



**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



The Pharisees become miffed with the answers of the blind man healed by Jesus. **John 9**  
*(healing without a temple union card?)*



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH  
 Vanderhoof, BC

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
 Year A  
 March 15, 2026

*"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast."*



HOLY TRINITY  
 CHURCH MISSION  
 Saik'uz First Nation, BC

**PASTOR:** Rev. Pier Pandolfo  
 1-250-614-3220

**Parish Phone:** (250) 567-9151  
**Parish Fax:** (250) 567-9115

2994 Burrard Ave.  
 P.O. Box 1429  
 Vanderhoof B.C V0J 3A0

E-mail: [stjosephsp93@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsp93@gmail.com)  
 Website: [stjosephsvanderhoof.ca](http://stjosephsvanderhoof.ca)

**EUCCHARIST**

Saturday St. Joseph.....5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday St. Joseph.....9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Holy Trinity.....12:00 noon  
 Tues & Thurs.....6:30 p.m.  
 Wed & Fri.....9:00 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION**

By appointment.

**BAPTISM**

Contact Father Pier for more information.

**MATRIMONY**

Please contact Father Pier for an appointment at least six months

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** For Brenda Antoine, Jason Aritolla, Mackie Basil, Julio Bonilla jr., Cooper Cursley, Evelyn Embree, Ronald Gilmore, Brent Gray, Ellen Haynes, Patrick Irving, Lisa Ketlo, Halli & Hunter Krawczyk, George LaBrash, Jennifer Lock, Wanda Miller, Della Morin, Eunice Nash, Virginia Power, Dorothy Ranck, Ian Scott, Madeline Scott, Vanessa Stewart, Gerry Theissen, Mike VanDusen, Art Wiens and for all who are ill or in need of God's healing grace.

"How do you know your parents love you?" I often posed this question to families in Baptism preparation. Answers varied, including affection, words of care, material support and giving of time. Yet, all shared one characteristic- they were outward acts. In truth, we cannot "see" love, for it is a spiritual reality: it is realized by outward signs. Likewise, in the sacraments, God uses outward signs to convey divine graces we cannot see. Among other aspects of today's Gospel, we see that Jesus uses outward signs to display God's presence to the blind man and surrounding witnesses. First, Jesus mixes saliva and mud, rubs it over the man's eyes and directs him to wash in the pool of Siloam. Afterwards, he's healed! Similarly, in today's first reading, God instructs Samuel to anoint David with oil; this bestows "the spirit of the Lord" upon him. Scriptural passages like these foreshadow the gift of the Sacraments, made possible by Jesus' saving work; and of these, the greatest is the Eucharist, Jesus' gift of his very self. During Mass, the outward signs of bread and wine change in substance- Jesus becomes truly present! Unlike the "spiritually blind" Pharisees in today's Gospel, let us approach our Lord in the Eucharist with the spiritual sight of faith and allow ourselves to be transformed by his offer of grace.

Portrait photographer  
 and Custom Frame Shop

Print Lab passport or id photos

**WALLACE  
 STUDIOS**

[wallacestudios.ca](http://wallacestudios.ca) Phone: 250.567.3979

Remedy Rebuild /  
 SaMaArtStudio-  
 Magdalena Saito  
 Local herbalist & apothecary  
 \*faith resources\* art prints\*  
 Catholic content  
 250-524-0333  
[saitomaggie@gmail.com](mailto:saitomaggie@gmail.com)

**WorkBC** Employment  
 Services

Looking for work? Looking for Workers?  
 Come see us at 139 First Street East for  
 all your employment needs!  
 (250) 567-5785.

**Canada**



This program is funded by the Government of Canada  
 and the Province of British Columbia.

**Jesus the light that gives sight.** As we continue our journey through this season of Lent, we are met with the question of who is worthy in God’s eyes. Based on false expectations the Israelites and the Pharisees never thought David would be chosen king or that Jesus would heal the man born blind. Worthiness may be found not in reputation or pedigree or appearance, but in one’s heart. We are called to see people as God sees them and to work to free them from prisons constructed by human hands.

