

Christmas Season 2018-2019

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Gospel: Luke 2:1-16 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Vangelo di Oggi: Luca 2, 1-12 *In quei giorni un decreto di Cesare Augusto ordinò che si facesse il censimento di tutta la terra. Questo primo censimento fu fatto quando Quirinio era governatore della Siria. Tutti andavano a farsi censire, ciascuno nella propria città. Anche Giuseppe, dalla Galilea, dalla città di Nàzaret, salì in Giudea alla città di Davide chiamata Betlemme: egli apparteneva infatti alla casa e alla famiglia di Davide. Doveva farsi censire insieme a Maria, sua sposa, che era incinta. Mentre si trovavano in quel luogo, si compirono per lei i giorni del parto. Diede alla luce il suo figlio primogenito, lo avvolse in fasce e lo pose in una mangiatoia, perché per loro non c'era posto nell'alloggio. C'erano in quella regione alcuni pastori che, pernottando all'aperto, vegliavano tutta la notte facendo la guardia al loro gregge. Un angelo del Signore si presentò a loro e la gloria del Signore li avvolse di luce. Essi furono presi da grande timore, ma l'angelo disse loro: «Non temete: ecco, vi annuncio una grande gioia, che sarà di tutto il popolo: oggi, nella città di Davide, è nato per voi un Salvatore, che è Cristo Signore. Questo per voi il segno: troverete un bambino avvolto in fasce, adagiato in una mangiatoia».*



Today is born a Saviour

Father's Christmas Message God is infinite, invulnerable, and omnipotent. What is more vulnerable, fragile, and helpless than an infant? Is it possible that the Eternal be born in time? Can the Divine Word be a child at the breast, incapable of speech? Can a mere teenage girl be the Mother of God? It was just as hard for the Jewish people and pagans alike to believe it. For their philosophers had taught that God is spirit and the body is a prison. Salvation for them meant liberation from the confines of the physical body. So the idea that a divine Saviour would embrace human flesh just did not make sense. Love sometimes does strange things. It takes great risks and goes to extreme lengths that many would call foolish. On that first Christmas day, God's foolishness was wiser than men, and his weakness was stronger than men. The birth of Jesus took them all by surprise. It takes us by surprise. In this event, we learn the meaning of true peace and happiness. Humility and the Love of God fulfill and liberate us. The gift of our humanity is precious and God stops at nothing to ensure our happiness; Christmas is our birth into the eternal glory.

Fr Ain and I wish you all a blessed Christmas. *Fr Eugenio*

New School Building Update As we work towards building a new school, we are committed to the success of this important project for our students and families. We await a meeting in January with the new City of Vancouver administration with regard to the rezoning and sale of the parish property. We hope to launch the public Capital Campaign in late spring of 2019. There are many opportunities to get involved. If you are interested in helping, please email BuildSFA@school.ca. Thank you all for your prayers and continued support.

2019 Offering Envelopes There are still a few boxes of Offering Envelopes for 2019 that have not yet been picked up yet. Please take your box from the table near the elevator. If you don't have envelopes and would like some, call the Office at 604-255-8855.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Times The Mass times for Christmas and New Year's are listed below. The weekday Masses will follow the regular schedule over the holidays.

Dec 24 5 pm, 9 pm, Midnight
 Dec 25 9 am (Italian), 10:30 am
 Dec 31 8 am (weekday), 5 pm (anticipated)
 Jan 1 9 am (Italian), 10:30 am, 5 pm

Office Closed over the Holidays The SFA parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's. We will re-open on Wednesday, Jan 2 at 9 am.



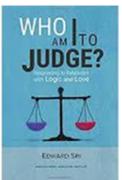
Christmas Giving Tree Thanks Many, many thanks, dear parishioners, for your generosity in purchasing gifts and food for the less fortunate in our community. Together, we were able to help 147 people with our Christmas hampers and change comments from "I just want my daughter to be able to open a present on Christmas day." to "This is great! Thank you!" and "All this food is very helpful. Thanks so much."

