

REDEMPTORISTS ABROAD



Consecration of Singapore's Newly Renovated Novena Church

Praise and worship, hymns of thanksgiving echoed through Novena Church, also known as the Church of St Alphonsus, as many faithful gathered for the opening and blessing on Wed 25 Oct. Before Mass started, the assembled were treated to specially-produced videos on the works of the Redemptorists, the redevelopment of the Church and about Novena Church, highlighting the New Vision and Mission of the Shrine. This was followed by recitation of the holy rosary in 5 different languages.

The Mass began with the greeting, after which the faithful observed respectfully as the main celebrant, the Archbishop of Singapore William Goh, blessed the altar, the walls of the Church and the plaque in the foyer. The Church is known for its crowded Saturday Novena sessions held throughout the day and their faithful trust in Mary's intercession, even among non-Christians. We are called "to make this Shrine a house of God – the Gate of Heaven – so everyone who comes to this place will certainly encounter the love and

mercy of God," Archbishop Goh said in his homily to the 2,000 people at the mass. He added that he almost became a Redemptorist. "That there is no greater way to lead someone to Jesus than our Blessed Mother. And as we dedicate this Church to Mary, like Mary, we too, are called to bring Jesus to others."

Following the Litany of the Saints, the Rite of Blessing began with Archbishop Goh interring a first-class relic of St Alphonsus; a bone from the beloved saint, into the cavity of the main altar table. He then anointed the altar with chrism and incensed it.

The altar and sanctuary lights were then lit, followed by the lighting of the Church. At the close of the Mass, Archbishop Goh offered up the Book of Consecration – which contains the names of benefactors, sponsors, workers who built the church, families who come to the Novena, and all the Redemptorists who have served in the Vice Province. He then blessed the Shrine, as Rev. Fr. Patrick Massang sang "Icon of Love", a song that he specially composed for the occasion. This was accompanied by ballet dancers from the Singapore Dance Company.

www.cssr.news

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
Kathy Mok
communications.olph@rcav.org

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
Peter Dodge 604-222-0791

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



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.

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

November 5, 2017

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass is a Gift of Time that We Give Back to God

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

It's not news to anyone that Catholic parishes with schools try their best to track the Mass attendance of school families. It is something we do to enable us to give parish families the discounted school fee that Mass-attending families are given. These families make a point of dropping their Sunday envelopes into the basket (even if they use direct debit) so that we have some idea of their active participation in our parish. Recently, however, I discovered that some parents simply hand their envelopes to a Mass-going parent to drop into the basket in the understanding that the favor will be returned when their time came to miss Mass.

Really?! I urge parents to consider more carefully about why their children should get a Catholic school education if they themselves are unwilling to grow in the faith. Perhaps the following points will help you think a little more deeply about why we need to take an active role in the sacramental life and teach our children to do the same.

- God asks us to give the first and best to Him. This includes giving the first hour of our week to Him through participation in the Sunday Mass. Is that too much to give to God who has given us everything?
- We don't go to Mass for our personal enjoyment or entertainment. We go to praise God and thank Him for all the good things He has given to us. He awaits our presence with love and open arms.
- The simple act of taking off your watch and leaving it on the dresser before going to Mass can be a symbolic gesture that the time in Mass is a gift of time that you are giving back to God.
- The Eucharist is a banquet to which Jesus personally invites us. It was Christ's last gift to us before He died. How often should we refuse His invitation?

May our Blessed Mother lead us to a deeper and fuller relationship with her son, Jesus our Lord.

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



In you Lord I have found my peace. - Psalm 131

NEWS & NOTICES

Reconciliation Meeting: A meeting will be held for parents of children preparing for their First Reconciliation on Tuesday Nov 7 at 7pm in the Church.

Remembrance Day Holiday: Mass on Monday Nov 13 will be at 9am. There is no school that day. The next day is also a holiday for the school children because of Pro-D Day. Morning Mass will be at 8am as usual.

PEC Meeting: The next PEC meeting is on Tuesday Nov 21 in the Madonna Room.

Christmas Fair Raffle: The Christmas Fair Raffle tickets are available after Mass for \$2. Proceeds will support the Kits Shower Program. This allows the unhoused to shower once a week, get new underwear and socks, a hot breakfast, clean clothes, blankets and towels, and get a medical and dental check-up. More than 100 volunteers show the homeless compassion and love without judgement. Jesus said, "even though you do this to the least of me, you do it also unto me." The prizes are excellent and winning tickets and door prizes will be drawn at the OLPH Christmas Fair on November 25th.

Sunday Coffee Helpers: Hospitality is a very important aspect of our parish community. For years we have served coffee after the 9am Mass and it has always been a great gathering spot for newcomers to our parish. We need more helpers to keep this tradition going. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the church foyer. If you can help it would be very much appreciated!

Men's Hostel Urgent Needs: For most of us, a cold winter is just an inconvenience but for our guests and many others who live on the street, it is more serious. Over the course of a year, over 1,500 individual guests stay at the Men's Hostel. Many men also come to our door asking for clothes and food. We are in urgent need of clean socks and new underwear (all sizes). Help is needed urgently. Please drop off your donations at the Men's Hostel at 828 Cambie Street after 9 a.m. Thank you for keeping our guests warm and dry, and for your sincere prayers.

No Greater Love - Fr. Rob Galea Concert: Join us for special Advent sessions with Fr. Rob Galea on Nov.11 at St. Mary's Church. Matinee at 1pm-3pm and evening concert at 7pm-9pm. Tickets for \$15 with proceeds to St. Mary's Building Fund for the new school and parish centre. Limited \$10 tickets for children between 6-18 years old. Free admission for children under 6. Please contact St. Mary's Parish office for information.

