

EASTER

TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

By Fr. Ed Brooom. OMOV

**Jesus came to save sinners.** The primary purpose of the Incarnation and Paschal Mystery—the Passion, suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, the Lord, was to save us from eternal perdition and to bring us to heaven. By the completion of Jesus’ Paschal mystery—Passion, suffering, death on the cross, and Resurrection from the dead three days later, the gates of heaven flew open, and all of us have access to union with the Blessed Trinity forever. All of us can be saved if this is the most ardent desire and yearning of our hearts. True and as easy as this may sound, salvation depends principally on one condition, the primary, indispensable, and immutable disposition of our heart—and that is trusting fully and totally in the mercy that Jesus offers us in every time, every place, every culture, and to every individual person

By way of example, imagine this scene: A rich man has a fruit orchard in which there are luscious fruits of all kinds, sizes, and shapes. This rich man happens to be your friend. One day he says to you: *“Listen, at any time of the day you are free to go into the orchard and take and eat any of the fruit your heart desires. The only condition is that you have to provide your own means of transportation to arrive at the orchard. Then pick and eat to your heart’s delight!”* God has a garden and that is the *Sacred Heart of His Son Jesus*. He invites all to visit that *Sacred Heart* and eat and drink from it in abundance. The food and drink from Jesus’ Heart is His Mercy!

**Confession and Mercy**  
Reading and reflecting upon this message, the next question that might surface in your mind is the following: Well, if that is the case, how can I reach this orchard where can I attain this precious and free fruit? The response is amazingly simple: the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus is waiting for all of us, present in the ordained priest, in the confessional. When we receive the Sacrament of Confession and receive absolution—that means, the forgiveness of our sins—then it is not so much the priest who is forgiving our sins—but rather, it is Jesus who truly forgives. The priest is the mere instrument and Jesus, the Son of the living God, is the one who forgives.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INFINITE MERCY THAT JESUS, THROUGH HIS MYSTICAL BODY THE CHURCH, IS OFFERING YOU RIGHT NOW.

**The Promise of Mercy Sunday**  
Now is the time, in a very special way, that we want to take advantage of the Infinite Mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sunday following Easter is *Mercy Sunday*. Saint Pope John Paul II admitted that Mercy Sunday 2000 was the happiest day in his life for two specific reasons: 1) The first reason was that the saintly pontiff proclaimed that day to be solemnly celebrated as *Mercy Sunday*— actually the crowning moment of Easter, the Easter Octave. 2) This same day Saint Pope John Paul II canonized St Faustina Kowalska—known as the *Secretary of Divine Mercy*. With these two pontifical actions, Saint Pope John Paul II was filled with immense and overflowing joy. Incidentally, Saint Faustina was the first saint to be canonized in the new millennium.

**Content of the Promise of Divine Mercy**  
By making a well-prepared and sincere Confession, participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday and receiving fervently Holy Communion, the great gift or promise is received. This means that after having received Holy Communion—the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus, the Merciful Savior—your soul becomes absolutely pure, white as the snow, innocent as a dove, bright and resplendent as the midday sun, precious as the most valuable of all diamonds. Another means of expressing this: it is as if you were baptized a second time. By the way, the Sacrament of Baptism, even for adults, washes away all of your sins and the temporal punishment due on account of them. This also means that if you were to die in the moment you would not have to spend an instant in Purgatory, but you would fly like an eagle to Heaven to be with the Blessed Trinity, Mary, the angels and the saints for all eternity.

**Take Advantage of the Moment**  
This being the case, why not take advantage of the Infinite Mercy that Jesus, through His Mystical Body the Church, is offering you right now. Remember the rich man and the orchard analogy. God is the rich man who is infinitely rich; the orchard and the abundant fruits symbolize His Mercy, which is the greatest of all of His attributes. It is up to you to make the effort to make it to confession, and confess honestly and sincerely your sins to the priest who represents Jesus. This results in forgiveness. Then on Mercy Sunday, with fervent reception of Holy Communion, total forgiveness of your sins and the temporal punishment due for your sins. With the Psalmist let us praise with all of our hearts, minds, and souls, God and His Infinite Mercy: *GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.*