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life Join us as we celebrate life on Friday, Dec 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 am and Mass is at 12:10 pm.



Pancake Breakfast The next Pancake Breakfast will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus on January 6 after Sunday morning Masses. The cost is \$5 per person or \$3 for children under 10.

Stephanie Gray is Coming to SFA! International pro-life speaker Stephanie Gray is coming to SFA on Feb 6. She will address some challenging questions such as, "What should a civil and humane response to suffering be?" "How can people of good will respond to euthanasia and assisted suicide? Save the date! February 6 at 7 pm.



Who am I to Judge? Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love Discussing moral issues with family and friends can be a challenge in a culture that strongly promotes the idea that there is no objective truth. Speaking from a wealth of personal experience, renowned author and theologian Dr. Edward Sri provides 5 "keys" to enable Christians to discuss relativism with logic and love. He also clarifies the proper understanding of what it means to judge, and the importance of making good judgments. Come to this new DVD-and-discussion Faith Study on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. It starts January 14 and runs for 8 weeks.

The Catholic Faith - in Plain English Learn the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith in this robust course, suitable for all adult learners including Catholics and non-Catholics. You can attend all sessions or drop in for specific topics as you please; there is no cost or pre-registration required. This course is taught by Fr Vincent Hawkswell (retired pastor and BC Catholic editor) and Maureen Creelman (retired high school math and physics teacher). This popular course now runs every Sunday and Monday until June. For info and the list of topics, visit <https://rcav.org/adult-catechesis-course/>.

Mass Intentions		
Sat Dec 22	5:00 pm	† Pietro Sudiro † Pasquale Faugno
Sun Dec 23 4th Sunday of Advent	9:00 am	† Coltelaro family
	10:30 am	† Caterina Zappavigna
	5:00 pm	† Rosa Basile † All deceased parishioners
Mon Dec 24	8:00 am	† Argento Mascitti
	5:00 pm	† Manuela Santavenere
	9:00 pm	Marea & Stephan Smele
	12:00 am	SFA Parish & School All Parishioners
Tue Dec 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	9:00 am	† Carmela Lepore & Raffaele Campanile
	10:30 am	† Giuseppe & Luigia Franciosi † Sanvido family † Bruno Corra
Wed Dec 26 St Stephen	8:00 am	† Silvia & Ida Bevacqua John Lew
Thu Dec 27 St John	8:00 am 11:00 am	† Antonio & Rosaria Orlando † Zambini family † All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Dec 28 Holy Innocents	8:00 am	† Strong family Marea & Steve Smele
Sat Dec 29	9:00 am 5:00 pm	† Deceased Priests of RCAV All Parishioners
Sun Dec 30 Holy Family	9:00 am	† Angela Morena & family
	10:30 am	† Sebastiani family
	5:00 pm	† Agapito & Gaudencia Labella † Alejandro & Natiuidad Salizon All families in difficulty
Mon Dec 31	8:00 am	† Antonio & Rosaria Orlando
	5:00 pm	Winnie Yip & family Alex McLellan
Tue Jan 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God	9:00 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Blessed Virgin Mary SFA Parish & School † All Souls in Purgatory
Wed Jan 2 Sts Basil the Great/ Gregory Nazianzen	8:00 am	† Michael & Antoniette Mastromonaco
Thu Jan 3	8:00 am	Diarmuid Strong
	11:00 am	† DeFonti & Visintin family
Fri Jan 4	8:00 am	† Fr James Fagan
Sat Jan 5	9:00 am	Leo Strong
	5:00 pm	† Rose Tonon
Sun Jan 6 Epiphany of the Lord	9:00 am	All Parishioners
	10:30 am	† Cristina Tacoe † Maria Pafundi & Teodosio DeNicola
	5:00 pm	† Jenni Driscoll-Holmes

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