

FEAST: ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

BE COMMITTED TO YOUR DAILY DUTIES

By Pope Francis (First published on May 1, 2014)

On May 1st, we celebrate Saint Joseph the Worker and begin the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady. I want to focus on these two figures, so important in the life of Jesus, the Church and in our lives, with two brief thoughts: the first on work, the second on the contemplation of Jesus.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, in one of the moments when Jesus returns to his town, Nazareth, and speaks in the synagogue, the amazement of his fellow townspeople at his wisdom is emphasized and they ask: "Is not this the carpenter's son?". Jesus comes into history among us, born of Mary by the power of God but with the presence of Saint Joseph, the legal father who cares for him and also teaches him his work. Jesus is born and lives in a family, in the Holy Family, learning the craft of carpenter from Saint Joseph in his workshop in Nazareth, sharing with him the commitment, effort, satisfaction and also the difficulties of every day.

This reminds us of the dignity and importance of work. The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work (Gen 1:28; 2:15). Work is part of God's loving plan, we are called to cultivate and care for all the goods of creation and in this way participate in the work of creation. Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person.

Work, to use an image, "anoints" us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts (Jn 5:17). It gives us the ability to maintain ourselves, our family, to contribute to the growth of our nation. Here I think of the difficulties which in various countries today afflicts the world of work and business; I think of how many, and not just young people, are unemployed, many times due to a purely economic conception of society, which seeks selfish profit, beyond the parameters of social justice.

I would like to speak especially to young people: be committed to your daily duties, your study, your work, to relationships of friendship, to helping others; your future depends on how you live these precious years of your life. Do not be afraid of commitment, of sacrifice and do not look with fear towards the future; keep your hope alive: there is always a light on the horizon.

In the silence of daily events, St. Joseph, together with Mary, have one common center of attention: Jesus. They accompany and nurture, with commitment and tenderness, the growth of the Son of God made man for us, reflecting on everything that happened. In the Gospels, St. Luke twice emphasizes the attitude of Mary, which is also that of St. Joseph: "She kept all these things and pondered them in her heart" (2,19-51).

To listen to the Lord, we must learn to contemplate, feel His constant presence in our lives and we must stop and converse with Him, give him space in prayer. Each of us, even you boys and girls, how much space do I give to the Lord?

In this month of May, I would like to recall the importance and beauty of the prayer of the Holy Rosary. Reciting the Hail Mary, we are led to contemplate the mysteries of Jesus, that is, to reflect on the key moments of his life, so that, as with Mary and St. Joseph, He is the center of our thoughts, of our attention and our actions. Praying together is a precious moment that further strengthens family life, friendship! Let us learn to pray more in the family and as a family!



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Council
Crystal Lynch
crystallynch2000@gmail.com
Finance Council
Lauri Ann Fenlon
lauri.ann.fenlon@gmail.com
Parish Education Committee
Renee Stafford
pec@olphbc.ca

COORDINATORS
Altar Guild
Bridget Bird 604-228-9180
Altar Servers
Kate Carr 604-730-5640
Catholic Women's League
Lynn MacDonald
bob.lynn.macdonald@gmail.com

Children's Liturgy
Rosanna Falbo 604-253-1412
Craft Group
Doris Rankin 604-224-0876
Development & Peace
William Wingson 778-866-8504
Eucharistic Ministry
Pamela Brammall 604-228-9206

Food Bank
Robyn Sirmul robynsirmul@shaw.ca
Hospitality Ministry
Gerry Macken 604-222-1369

Knights of Columbus
Doug McFeely 604-928-9502

Library
Katherine Hill
kathswim2012@gmail.com

Liturgy of the Hours
Bridget Clark 604-228-8773

Madonna Group
Monica Cheung 604-739-8837

Ministry of the Word
Roger Poirier 604-224-0426

Music Ministry
Catherine Walsh
catherine.organist@gmail.com

Pastoral Care
Mary Thompson 604-263-6008

PREP
Elizabeth Towers 604-440-8809

Project Advance
Bertilla Watanabe 604-224-4344

RCIA
Bertilla Watanabe
bwatanabe@rcav.org

Social Justice/St. Vincent de Paul
Mark Thompson 778-891-6275

Volunteers Coordinator
Lara Garcia Carton
olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com

Weddings
Fr. Babu Mathew
604-224-4344



2465 CROWN STREET
VANCOUVER
B.C. V6R3V9
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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.

CONTACT

Email: parish.olph@rcav.org
Website: www.olphchurch.ca
Parish Office: 604-224-4344
OLPH School: 604-228-8811
Jr. Kindergarten: 604-221-0002

 olphchurchvancouver



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

April 30 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

Children Help Us Bring Down Barriers

Dear Parishioners,

As you all know by now, I like to make a point of speaking to children at Mass. Just as children are the source of joy for the family, they bring lessons of humility and understanding to all of us even in the church. In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." This is one of the Scripture passages we often read at Baptisms.

Why does Jesus say this? It's because he wants children to be close to him and to be blessed by him. It was wonderful to see so many parents bring their little ones to Mass on Easter Sunday. Perhaps the Easter Egg hunt had something to do with it! And that is good because we want our children to have a blessed and happy encounter with Jesus at Sunday Mass as well as other events around the parish. Parents, I encourage you to bring your children to Jesus every Sunday so that it may create in them a sense of belonging and a real connection to God and the parish family.

