



# Guardian Angels Parish

December 20, 2015

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Rev. Rudolf V. D'Souza, OCD**  
Pastor

**Riz Geronimo**  
Parish Secretary/Admin Assistant

**Tel. 604 684-5775;**

**Fax: 604 684-5757**

Address:

**1161 Broughton Street,  
Vancouver, BC V6G 2B3**

Website:

**[www.guardianangelsocd.org](http://www.guardianangelsocd.org)**

e-mail:

**[parish.ga@rcav.org](mailto:parish.ga@rcav.org)**

**Office hours:**

**8:30 am – 4:00 pm on Mon., Tues.,  
Thu., & Friday; CLOSED on Wed.  
& weekends**



**Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken  
to you by the Lord would be fulfilled—Luke 1:45**

### PARISH LITURGICAL AND PRAYER SCHEDULE

#### Liturgical Celebrations

**Saturday** 4:00 pm (Anticipated Mass)  
**Sunday** 9:00 am, 11:00am; 12:30pm

#### **Weekday Mass Times:**

**Monday** 7:00 pm  
**Tuesday – Friday** 8:00 am  
**Saturday** 9:00 am

#### **Sacraments:**

**Confessions**— Saturdays between 3:00—3:45 pm or by appointment.

**Baptism / Marriage / Anointing of the Sick or Home Communion / Funeral** - Please contact the Parish office.

#### Devotions / Prayers

##### **Morning Prayers / Breviary:**

Tuesday-Friday 7:40 am  
Saturday & Sunday 8:30 am

##### **Mother of Perpetual Help:**

Wednesdays 7:00 pm

##### **Infant Jesus of Prague:**

Mondays 6:30 pm

##### **Divine Mercy Chaplet:**

Sundays 1:30 pm

**First Fridays** - Holy Hour at 6:00 pm (except during Lent)

**Stations of the Cross (during Lent)** - every Friday at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm.

## Pastor's Corner - Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Expectation**—A married lady was expecting a birthday gift from her husband. For many months she had admired a beautiful diamond ring in a showroom, and knowing her husband could afford it, she told him that was all she wanted. As her birthday approached, this lady awaited signs that her husband had purchased the diamond ring. Finally, on the morning of her birthday, her husband called her into his study room. Her husband told her how proud he was to have such a good wife, and told her how much he loved her. He handed her a beautiful wrapped gift box. Curious, the wife opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the wife's name embossed in gold. Angrily, she raised her voice to her husband and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" She stormed out of the house, leaving her husband. Many years passed and the lady was very successful in business. She managed to settle for a more beautiful house and a wonderful family, but realized her ex-husband was very old, and thought perhaps she should go to visit him. She had not seen him for many years. But before she could make arrangements, she received a telegram telling her that her ex-husband had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to her. She needed to come back immediately and take care of things. When she arrived at her ex-husband's house, sudden sadness and regret filled her heart. She began to search through her ex-husband's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as she had left it years before. With tears, she opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. Her ex-husband had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father, who is in heaven, give to those who ask Him?" As she read those words, a tiny package dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a diamond ring, with her name engraved on it – the same diamond ring which she saw at the showroom. On the tag was the date of her birth, and the words...'*LOVE U ALWAYS*'.

**Do we miss God's Blessings and Gifts?**—How many times do we miss God's blessings, because they are not packaged as we expected? Trust HIM always. HE knows what is good for you and may even ignore what you thought was good for you. Do not spoil what you have, by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for. If your gift is not packaged the way you want it, it's because it is better packaged the way it is! Always appreciate little things; they usually lead you to bigger things! "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." How do you express your joy? Do you clap your hands, laugh loudly, scream out, react to someone nearby with a face or gesture? In our Gospel today the infant John "leaped for joy." To someone with a body image that is not good – such as I have had throughout my life – jumping for joy is NOT the way I would describe my reaction to happiness. To me, it seems a person who would jump for joy is a physical person, someone comfortable with his or her own body. But this was in a womb. John, in his mother's womb expressed both an emotional and physical reaction, according to Luke.

