

St James Parish

2777 Townline Road, Abbotsford, BC V2T 5E1
Telephone: 604.864.8800 | E-mail: parish.stjames@rcav.org |
Website: stjamesabby.com

Canonically Erected: July 28, 1993

First Mass: August 1, 1993

Dedication of the Church: Rosary Sunday October 4, 2014

Parish Feast Day: Solemnity of St James the Greater: July 25th

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



P A R I S H D I R E C T O R Y

Pastor:	Rev. William Ashley
Secretary:	Teresa Filiatrault
Parish Office Hours:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8.30 am- 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass:	Saturday Anticipated Mass @ 4:30pm Sunday @ 9am and 11am Latin Mass @ 4:30pm. Church will be open daily from 8:30am to 5:00pm
Weekday Mass:	Monday to Saturday 9am
Holy Hour	Thursday 7:00pm to 8:00pm with Confessions
Confession:	Monday to Saturday at 8:45am Fridays and Saturdays at 10am
Baptisms, Marriages & Communion to the Sick	Contact the Parish Office

Altar Servers	Fr Ashley
Altar Guild	Janet Griffiths
Civic Affairs Committee	Marc Vella, James Hargrave
El Shaddai	Ghie Javier (604.758.2146)
Filipino Ministry/ Sodality of Mary	Rosalina Cole (604.859.8465)
Finance Committee	Gerard Roddis
First Saturday Rosary	Elizabeth Ocon
Knights of Columbus	Walter Dona (604.852.2589)
Music Ministry	Daniel Ancil, Charles van Aert, Nicholas Roy, Paula DeWit,
Prison Ministry	Bob Buckham (604.852.9311)
Pro-Life Coordinator	Monica Roddis (604.853.7985)
School Building Committee	Rod Griffiths, Blanca Hluskova
Youth Ministry	Elizabeth Ocon,

EDUCATION

St James & St Ann's Elementary School

604.852.1788
stjameselementary.ca
Principal: Julia Lee

St John Brebeuf Regional High School

604.855.0571 | stjohnbrebeuf.ca
Principal: Gianni Bittante

Catholic Pacific College
604.888.7727
catholicpacific.ca

Children's Catechesis Children of Joseph & Mary Gr 1- 7 Catechesis

Tuesdays at 3:00pm
Sacrament Enrichment
Thursdays at 3:00pm
Mother Cynthia
mothercynthiasjms@gmail.com
250-488-3368

ST JAMES THE GREATER
PROTOMARTYR OF THE APOSTLES
PRAY FOR US!
SANCTE IACOBE MAIOR,
ORA PRO NOBIS!

A warm welcome to St James the Greater Parish!
Say hello to Fr Ashley, our pastor.

Kindly register in the parish so that we may serve you more efficiently. Registration forms are available in the foyer or on the website.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24 *Vigil of the Nativity Mass*

4:00pm Syro Malabar Mass

6:30pm *Live Nativity*

7:00pm ◊ Int: Alan Keras

9:00pm ◊ Int: Family of Catherine & Richard Lee Wah

Monday, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas*

12:00 Midnight: ◊ Int: Keras Family

10:00am: ◊ Int: Melanie Keras

12:00 Noon ◊ Int: Missa Pro Populo

4:30pm: ◊ Int:

Tuesday, December 26 *St Stephen*

11am ◊ Int: Kateri & Peter van Aert

Wednesday, December 27 *St. John*

11am ◊ Int: Malcolm Roddis

Thursday, December 28 *The Holy Innocents*

11am ◊ Int: † RIP Catherine Everett

Eucharistic Adoration 7pm

Friday, December 29 *5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

11am ◊ Int: Aldina Grimard

Saturday, December 30 *6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

9am ◊ Int: : Jordan Leslie

4:30pm ◊ Int: † RIP Carmen Oonk

Sunday, December 31 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9:00am: ◊ Int: Thanksgiving– Galbiati

11:00am: ◊ Int: Gene Filiatrault

1:00pm: ◊ Int:

4:30pm: ◊ Int:

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” - Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

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COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PART THREE: LIFE IN CHRIST

Section Two: The Ten Commandments

CHAPTER TWO

“YOU SHALL LOVE NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF”

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT:

YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

499. Why are artificial insemination and artificial fertilization immoral? 2373-2377

They are immoral because they dissociate procreation from the act with which the spouses give themselves to each other and so introduce the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Furthermore, heterologous insemination and fertilization with the use of techniques that involve a person other than the married couple infringe upon the right of a child to be born of a father and mother known to him, bound to each other by marriage and having the exclusive right to become parents only through each other.

500. How should children be considered? 2378

A child is a *gift of God*, the supreme gift of marriage. There is no such thing as a right to have children (e.g. “a child at any cost”). But a child does have the right to be the fruit of the conjugal act of its parents as well as the right to be respected as a person from the moment of conception.

