual nourishment.

The priests, recognizing the fatigue and hunger of their congregation, transformed the tradition further. Simbang Gabi became a celebration not only of faith but also of community, marked by communal meals featuring special rice dishes. Rice, the sustenance of life, replaced monetary offerings, solidifying the bond between the people and their parishes.

In the plaza of the church, under the ethereal light of parols, bands played Christmas melodies, harmonizing with the hearts of the faithful gathered for Mass. The name "Misa de Gallo," or "Mass of the Rooster," echoes the rooster's crow at the time devotees left their homes, marking a symphony of dedication that resonates through time.

Today, Simbang Gabi endures, though transformed by geography and time. In the Philippines, the pre-dawn hours still echo with the sacred notes of Mass, while in the North America, Filipino-Canadian communities have adapted the novena to modern schedules. The tradition remains vibrant, adorned with parols illuminating entrance processions and the joyful melodies of Christmas hymns.

Simbang Gabi beckons us to embrace traditions that transcend time and space. Let the radiant glow of parols light our path as we join hands in prayer and celebration. Whether attending a Mass in your diocese or awakening before dawn to offer a prayerful moment, let us carry forth the spirit of Simbang Gabi, singing beautiful hymns, for in the quiet of the world, God's love resonates. Come, let us go forth singing, for Christmas is here, and the light of faith illuminates our journey.

Source: How Filipinos prepare for Christmas for nine days before dawn ([aletea.org](http://aletea.org))