

# *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace Bulletins for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024*



## **OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS PARISH**

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## **ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH**

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## **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH**

1360 Pemberton Farm Road West, Pemberton, BC V0N 2L0

Pastor: Fr. Andrew L'Heureux Cell: 1-778-257-4203

## *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

• [Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3](#) • [Psalm 105](#) • [Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19](#) • [Luke 2:22-40](#) •

“Amazed.” That’s how Mary and Joseph reacted when Simeon said that their son would be “a light for revelation” and “glory for . . . Israel” *Luke 2:32*. They knew that Jesus was special, but seeing a prayerful, holy man treat him with such awe and reverence left them speechless. Who was this child whom God had given them?

This is a perfect image for today’s feast of the Holy Family. For all that Mary and Joseph had already experienced, Jesus was still a mystery to them. And he would continue to be a mystery. They would be “astonished” when they found him, at twelve years old, debating with the scribes in the Temple *Luke 2:48*. Surely Mary was surprised when Jesus seemed to rebuke her for trying to see him *8:19-21*. And imagine her shock when she saw him crucified.

So how did Mary and Joseph respond to the great mystery of their child? With prayerful, open hearts. Luke says that Mary—undoubtedly along with her husband—reflected “in her heart” every time a new challenge arose *2:19*. They knew they didn’t have all the answers. They needed to be open to God’s plan for Jesus rather than respond quickly and rashly based on their own ideas.

What a model for us! Whether we are relating to our parents, our spouse, or our children, we should always approach them with a sense of awe and humility. Because they are “wonderfully made” by God himself, they deserve to be treated with respect and honor *Psalm 139:14*. May we never try to impose our plans on them. May we instead be open to God’s work in them and love them as he loves them.

Amazed. Prayerful. Humble. Imagine how much peace could flow in families this coming year if we all followed the Holy Family’s example!

*the Word among us, Dec 2023*

***“Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!”***

## ***Community Night Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024***



Join us on the first Sunday of every month for our community nights, where you can get to know your fellow parishioners over dinner, then watch and discuss interesting, faith-based short videos. **Please register on the noticeboard** to allow us to prepare enough food. Dinner will be by cash donation. Next meeting **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 5:30PM** at Our Lady of the Mountains.

## ***World Day of Peace – 1<sup>st</sup> January***

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that “every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come.”

# Mass Times

## 2023/24 New Year Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday 30th Dec</b>	5:00 pm	Whistler, Our Lady of the Mountains
<b>New Year's Eve:</b>	9:00 am	Whistler, Our Lady of the Mountains
	11:30 am	Mt. Currie, St. Christopher's
	1:00 pm	Pemberton, St. Francis of Assisi
<b>31st Dec for 1st Jan</b>	5:00 pm	Whistler, Our Lady of the Mountains
<b>New Year's Day:</b>	9:00 am	Whistler, Our Lady of the Mountains
	11:30 am	Mt. Currie, St. Christopher's
	1:00 pm	Pemberton, St. Francis of Assisi

### Daily Mass

Our Lady of the Mountains Tuesday to Friday 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am  
St. Francis of Assisi, Pemberton Wednesday and Friday at 11:00am

### Our Lady of the Mountains

Rosary before Mass on Saturdays and Sundays: for those who have left the Church  
Bible Study on Tuesdays at 5:00pm – all welcome

## MASS LECTORS



### Our Lady of the Mountains

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** Alyssa  
**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** Roberta

### St. Christopher's

**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** Vera

### St. Francis of Assisi

**Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** Katie

**Sacrament of Reconciliation – Contact Fr. Andrew L'Heureux Cell: 1-778-257-4203**

## Christmas Dinner

A heartfelt thank you to all those who worked so hard and long to make the Christmas Dinner such a resounding success. A giant pig was brought in, four turkeys and two hams were cooked, with all the accompanying vegetables and never-ending noodles! 100 pairs of socks, dozens of chocolates and over 100 Novenas were rolled, tied and wrapped. Several prizes were won by the lucky or skilled ones. If you couldn't make it, check out the video on our Facebook page; if you were there, enjoy the fun all over again !

<https://fb.watch/paBgortqv3/?mibextid=v7YzmG>

## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

In today's Gospel, we find Mary quietly reflecting on all that has led up to the birth of her son. The search for a place to stay, giving birth in a stable, the visit of shepherds—it was a lot to take in. But rather than grumble, Mary chooses to reflect on these bewildering events.

We also find the shepherds “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen” *Luke 2:20*. As heaven breaks into their lives, these ordinary men respond with great joy and excitedly tell everyone they meet about the newborn Savior and the angels' message.

Are you more likely to ponder or to proclaim? Are you excitedly telling everyone your hopes and dreams for the year? Or are you quietly contemplating the events around you and the stirrings of your own heart? Like Mary, you can reflect on how God has surprised you in the past year; or reflect on any questions or prayers that you are asking the Lord to answer in the coming year.

Like the shepherds, you can share with others a grace that you saw in your life in the past year; or words from Scripture or the Mass that have special meaning to you.

Mary, Mother of God, brought forth Jesus into the world. Now you, too, have the opportunity to bring him forth as you turn your heart to him and share his goodness with those around you.

*“Lord, I surrender this year to you. I trust you to lead me in wonder and joy to your perfect plans for me.”*

**Wishing all our parishioners and visitors a Blessed and Happy New Year**

### Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday 9:30am-3:00pm  
In important or urgent matters, call:  
Fr. Andrew, cell: 1-778-257-4203



### Donations / New Church Pledge Form

Pledge Forms in support of building the new church are available via this QR code and on our website at <https://whistlercatholicchurch.ca/>