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**OLPH  
REDEMPTORISTS**

2465 CROWN STREET  
VANCOUVER  
B.C. V6R3V9  
ESTABLISHED 1923

**MASSES & SERVICES**  
Saturday: 5pm  
(Anticipated Mass)  
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm  
Monday – Wednesday 8am  
Thursday Mass/Novena:  
8am & 7pm  
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am  
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)  
Reconciliation  
Saturday: 4-4:45pm  
Adoration  
Saturday 9:30-10am  
Library Hours  
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm


**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm  
**STAFF**  
**Pastor**  
Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.  
**Associate Pastor**  
Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.  
**Office Manager**  
Virginia Fong  
**Pastoral Coordinator**  
Bertilla Watanabe  
**Bookkeeper**  
Corinna Siy  
**Youth Ministry Coordinator**  
Theresa Barao

**OLPH School Principal**  
Lora Clarke

**IN RESIDENCE.**  
William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

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 olphchurchvancouver



**OUR LADY OF  
PERPETUAL HELP PARISH**

**April 23, 2017**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

Dear Parishioners,


It was wonderful to see the Easter Candle shine brightly when it was lit at the fire pit on Easter Vigil. Fair weather helped. As the fire was passed from candle to candle, the church was lit up by a beautiful warm glow, a sight you only see on the evening of Easter Vigil. It was indeed a beautiful Mass. Twenty people joined the congregation in renouncing sin and professing their faith. They then received the Sacraments of Initiation.

This is a good time to remember that faith is indeed a gift. And like the fire that is passed from one to the other, we must pass on that gift to all that we meet. Not all are receptive but we must try in gentle ways to get a spark going. The National Post carried an article last week with an Angus Reid survey showing we have the highest number of non-believers of any province – 27% compared to 20% in Alberta, 12% in Saskatchewan, 17% in Manitoba and Ontario, 18% in Quebec and 14% in Atlantic Canada. We also have the second lowest number of religiously committed people – 19% compared to 29% in Alberta, 32% in Saskatoon, 28% in Manitoba, 22% in Ontario, 25% in the Atlantic and only higher than Quebec at 14%.

Let us bear in mind that faith is nourished in the community. That is why we come together to be strengthened by the Eucharist and other sacraments, and support each other in prayer and other activities. Today’s Gospel is about Thomas, the Apostle who doubted and has been disparaged over the ages for not trusting. However, his skepticism resulted in a powerful conversion. Church tradition tells us that he preached in ancient Babylon, near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, where Iraq is today. He traveled to Persia, present-day Iran then sailed south to Malabar on the west coast of India in 52 AD. When the Portuguese landed in India in the early 1600s, they found a group of Christians there, the Mar Thoma Church, established through Thomas' preaching a millennium and a half before. Finally, Thomas travelled to the east coast of India, preaching relentlessly and was killed near Mylapore about 72 AD, near present-day Madras. Faith can motivate us to do amazing things if we would only let it.

This Easter let us pray for an increase of faith. May we also ask our Blessed Mother to help us in this regard. A happy Easter season to all!

Yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R**



*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever. - Psalm 118*



NEWS & NOTICES

**Parish & School AGM:** The Parish & School AGM will be held on Wed May 3 at 6:30pm in the School Gym.

**Wills, Estates & Burials Presentation:** The Wills, Estates & Burials Presentation will take place on Sunday, Apr 30th after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses in the hall. These presentations by the Archdiocese of Vancouver Catholic Cemeteries deal with matters you may not have thought about before but will help you gather your thoughts before you write your first Will or prepare to update your Will. Learn about the beauty and dignity of the funeral rite and how to formulate pre-need arrangements. Receive free guides and loads of practical advice. These workshops will present facts and information. No investment services or insurance will be promoted or sold. For more information, please contact Catholic Cemeteries by email or call 604-531-2141.

**Children’s Liturgy:** Children from age 3 up to those who have not received Communion are welcome to go down to the Madonna Room for Children’s Liturgy during the 11am Mass this weekend.

**12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care:** Join the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) for 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on Thurs May 4, 2017 and be a profound witness to the sanctity of human life. On this day, we encourage everyone to pray either at home or with your CWL parish council for palliative care and sign the petition to the House of Commons asking that hospice and palliative care be included as a defined medical service under the Canada Health Act. Petition is available online or at select parishes. To ensure that your parish will be participating, please contact your CWL parish council or visit <http://rcav.org/palliative-care/> for more info.

