



The Roman Catholic
**DIOCESE OF
PRINCE GEORGE**

Wednesday Weekly

December 13, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the Prophet Isaiah said.

-John 1.6-8, 19-28



When Applicable – please ensure that the following items, especially those marked with an *, are in your bulletin and/or are also announced so that the same information is heard across the diocese. Thank you.

**Online Broadcast of the Daily /
Sunday Masses:**

- [Sacred Heart Cathedral, PG Facebook](#)
- [St. Joseph's Parish, Smithers Facebook](#)

**For those with cable or optic TV,
please check with your provider
for the following or go directly to:**

- [Salt & Light](#)
- [Vision TV](#)

- [EWTN TV](#)

Attachments

- 2023-24 WW Update – Dec 13, 2023
- Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal Poster
- Sensory Mass Poster
- Within Thy Sanctuary – Advent Coffeehouse Poster
- Photo-Video Release Form (2023)

Called Together and Healing and Reconciliation Appeal

I am pleased to announce we're getting close to 80% of our diocesan goal with more than 78% pledged and over 75% already received. We also had a small increase to the Healing and Reconciliation total, reaching almost \$26,000. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far and I ask those who have not yet joined in to consider doing so.

We had a number of parishes make some substantial gains in reaching their totals. Immaculate Conception Parish in Prince George leapt 8% to get to almost 78% of their goal and Christ the King Parish in Kitimat jumped 7% in one week to reach 47% of their goal. Sacred Heart Cathedral added another 6% to reach 67% of their goal. Many other parishes, including some of our smaller parishes made notable increases as well. We're so very thankful for the support we're seeing.

This will be the last update until the new year. I want to thank everyone again for their support both financially and in prayer, and I ask that you consider adding your support or additional support to the many needs throughout the diocese.

It is our prayer that everyone has a blessed Advent and a very happy and holy Christmas season.

-James Fowlie, Business Manager

Submit your Photos to the Wednesday Weekly

If you have photos of a parish event, achievement, or ministry in action in your community, consider submitting them to the Wednesday Weekly at reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca. Have a story to tell that goes with it? Let us know and it can be featured in the Quarterly Special Edition (next edition: December 20, 2023).

Please see the attached release form to ensure that proper permissions from the people in the photos have been granted prior to submitting photos.

A Statement from the CCCB on the Non-Permissibility of MAiD in Health Organizations with a Catholic Identity

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has released a statement regarding the non-permissibility of MAiD in Catholic Health organizations. "Euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAiD) have always been, and will always be, morally unacceptable because they are affronts to human dignity and violations of natural and divine law. Catholic healthcare affirms that every person, made in the image of God (cf. Gen 1:26), has intrinsic value, regardless of ability or health."

In their statement, they lay out the Catholic position of compassionate and high-quality palliative care, the timely access of which can reduce suffering and attend to patients' spiritual and psychological needs. The CCCB offers "Horizons of Hope" as a tool to assist Catholic communities with this compassionate work: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>

The CCCB "oppose any efforts by governments or others to compel such facilities to perform MAiD in violation of Catholic teachings."

To read the full statement, please visit the CCCB website here: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/statement-by-the-canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops-on-the-non-permissibility-of-euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide-within-canadian-health-organizations-with-a-catholic-identity/>

*Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal

The Knights of Columbus are holding their 62nd Annual Charity Appeal.

Funds raised from the Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal are donated back to the dioceses throughout BC.