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING OF OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

*Marilyn Cook, Trish Parkin, Norm Jeanotte, Sharon Graham,
Una Gaughan, Gerry Lockwood, Roger Loiselle,
Henry Abeywickreme, James Hargrave, Joyce Walker*

Daily Mass Scripture Readings:

Sunday 24	Monday 25	Tuesday 26	Wednesday 27	Thursday 28	Friday 29	Saturday 30	Sunday 31
2Sam 7: 1-16 Ps 89 Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26-38	Is 52: 7-10 Ps 98 Heb 1: 1-6 Jn 1: 1-18	Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59 Ps 31 Mt 10: 17-22	1Jn 1: 1-4 Ps 97 Jn 20: 2-8	1Jn 1: 5-2:2 Ps 124 Mt 2: 13-18	1Jn 2: 3-11 Ps 996 Lk 2: 22-35	1Jn 2: 12-17 Ps 96 Lk 2: 36-40	Gen 15: 1-6; 17: 3-5, 15;-16; 2: 1-7 Ps 105 Heb 11: 8-19 Lk 2: 22-40

ENVELOPES– 2024 Donation envelopes are ready for pick up in the foyer.

THANK YOU! St. James Parish thanks the children of Rosary Club who, through sacrifice and outreach, raised \$74.40 to donate towards our Project Advance goal.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS St. James Parish is in need of volunteers to help, when needed, with snow clearing and salting of the church entrances, the rectory and surrounding sidewalks. Please leave your name and contact phone number with the parish office. Thank you for your support.

FIAT SNOWSHOE Come spend quality time with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese and have fun outdoors on Saturday, January 6! We will meet at St. Anthony's Parish in West Vancouver and start with mass at 9am then drive to Cypress for the snowshoe up Black Mountain. The trail is a 5.3km snowshoe loop with a beautiful view at the top. All women aged 18-35 are welcome? There is no cost. Please pack a bagged launch and bring your snowshoes. If you need help with snowshoes or a ride contact Sr. Mary Martha at smm-hetzler@rcav.org. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH VAZ Join us for a spiritually enriching evening on Saturday, January 13, at St. Mathew's Parish in Surrey, as we come together for a Holy Rosary at 6:40 p.m., followed by a Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. Our celebrant for the Mass is Fr. Joseph D'Souza, Pastor at St. Mary's Church, Vancouver. Assisting him are Deacon Peter Gomes and Deacon Dileep Athaide. This special event is organized by the Sri Lankan Catholic Community and the Vancouver Goan Association, reflecting the unity and diversity within our vibrant community. Following the Mass, we invite you to join us for a time of fellowship. Your contributions of food for the fellowship are greatly appreciated.

New Year's Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 30th	9am 4:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 31st– Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9am 11am 1pm Latin 4:30pm Anticipatory
Monday, Jan. 1st- Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Octave Day of Christmas)	9am 11am 4:30pm Latin

ARCHBISHOP MILLER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

With particular concern this Christmas, we turn our gaze to the suffering Holy Land, to Bethlehem. There the Lord came into the world in a stable and was laid in a manger where animals feed on hay, since his parents could find no room in an inn.

Let us, then, look at the scene. Mary and Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family. Their Child was born in the midst of great hardship. Yet, they are full of profound joy, because they love each other and they are certain that God is at work in this astonishing birth.

And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant wasn't going to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. It was their simple faith that helped them to recognize that the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes was the fulfilment of God's promised Saviour for all the people.

God came among us in silence and in the darkness of night. Why like this? Because the Word of God had no need of spotlights or loud human voices. He himself is the Word who gives life its meaning. He is the Light that brightens our path: "The true light, which enlightens everyone" (Jn 1:9). Christ's birth was the victory of the Light over the darkness of evil and sin.

At Christmas we celebrate that our mighty God truly became "Emmanuel," God-with-us. No barrier or any distance can separate us from him. God is so powerful that he made himself vulnerable and came to us as a defenseless child, so that we might love him. God is so good that he gave up the splendour of his divinity to be born in a stable, so that we might find him. In that Child Jesus, God became so close to us that we are able to speak to him personally and to enjoy a trusting relationship of deep affection with him.

To give a deeper meaning to Christmas, I urge every family to set up a Nativity scene in their home. It is a simple but effective way of passing on the beauty of the faith to your children. Let them experience amazement and wonder at Jesus' birth. The manger helps all of us to ponder in our hearts the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem stable.

Jesus comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Like the shepherds on that silent night, let us set out in haste and allow ourselves to be amazed by the Child lying in a manger who is waiting to welcome us.

With my blessing, prayers and warmest best wishes for a joyous celebration of Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

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