**Unique Saviour**—On this final Sunday of Advent, God through the prophet Micah promises a unique Savior, born in David's town of Bethlehem; a Savior who will stand and feed his flock and establish peace. The prophet speaks of God bestowing on Bethlehem the distinction of being the birthplace of an ideal ruler of Israel. The one who will come from this town will be "the one who is to be ruler in Israel" and "whose origin is from of old; from ancient times." In other words, this was preordained by God. However, only God knows when this ruler will come. Until such time as the Messiah arrives to deliver Israel from its oppressors, the Jewish people will continue to be subject to other nations. When he does come he will be the true shepherd of Israel and the servant of God. He will guide people by the standards of heaven rather than by the misguided notions of the bad shepherds before him. Very significantly, "he shall be peace" and deliver God's people. His peace shall bring about total harmony among the nations and the ends of the earth will hear of his wisdom. We therefore anticipate the fulfillment of that prophecy in Christ, who comes among us as it were secretly and unnoticed, in the womb of Mary.

**Mary's Magnifying Visit**—St. Luke's account of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth underlines that mystery of Christ in our midst. In the Gospel passage, Luke very skillfully sets the stage for the coming of the Messiah. The meeting of the two expectant mothers is also the meeting of their sons. John leaps with joy in the womb of Elizabeth, and thus acknowledges the presence of the one prophesied. Before the mystery of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and praises Mary for her faith and trust in God. Both Mary and Elizabeth already anticipate the joy of God's presence and salvation unfolding before them. This beautiful meeting leads us into the very centre of Advent, namely the prayerful anticipation of the mystery already among us. As we approach Christmas, we are called to imitate Elizabeth who recognized and rejoiced in the humble presence of Christ our Saviour. Like Mary in her obedience of faith, we are called to believe that the promise made to us by the Lord will indeed be fulfilled in the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives. We are constantly challenged in our faith to take Christ to others as Mary did, so that Christ who is secretly present in us may touch the lives of others. So what message do we take home this Sunday? 1) Like Mary in her obedience of faith, we are challenged to believe that the promise made to us by the Lord will indeed be fulfilled in the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives. 2) Like Mary, we are called personally and as parish community to go out to share the Good News of salvation with others; 3) As we approach Christmas, we are called to imitate Elizabeth who recognized and rejoiced in the humble presence of Christ our Saviour.

**Practical Conclusion**—As the daylight became shorter in the last few months we were more and more in darkness, but starting today on this last Sunday of Advent, the daylight gets longer each day. How appropriate! Where is the darkness within us that needs light? Do we find ourselves jealous of others, do we have strong moments of anger or impatience? Are we blind to the feelings of others? We work in Advent to bring light to those places inside us so that we can let the Incarnation take place in us on Christmas Day. We need to be like Elizabeth and Mary and say 'yes' to his coming. We need to wait – the birth of a child takes a set amount of time, the people of Israel waited for a savior for a period of time. For the men here today, we need to imitate the courage of women in preparing ourselves for this child – how demanding a child can be on one's ego, one's privacy, and one's plans for the future. It is even painful at times. Hopefully, if we have waited and prepared ourselves well, if we have let the light in, something inside us will also leap for joy this Christmas, and we can celebrate the coming of our Savior with the same innocence and joy that Luke describes in his Good News today. And so, this is the Good News I also bring you today – Christ is coming. Let us ready ourselves through the Spirit to receive him. God bless you.