You can purchase tickets at their website: <https://www.kofccharity.ca/>

62nd ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL

Click here [KofcCharity.ca](https://www.kofccharity.ca/)

WIN \$100,000 in prizes including a
2023 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid Grand Prize

TICKETS
1 for \$5
10 for \$25
50 for \$50

PRIZES

1st Prize	2023 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid	4th Prize	\$ 5,000
2nd Prize	\$30,000	5th to 14th	\$ 1,000 each! --> Early Bird Draws
3rd Prize	\$10,000		

Limited Tickets!
BUY TODAY KofcCharity.ca
Total Prizes \$100,000

Sales Oct 1, 2023 to Dec 16, 2023, 8pm
Early Bird Draws

Oct 9 (2x\$1000), Oct 23 (2x\$1000), Nov 6 (2x\$1000)
Nov 20 (2x\$1000), Dec 2 (2x\$1000)
Main Draw Saturday December 16, 2023, 8:01pm

An annual charity appeal of the Knights of Columbus (BC) Charity Foundation
WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER
Thank you for your Support!

For general inquiries call 604-216-7272 BC Gaming Event License #: 144568
Chances are 1 in 410,000 (total tickets for sale) to win a grand prize. Actual odds depend on number of tickets sold. 19+ to play.
Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-795-6111 w.w.bcreponsiblegambling.ca Know your limit. Play within it.
Winners are responsible for cost associated with delivery/claiming of prizes.

2024 Call for Candidates for the Catholic Women's Leadership Program

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of our Leadership Program, scheduled to begin in June 2024 at the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa.

The program is open to all Canadian Catholic women, from all walks of life who have a genuine interest in making a difference in their communities and places of work.

A candidate must be a Catholic woman, at least 21 years of age, demonstrate oral and written English language competencies, have a genuine desire to cultivate her gifts of leadership, and have made a previous contribution to her community in some capacity.

The Program is a 11-month Certificate program with an ongoing mentorship once the course work is completed. Throughout the Program, participants will be guided by professional facilitators from Saint Paul University. The Program is specifically designed to integrate faith and life, personal and professional leadership development. Spirituality and a Catholic faith perspective are the foundation of all activities; prayer and reflective practice are core elements integrated throughout the program.

At present the plan for 2024 of the Program will have an introductory get-to-know-you online module in June 2024; and a five-day intensive component in June 2024. This is scheduled to be through ZOOM, and you will be expected to be present. All other modules are online and consist of videos, readings, personal reflections, and discussion forums. The final face-to-face residency component is scheduled for June 2025 in Ottawa.

Details of the content of the different components and timelines can be found on the website at www.cwlfcanada.ca.

If you are, or know of, a Catholic woman who wishes to be a transformational and influential leader, we invite you to complete the application process by **January 15th, 2024** which can be found at www.cwlfcanada.ca/participate.

Advent Coffeehouse – Within Thy Sanctuary – December 17th

Everyone is welcome to attend *the 8th Annual Advent Coffeehouse: 'Within Thy Sanctuary.'* This evening is organized by young adults and families, and serves as an evening of fellowship, live music, and a silent auction fundraiser for a local charity in Prince George - all infused with spirit of Advent.

This year's Advent Coffeehouse's theme is Within Thy Sanctuary, an ode to and focus on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. And in line with our theme, the silent auction fundraiser's proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul and Hope for Women here in Prince George! We're excited to raise money for them this Christmas.

St. Vincent de Paul helps the people of Prince George who are in need by: providing meals, hampers, support in finding resources, clothing and home furnishing, and a warm place to gather on a continual basis. For more information, check out their website: <https://ssvdppg.com>

Hope for Women exists to come alongside women, teens, and families facing unexpected pregnancy or pregnancy loss. All their support services are free and confidential, and include almost everything from ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, prenatal classes to financial and emotional support, and so

PG Catholic Young Adults Present:

Within Thy Sanctuary

*The 8th Annual
Advent Coffeehouse
Sunday, December 17th*

Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Prince George, BC
6500 Southridge Ave
Doors Open at 6:00, Evening begins at 6:30pm
\$5 per person ~ \$10 per family
Fundraiser for Hope for Women & St. Vincent de Paul
There will be Local Musical Talent, Baked goods & A Silent Auction
All with the spirit of Advent & the Holy Family