**March for Life:** This year’s March for Life will be held on Thursday, May 11, marking the the 10th annual March for Life in Victoria. The March will commence from Centennial Square at 1:45 p.m. and proceed to the Legislature. The Rally will commence at 2:15 p.m. Theme is “Human Rights Still Matter” with special guest speaker Archbishop Miller, CSB, Irene De Souza, Stan Leyenhorst and Dr. Paul Chamberlain. For more info. or transportation options, visit <http://www.m4lvictoria.ca/>

**Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat:** For most post-abortive women, the forgiveness of God is a concept which they can mouth, yet difficult for them to digest. How can they feel forgiven when every instinct in their nature says they cannot be forgiven, even should not be forgiven? God can forgive any sin, even abortion. Come experience God’s merciful forgiveness on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat. Next Retreat is May 2017. For confidential information and to register call 604-525.0999.

**Focus On Life Gala Dinner:** Join us for the 19th Annual Focus on Life Gala Dinner. This year’s theme is “Joy From the Unexpected” with featured speaker Kim Phúc, War Survivor and Human Rights Advocate. Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. (Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.) at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver. Tickets \$75 each or \$750 per table. To reserve your tickets, contact 604-532-0023 or visit <http://focusonlife.ca/> for more info.

Stewardship Reflection

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” JOHN 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbor, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

MOTHER’S DAY Dance!

6-9:30pm Saturday May 13, 2017 @ OLPH School Gym

Buffet Dinner | Dancing | Silent Auction | Door Prizes

\$40 Adults | \$15 Kids (3-12 Years) Tickets on sale

after weekend Masses and at the Parish Office!

IT’S ABOUT TIME MOM HAD SOME FUN!!

AN OLPH YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!

CALENDAR

APRIL

Food Bank

Today is Food Bank Sunday. Items on sale are canned protein foods such as tuna/salmon, peanut butter, etc. Cash donations are also accepted.

MAY

Six Dates for Couples

In today’s busy world spouses know that spending time together is good for their marriage, but often other priorities take precedence. Six Dates for Couples: The Beatitudes invites married and engaged couples to spend an hour growing together as a loving, faith-filled couple. Each session features a short video, practical and spiritually inspiring, followed by the opportunity for reflection, prayer, fellowship and fun. This 6-week program hosted by Derek and Silvana Carr is from 7 - 8 pm starting Wednesday May 10 and ending on June 14. Let us know if you need a child-minder in order to attend the program. Please email Bertilla bwatanabe@rcav.org to register.

Mother’s Day Dance

**Mother’s Day Dance Volunteers**  
We need volunteers to help with ticket sales, set-up and clean-up for the Mother’s Day Dance. Please contact our Volunteers’ Coordinator Lara Garcia. You can reach her at [olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com)

**Mother’s Day Auction Item Donations**  
We are also looking for donations of items for the Silent Auction which mothers would love – spa tickets, wine baskets, restaurant vouchers, a weekend at a cottage! Please contact Kathy or Jing at [communications.olph@rcav.org](mailto:communications.olph@rcav.org) if you can help.

**Mother’s Day Dance Ticket Sales**  
Tickets are available for sale after all weekend Masses as well as at the parish office during the week. School parents can also buy tickets on Fridays before and after the 9am School Mass as well as on Mondays before and after Assembly.



EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Light of Christ!

A few more scenes from last Saturday’s beautiful Easter Vigil celebration are shown here beginning with the lighting of the fire. From the blazing fire, the Paschal candle was lit and carried into the church in procession. Members of the congregation then lit their candles from the fire of the Paschal candle. New water was also blessed. Candidates for Baptism were then anointed and sprinkled with this water after prayers by the congregation. Congratulations and blessings to all of them. Let us pray for them to keep growing in their understanding of the faith.

BAIDAN ADELE CAO	FLAVIA L. HOOVER	MELISSA C. NEMETH	CHUNG WAH WONG
ADRIENNE PUI FUN CHENG	ROWAN ARIEL HOOVER	KIMBERLY RAE PALMER	CHLOE WONG
KRISTEN WEI-QING GUAN	GRIER BENNETT HOOVER	YVAN ANDRE-PAUL SACHÉ	CLAIRE WONG
NATHAN HAN-WEI GUAN	YUAN OLIVIA LI	CHIA-FEN FRANCES TSAI	KEVIN XIN
JESSICA XIAOLI HOU	TYLER MORTON	HANJUNG HOSA WANG	ANGELINE CHANDRA