Pope Francis' Easter message says, "The heartbeat of the Risen Lord is granted to us as a gift, a present, a new horizon. The beating heart of the Risen Lord is given to us, and we are asked to give it in turn as a transforming force, as the leaven of a new humanity. In the resurrection, Christ rolled back the stone of the tomb, but he wants also to break down all the walls that keep us locked in our sterile pessimism, in our carefully constructed ivory towers that isolate us from life, in our compulsive need for security and in boundless ambition that can make us compromise the dignity of others."

Children offer us wonderful opportunities to break down the walls of isolation. Let us learn from them. Let us also ask our Blessed Mother to help us approach her Son with childlike simplicity and humility. Easter blessings to all!

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



Lord you will show me the path of life. - Psalm 16

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NEWS & NOTICES

PEC Elections: For the 2017/2018 school year, there are three vacancies - two to be filled by election (2-year terms) and one by Pastoral appointment (2-year term).
Election Dates/Times: May 27 and May 28, 2017. Polling stations will be open for one hour after each Mass on these dates.

Eligible for Nomination: Practicing Catholics, 21 years and older and approved by the Pastor.
Eligible to Nominate: Only persons eligible to hold office are eligible to nominate candidates.
Members of Nominating Committee: Fr Babu Mathew, Renee Stafford and Kate Nemeth.
Pick-Up Forms: Nomination forms available at the Parish office.
Nominating Committee Email: pec@olphbc.ca if you have any questions.
Deadline for completed forms (with all required signatures): 4pm Wednesday May 17, 2017.

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

PREP Pre-Registration: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Pre-registration for the 2017/2018 school year is now being accepted. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca for information. You can also register on Tuesday May 16 which is the last day of this year's program.

PREP Teachers & Teaching Assistants Needed: Would you like to share your talents by helping out as a teacher or teaching assistant? PREP is for children Grades 1-7 who do not go to Catholic school but need to be educated in the Faith. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca.

Wills, Estates & Burials Presentation: The Wills, Estates & Burials Presentation will take place today 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.

March for Life: This year's March for Life will be held on Thursday, May 11, marking 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/>

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

"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" -- LUKE 24:32

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to the other. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

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

MAY

Madonna Group Tea & Talk

Madonna Group will hold a Strawberry Tea and Parkinson Society Presentation on Wednesday, May 3 at noon in the Church Hall. Open to ALL seniors, \$2 at the door. Volunteers are available for seniors who need a ride. Please contact Monica Cheung at 604-739-8837 if you are interested in attending.

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

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 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 Egg Hunt!!

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Children took the joy of Easter out to the south lawn of the parish this year where the Easter Egg Hunt was held. As soon as Fr Babu gave the green lights, the kids made a mad dash armed with brown paper bags. The Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am and 11am Masses has become something of a tradition at OLPH now.

Over 200 little bags of chocolate eggs were strewn around the lawn during Mass by "the Easter bunny." The children were thrilled to find that apart from chocolate eggs, there were other little treats such as ring pops and hard candy as well as small puzzles, toys and stuffies.



ON THE ROAD WITH THE STORY OF ST. ALPHONSUS

OLPH Youth Ministry are working on a concert which will feature themes in the life of St. Alphonsus through the use of contemporary music. They hope to take the show on the road if they are able to raise the funds.



It's not every day that one gets to tell the story of a saint through song. This is what the young people of OLPH Youth Ministry are currently working on with the support of the parish.

Theresa Barao, Youth Ministry Coordinator said the idea is to get our young people working on a project which will bring together some of our diverse talents, do some outreach work and evangelize.

"Music is my passion so this project is quite exciting. Being able to find music that expresses some of the thoughts in the writings of St. Alphonsus is not easy. His writings are deep yet easy to understand... with good translations of 18th century Italian! We are hoping to express some of the themes that he wrote about so passionately. He had a deep love for Christ in his birth, death and resurrection as well as Jesus in the Eucharist."

The youth group is taking their concert on a road trip to two Redemptorist parishes in Saskatoon and Grand Prairie for a week in the summer.

Chloe Wong, who is the pianist for the group said: "I'm really looking forward to spending more time with the other youths and sharing our love for music.

Although I'm slightly anxious about a road trip and travelling to so many places in a short span of time, I'm sure it'll be a really good experience for me and everyone else attending."

Sylvie Son who is a singer with the group said: "I hope to overcome my fear of performing in front of lots of people, especially people I don't know. I also just want to have a good time with my choir group. I expect it would be a long bus ride, but with lots of conversation and just chilling out."

Said Theresa: "I hope our parishioners will support this endeavor. The Mother's Day Dance is one way we hope to raise funds for this. It is going to be a lovely event for all mothers. And you don't have to dance if you don't want to! It's a nice time to socialize and have fun with friends and family."

The funds raised will go into the cost of the production, travel, rental of equipment and expenses on the trip.

The youth are also looking for support through the donation of silent auction items which mothers would love - gift baskets, restaurants vouchers etc. The Youth Ministry would really appreciate your support. You can contact Theresa at olphyouthmin@gmail.com. Thank you!