**Homework:** Quietly find out the colour of eyes God gave your children/parents.

Lent Conversion Stories (Water, Light, Life)

**Man Born Blind.** Our story of conversion continues today when we learn how to ask Jesus for the grace to see things as God sees things. We can be blind physically, intellectually, and morally. The man was physically blind but that did not lessen his value as a child of God able to reveal God’s glory. The man encountered the intellectual blindness of the Pharisees (their belief that Jesus should not heal on the Sabbath). The man encountered the moral blindness of his parents (more afraid of being expelled from the synagogue than defending their son). Our blindness continues to keep people in prison, in chains, in detention camps. To be like Jesus and break down these prisons, let us see ‘bravely’.

**March23** Reconciliation Service: Mortal Sin and Venial Sin. Sin has many definitions but the root effect of sin is a broken relationship either with self, neighbor, or God. Our Catholic tradition has found it helpful to distinguish different degrees of how broken a relationship is. Mortal sin, as the name implies, refers to serious actions that break the relationship completely, or mortally kill it – greater effort for forgiveness is needed. Venial sin refers to an action that is more easily forgivable or excusable, because the action does not damage the relationship completely. To spend time arguing whether a sin is mortal or venial belongs more with the story of the Pharisees; to belong with Jesus, we need to be developing in ourselves a strong dislike for all actions that cause hurt – we can do this by asking Jesus to help us to ‘see bravely’ how our actions affect others.

**March 21:** ‘Charisms Workshop:9 – 3pm’ a charism is the name we give to the gift God gives us for a specific period of time and for a specific purpose. Because they are God given, we are never ‘tired or exhausted’ when using them. Come learn what your charisms are to help you to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ when asked by Fr.Pier to ‘do something’ for the church.

**March 22:** ‘Development and Peace RICE DINNER: 4pm .’ A Rice Dinner is being planned for Sunday, March 22. The dinner will highlight the Development and Peace theme of 2026: ON TRACK FOR JUSTICE where we concentrate on actions that creates bridges of solidarity.

ALPHA5: 9 participants discussed the topic of PRAYER as the important tool in developing our relationship with God because Christianity is about relationship; next week: How do I read the Bible? Pray for this gathering.

LHC Life Healing Choices: next offering of the course is October 2026; pray always for those with addictions.

Transformed lives, transforming community: mission statement for evangelization;

Intimate encounter with God through an open heart: mission statement for prayer;

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 19 Feast of St. Joseph, masses at 9 and 6:30; social in the evening after mass

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 21 CHARISMS WORKSHOP 9-3pm

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 25 Feast of Annunciation: masses at 9am and 6:30pm;

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 22 Development and Peace RICE DINNER (time TBA)

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 23 Reconciliation Service: 6:30pm

PARISH ACTIVITIES: March 24 Reconciliation Times: 4-6, 7-8pm

PARISH ACTIVITIES: 6:30 Fridays: Stations of the Cross

Diocesan ACTIVITIES: March 26: 7pm, CHRISM Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral

QUIET PARISH HEROS : parish staff

### **CWL ROSARY INITIATIVE**

Have old or broken rosaries?

If you have loose beads, broken pieces, or parts of rosaries you’d like to donate, please give them to the CWL for repurposing.

If you have a rosary, you’d like repaired, connect with Connie Wallace, our local rosary expert. Donated pieces may be used to repair rosaries, create new ones, or support this ongoing project.

Thank you for helping keep these sacred items in use

### **CWL Prayer Cards Initiative**

Prayer cards are available at the back of the foyer by the CWL box.

Write your prayer intention and place the card in the box.

Members of the CWL and/or the Prayer Circle will pray for these intentions.

If you would like to take part in this prayer initiative, please connect with your CWL

### **2025 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL – CALLED TOGETHER**

Parish Goal: \$13,952

Actual to Date: \$15,490

## **Rachel’s Vineyard – Serving the North**

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW IN OPERATION!

[www.rachelsvineyardpg.ca](http://www.rachelsvineyardpg.ca)

SPRING WEEKEND RETREAT FOR 2026: May 22 – 24, registrations now being accepted.

For Further information on this Healing Ministry, please refer to our website.

**Confidentiality Assured.**

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE IN OUR DIOCESE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR WORK IN 2025!

Check out the diocesan website for more information on happenings in the diocese. [www.pgdiocese.bc.ca](http://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca)