

E-PULSE

Newsletter of St. Mark, Ocean Park

AUGUST 6. 2023

Exciting News From the Refugee Sponsorship Ministry Team - On July 24th, 2023, May (known also as 'Maya'), arrived safely in Canada to begin a new chapter of her life here. She will live with her sister Teresa, brother-in-law Rami, and two nieces. After fleeing her homeland of Syria, May spent several years in Dubai awaiting sponsorship. In Syria, she was trained as a pharmacist and hopes to find related work here. She is grateful to the Parish of St. Mark's and particularly to Michael Klaver for serving as her Co-Sponsor throughout the two year sponsorship process.

Welcome May this Sunday, August 6th. May would like to meet her St. Mark's Parish family face-to-face and plans to join us for worship this Sunday, August 6th at the 10am service. Please come and welcome her!

A Letter from May:

Finally here, very big thanks

Dear All, Finally here, meeting my family after a very long time. I really can not thank you enough for making my dream come true and gave me the chance to reunite with my family, highly highly appreciated. I can not wait to meet you all at the church on Sunday. Thank you soooo much for all the care and the efforts.

- May



Prayer Corner August 6, 2023

Psalm 17:6-7 (NIV)

**I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.
Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who
take refuge in you from their foes.**

The past few weeks we have had readings that focus the eyes of our hearts and minds on both the struggles of this life and the glorious promises we have in Christ. This theme continues this week.

For Personal Contemplation

In our Old Testament reading we listened to the story of Jacob wrestling and not giving up until he was blessed. In our Epistle reading, we are told of the great sorrow and unceasing anguish Paul is feeling due to the many Jews who had not yet come to know Christ as their Messiah. In our Gospel reading we listened to the story of Jesus (who has just recently heard the grievous news of the cruel death of his cousin John The Baptist) healing the sick brought to him and feeding about 5,000 people with merely 5 loaves and 2 fish. I don't know about you, but these stories connect with mine in many significant ways. I invite you to read again the Scripture passages and consider:

Genesis 32:2-31 *Where am I struggling and wrestling with God or people? Am I trusting in The Holy Spirit to give me the strength and persistence to not let go without a blessing?*

Romans 9:1-5 *Who do I know that has not received the gifts of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life that come from knowing God through Christ? How can I pray for them?*

Matthew 14:1-21 *Do I have a hunger or sickness that needs the touch of Jesus? Have I honestly brought my need to him? Am I truly open to receiving his gift(s)? Is there a sickness or hunger in the world where The Holy Spirit is prompting me, via compassion, to play a part in God's plan to heal and feed?*

For Communal Prayer

We pray – Thank you for answering our prayers for a new rector. Bless The Rev. David Taylor and his family as they prepare to make the transition to us from St. Dunstan, Aldergrove. Bless us in our preparations to welcome them. Bless the people of St. Dunstan in the new season they will be entering.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring hope and a new life to a few of the world's many refugees. Bless Janet, Pat and Brenda as they do the groundwork for us to bring, welcome and assist these refugees as they look to establish lives in the Lower Mainland of Canada. Help all of us - with gifts of compassion, discernment and generosity - to meet our fundraising goal and to care well for them. In particular, we pray for:

- Maya (from Syria) as she settles into life here with her sister Teresa, brother-in-law Rami and her two nieces.
- Our other sponsorship applicants from Syria, Samir's sister, Leeda, and mother, May.
- Bibi and family (from Afghanistan)
- Bibi's extended family members who are seeking sponsorship to come to Canada.

Lord, God, may all those named sense your presence, your protection and your guiding.

Readings for Sunday, August 13 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22 & 45b, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

A Lunch Basket for Hungry Children is provided this week by Laurie and Carol Scott to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for all his many blessings.

Flowers for the Altar are provided this week by Margot McDermott for all God's blessings and to celebrate four August family birthdays.

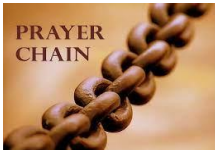
Savvy Seniors Update – We meet August 16 from 1pm to 3:30pm in the Church Hall for games, scintillating conversation and refreshments. All Seniors are welcome. Upcoming dates are: and August 30th and September 13.

Looking Ahead for Your Calendar:

- 1) **Wednesday, August 2** - 10am Mid-Week celebration of Holy Communion
- 2) **SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, August 19, 11:30am-1:30pm bring your friends and family come and join the St Mark's parish family out at Fun Fun park for a ***picnic!*** Bring your own lunch, a folding chair if you wish and join us for a relaxing time once more before we head into the Autumn. We will have games and activities for all to enjoy!
Please RSVP to yministryrsvp@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.
I look forward to welcoming you all!!
- 3) Warm Blessings Sarah

SAVE THE DATE - **Saturday, Sept. 16** 5:30pm St. Mark's Men's Club 32nd Annual Salmon Bar BQ.

Prayer Chain The Coordinator for the prayer chain is Lynne Hurd at lynneh1@telus.net or you may phone at 604.542.2772.



AND... Sunday Intercessions – Do you have a request to be included in the Sunday Intercessions? If so, please contact the Office at 604.535.8841 OR Michael Klaver at Tel:778.386.1973 or Email:klaverfamily@shaw.ca

St Mark's Family, Youth and Children's Time Video Ministry - To access our new weekly



online Family, Youth and Children's Time Video go to our Church's website: <http://stmarkbc.org> On the homepage, you may click on the video picture below, or click on the box "St Mark's Children, Youth and Families Service". To watch previous videos go to

<https://tinyurl.com/St-Mark-Online-Video-Channel>

We Live Stream our Sunday Worship



To access our 10 am Sunday online service broadcast go to our Church's website: <http://stmarkbc.org> On the homepage, you may click on the service picture below: or click on the box "St Mark Online Worship Services". To watch previous services go to <https://tinyurl.com/St-Mark-Online-Video-Channel>

Would you like to donate to 'The Lunch Basket for Hungry Children?' This provides for lunches to 9 single mothers and 16 children. Please help support these families by choosing a 2023 date on the notice board in the church hall to support these families and have a dedication in the weekly Pulse. The suggested donation of \$70 can be made by e-transfer, at the Donation Station, or by dropping off a cheque in the mailbox at the church office. email or phone Darlene W. or Barb G. with your dedication.