*Fr. Rudy, OCD*

O Come, Emmanuel,  
God's presence among us,  
our King, our Judge: save  
us, Lord our God!  
—O Antiphons

Scripture of the Day

**Monday:** December 21

Zephaniah 3.14-18a;  
Psalm 33; Luke 1.39-45

**Tuesday:** December 22

1 Samuel 1.24-28; 1 Samuel 2  
Luke 1.46-56

**Wednesday:** December 23

Malachi 3.1-4; 4.5-6;  
Psalm 25; Luke 1.57-66

**Thursday:** December 24

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-12, 16;  
Psalm 89; Luke 1.67-79

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Please refer to Sunday Missal

**Saturday:** December 26

Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59; Psalm 131  
Matthew 10.17-22

**Mass Offerings**

**Dec. 21– 27, 2015**

Monday 7:00 pm-

**Spl Int of Liberty T Mendoza**

By: J Mendoza

Tuesday 8:00 am-

**+ Maria Paz Vanderburgh +**

By: C Cuyugan

Wednesday 8:00 am-

**+ Cecilia Noronha +**

By: Family

Thursday 8:00 am -

**+ Tony & Luz Cuyugan +**

By: Family

**Christmas Eve Masses:**

For Guardian Angels Parishioners

**Friday — Christmas Day Masses:**

For Guardian Angels Parishioners

Saturday —

9:00 am: - **+ Lorenzo Tuells +**

By: Connie Perez

4:00 pm: - **+ Adelaida De Jesus +**

By: Beth Bernales

Sunday—

9:00 am -

**For Guardian Angels Parish**

11:00 am- **+ William Koury +**

By: Elaine Guryl

12:30 pm—

**For special intentions of  
Guardian Angels Parish**

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Guardian Angels Parish Advent Penitential Service will be on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at 7pm. Confession only, no Mass.

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2016 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2016 Sunday Offering Envelopes...

**but please do not use them until January 1, 2016.**

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** are collecting used Postage stamps, please save your used stamps for our Vocation Fund and deposit them in the Stamp box in the church foyer.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Your contributions for Christmas Flowers will be tax deductible. Please use the special envelopes found in the pews and drop them in the collection basket on Christmas day or on the next weekend Masses. Please write your complete name and address or your envelope number for 2015 to get a tax credit.

**CHRISTMAS 2015 SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Vigil—Thursday, December 24  
7pm (Children's Mass)**

**Evening Mass—Thursday, December 24  
11pm (Christmas Caroling starts at 10:30pm)**

**Christmas Day—Friday, December 25  
9am, 11am, 12:30pm**

**Feast of the Holy Family—Sunday, December 27  
9am, 11am, 12:30pm**  
(Anticipated Mass on Saturday, December 26 at 4pm)

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God—Friday, January 1, 2016  
9am, 11am, 12:30pm**  
(No evening Adoration; No evening or Anticipated Mass on Thurs., Dec. 31, 2015)

**Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord—Sunday, January 3, 2016  
9am, 11am, 12:30pm**  
(Anticipated Mass on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 4pm)

**Parish Office will be closed starting Wednesday, December 23, 2015 and will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2016.**



**Archdiocesan News**

**\*Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life**

Join Archbishop Miller for the annual Mass for Life on Monday, Dec. 28 at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver for 12:10 Mass. Unfortunately, there won't be a reception this year due to the hall being closed.

**\*Warm Clothing Needed for Men's Hostel**

Catholic Charities Men's Hostel at 828 Cambie Street, serves 102 men every night. During the cold season your donation of warm clothing, socks, gloves, scarves and toques are welcomed. Please call 604-443-3292 or visit our shelter between 12pm-10pm except Saturdays and Sundays at 4pm-10pm.

**\*The Twelve Days of Christmas**

Three churches. Eight voices. Twelve days. Come experience the fullness of Christmas with a concert of beautiful choral and organ music. From Tomkins to Howells, Willan to Willcocks, join MOTET Chamber Choir as we celebrate this most wonderful time of the year and take you on a musical journey to Epiphany. Friday, Jan. 1 at 2:30pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Vancouver. Admission by donation. All ages warmly welcomed. www.MOTET.ca

**PROJECT ADVANCE  
2015**

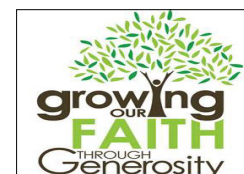
**We are still accepting donations until end of December for cash and check donations;**