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much more. For more information, check out their website: <https://hopeforwomen.ca>

Advent Coffeehouse: Within Thy Sanctuary:

Date: Sunday, December 17 ~ Doors Open at 6pm, and the Evening Begins at 6:30pm

Location: The Diocesan Pastoral Centre ~ 6500 Southridge Ave

Cost to Attend: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

Who can come: This evening is for people of all ages! Young and old alike will enjoy this evening

What to expect: MC'd by Prince George Catholic young adults, this night is full of local musical talent, baked goods and hot beverages, fellowship, a silent auction, and the spirit of Advent: the waiting and anticipation for Christmas.

See Poster for more information! And feel free to pass along the invitation to your loved ones.

Contact: Lisa Findlay for more information at lfindlay@pgdiocese.bc.ca

CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR PARISH
INVITES YOU TO A

SENSORY FRIENDLY MASS

December 16th, at 4:30pm
A vigil mass for the third Sunday of Advent

A sensory-friendly Mass is intended to welcome persons with neurodiversity. People are encouraged to come as they are, move around if needed, wear noise cancelling headphones, and bring any seating or soothing items necessary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR
WEBSITE: WWW.COSPG.COM

Sensory Friendly Mass at Christ Our Saviour

Christ Our Saviour will be hosting a sensory friendly Mass on Saturday, December 16th, at 4:30pm. Sensory-Friendly Mass is intended to welcome persons with neurodiversity and will include modifications such as lower lights, softer music, more succinct and literal Homilies, and visual aids. The most significant difference at a sensory friendly mass is the absence of stigma, and therefore, people are encouraged to come as they are, move around if needed, wear noise cancelling headphones, and bring any seating or soothing items necessary. These liturgies offer an opportunity to foster a culture of belonging and meaningful participation at our parish.

Everyone is invited to bring their dinner and join us in the hall immediately after Mass to eat and enjoy some fellowship.

O Antiphons at Immaculate Conception



To help us prayerfully prepare for Christmas, Fr. Matthew will be conducting a series of evening prayer services in the final week of Advent. It is in these days that the official Evening Prayer of the Church uses the "O Antiphons" which we know well from the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Starting at 5:30PM, and finishing by 6:00PM, a brief reflection will be given on the O Antiphon of the day, an explanation of Evening Prayer, then praying Evening Prayer with those in attendance.

So, come all ye faithful, to Immaculate Conception Church, Monday, December 18, through Friday, December 22 - each weeknight of the 3rd week of Advent - for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer as we journey through the last week of preparation for Christmas!

Journey through Advent

The *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* presents *Journey through Advent* with the Most Rev. Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR, Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2023.

The videos can be found on the CCCB website here: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>

Dying with Christ - Living with Hope

The **Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada** has launched a program called *Dying with Christ - Living with Hope*, which presents a hope-filled perspective on a universal experience. The discussion, led by theologians and healthcare professionals, will give timeless perspectives on suffering, grief, dying, our duty to care, and how dying with Christ is attainable for everyone. This 3-part video series is designed for use in small group settings, large gatherings, by healthcare professionals and by Churches. To learn more, visit <https://cmdacanada.org/dying-with-christ-living-with-hope/>

Save the Date: Men's Spiritual Retreat – Mar 1-3, 2024

Men's Spiritual Exercises Retreat

Date: Mar 1-3, 2024

There will be more details provided in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact Norman Hebert

norman.hebert@protonmail.com

778-890-0540

Want to share news in the Wednesday Weekly?

Email reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca by **NOON** on Tuesday.

Late entries will be published in the following week's edition. Please send in Word format.

To receive all diocesan news directly in your inbox or on your phone

email reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca **OR TEXT** "pgd" TO 514-900-0130 to join **Flocknote**. This is an email and text messaging tool created for churches, ministries, teams and other community organizations. It helps to communicate with the people by sending a simple text message. Please join us in keeping up with all the diocesan news