**for credit card pledges through the parish office, the deadline is Dec. 21, 2015 or simply go online to give at**

**[www.rcav.org/giving](http://www.rcav.org/giving) (and designate our parish as the 'recipient').**

**Deadline for Online donations is Dec. 31, 2015 if you want a Tax Receipt for this year.**

Our parish has responded to this call of support with great generosity and I hope I can continue to count on your support especially those who have been giving in the previous years, but may have forgotten to submit their



**Stewardship  
Reflection  
December 20, 2015**

"Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith... Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions and his entire person reveals the mercy of God."  
— Pope Francis

Stewardship Office, The Archdiocese of St. Louis  
<http://www.archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>



## PARISH

## MINISTRIES

## GROUPS

**Knights of Columbus (Council # 14723)**  
Terry Brennan - GK 778-229-7228

**Legion of Mary (Immaculate Heart of Mary)**  
Elsa Dimayuga- 604 537 7281

**Legion of Mary (Mother of our Savior)**  
Rufina Amandiz - 604 325-9921

**Family Rosary Crusade**  
Leonarda Lariosa - 604 684-9806

**Divine Mercy**  
Marivic Escribel - 604 434-8280

**Infant Jesus of Prague**  
Susan Hauck—604 278-6346

**Neo-Catechumenal Way**  
Contact 604 684-5775

**CFC– Foundation for Family & Life**  
Benny Luarca –778-317-0069

**Rite of Christian Initiation For Adults (R.C.I.A.)**  
Tom Weaver at 604 408-2125

**P. R. E. P.** (Parish Religious Education Program)  
Joseph Mendoza - 778-317-3898

**Project Advance**  
Cecile Bozyk - 604 683-0143

**Altar Servers**  
Terry O'Neil - 604 689-3685

**Choirs**  
Carmelita Domaan - 604 773-9373

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**  
Joseph Mendoza - 778-317-3898

**Hospitality**  
Cecile Bozyk - 604 683-0143

**Lectors**  
Maria Kaiser - 604 628-4896

**Sacristy**  
Carol McMehen 604 682-2765

**Flowers**  
Ave Obejas - 604 990-0986

**Parish Volunteers Screening Committee**  
Heidi Howell - 604 899-6002



*Let us pray for those  
in our long-term prayer list*

Elaine Yim, Lucille Rozon, Anthony Petrina, Gian Buglioni, Geoffrey & Doreen DeSousa, Joyce Kisoondath, Pat Williamson, Masooma Noorzai, Marie Crowe, Ronald Bainbridge, Andre Costa, Hassiran Hakim, Elizabeth Walton, Barry McDermott, Eddie Bilek, Lucille Johnston, Ralph Milburn, Milta Rapalo, Ida Brown, Sonja Lawrence, Colleen Mason, Jara Asterova, Zenaida Nicolas, Doreen Millburn, Helena Glavot, Zeenith Garay, Florence Nichols, Joanne Borrys and all the sick / shut-ins of our Parish whom we may not know by name.



**Carmel Hill**

Little Flower Monastery Formation House  
10789 North Deroche Road, Deroche, BC V0M 1G0

*I want to protect my family.*

Life Insurance • Critical Illness Insurance • RRSPs

I can help with your goals. Let's talk about Money for Life.



**Silvino Luarca CPA**  
Tel: 604-438-5528 ext 2510  
Cell: 778-317-0069  
benny.luarca@sunlife.com

**Sun  
Life Financial**

Life's brighter under the sun

\*Mutual funds distributed by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc.  
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.  
© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2015.

Microscope Magnified Technology, General/Family Dentistry  
Mercury Free Clinic, Teeth Whitening, Dental Emergencies

**DR. GEORGE LO, DENTIST**

604 681-6737

**Free Consultation on Complete & Partial Dentures**

*New Patients Welcome*

*Office Hours: 11am-7pm*

*We Accept Most Dental Plans, BC Dental &  
First Nations Plans*

909 Davie St., Van., BC V6Z1B9  
(NW cor. of Hornby & Davie  
Streets); free parking at rear