The Newman Ball 2017: The Newman Club of UBC and the Newman Association of Vancouver cordially invite you to our annual Ball on Dec. 2, 2017 starting at 6 p.m. at the Rosary Hall at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Enjoy delicious food, elegant dancing, and great company! Tickets can be purchased or reserved by contacting us through our Facebook page or e-mail rcav.org/event/newman-ball-2017 or newmanassociationvancouver@gmail.com.

Archdiocese Holy Hour: Join Fr. Rodney Nootebos, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, along with other members of the faithful throughout the Archdiocese, in a monthly Holy Hour of prayer, intensely focused on asking the "Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers into the harvest." The next Holy Hour will be Sunday Nov. 26 at St. Ann's Parish in Abbotsford at 3 p.m. Visit rcav.org/event-archdiocese-holy-hour for the full calendar and to download a printable poster.

The Importance of a Will (Estate Planning Presentation): Why is wording in your will important? What can go wrong when your wishes are not properly documented? Join this free presentation on Nov. 14, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Archdiocese of Vancouver 4885 St John Paul II Way by lawyers Jacy Wingson QC, McQuarrie Hunter LLP, and Tim Lack, Lunny Atmore LLC. Jacy and Tim will present the importance of having a properly worded will. There will be a short Q&A session after as well as light refreshments, tea, and coffee served. Register at rcav.org/epg

Stewardship Reflection

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

- MATTHEW 23:12

Jesus gave His life to serve, not to be served. Putting other's needs before our own needs is a sign of becoming a mature disciple, of following Jesus' example. Humility is really a sign of a strength. By putting other's needs first we declare to the world that we are putting our complete trust in God. When we align our thoughts and actions with God's plan for us, the result is joy and peace.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Christmas Tea & Craft Fair



Got any "treasures" you no longer need? Please donate them to the Christmas Fair Treasure Trove. We are also asking for baking and crafts. Collection day is Friday, Nov 24. Please deliver to Church Hall - time to be announced. If you will not be able to get items to us, please email Meg Knowling at mknowling@outlook.com &/or Lynn MacDonald at bob.lynn.macdonald@gmail.com with your name and telephone number so we can help.

DECEMBER

Advent Concert & Light-Up



Advent Concert and Light-Up of the Church and Garden happens on Sat. Dec 2 at 7pm. Hot chocolate and treats to be served outdoors if the weather permits! Donations go toward the Icon of Love Fund to promote the skills of members of the Music Ministry.

A Jolly Christmas Outreach

This Christmas, we are reaching out again to underprivileged families of Strathcona Elementary School. Join us on Sunday December 10 after the 11am Mass to pack donated items from the Giving Tree. We need helpers to pack, and serve on Sunday and deliver boxes on Monday. To prep for this event, please save cardboard boxes 12"x12"x12" up to 3'x3'x3' and drop them off at the parish office before Dec 2. Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the foyer. Thank you.

REMEMBERING SOULS IN NOVEMBER

2. They are our relatives – Many of us have blood relations—grandmothers, aunts and uncles, and parents—who have died and are likely in purgatory. We should be praying for their souls out of love for them. But even if we have no dead relatives that we know of, the souls in purgatory are still our spiritual brothers and sisters. We are related by baptism into Christ, and this familial relationship should spur us to act on their behalf.

3. You will probably go there – Let's be honest, most of us are simply not holy enough to bypass purgatory, and the vast majority of us will experience its cleansing fires. If you were suffering intensely, wouldn't you want someone to offer you relief? Yes, you would. Praying for the Holy Souls, then, is a fulfillment of the Golden Rule given to us by Christ—to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you feel an aversion to praying for the poor souls, then simply remember what you would wish if you were in their position.

4. It will bring you joy – Praying for the souls in purgatory is not without its rewards. Can you imagine the joy of meeting brothers and sisters in Christ one day in heaven and realizing that you helped them with your humble prayers? "As we enter Heaven we will see them, so many of them coming towards us and thanking us," Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, "We will ask, who they are, and they will say a poor soul you prayed for in Purgatory." The small sacrifice of time we made in this life will all be worth it when we see the faces of those who benefited from our prayers.

5. It isn't that hard – Praying for the souls in purgatory is quite easy, so easy in fact that we have no excuse for not doing it. A prayer for the Holy Souls can be as simple as the short *Requiem Aeternam* prayer: "Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen." We can also add a brief petition to our daily meal prayer: "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts... And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." Why wouldn't we pray these simple prayers daily?

Two effective ways to pray for the souls in purgatory are praying the Divine Mercy chaplet for them and remembering them in your Rosary intentions. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary require a time commitment of approximately 10 and 20 minutes. Even praying these powerful prayers once a week for the Holy Souls isn't asking that much considering the benefit it brings to your spiritual family members.

Finally, one can have a Mass said for the poor souls. Mass stipends are usually \$10, the cost of two coffees at Starbucks. This merciful almsgiving is pleasing to God and hardly burdensome to us.

Get Praying

Purgatory is nothing other than an experience of the burning and purifying mercy of God, a purifying love that consumes all defects with its intensity. While it may be strange for us to think of love and mercy as inflicting pain, this is the reality of purgatory. We have the power to help our suffering friends and bring them relief. To do so is an act of mercy and self-giving love. The sacrifice it requires of us is minimal, and yet the rewards are great. On this All Souls day, let us renew our commitment to praying for our brothers and sisters who suffer in the purifying love of God.

www.catholicgentleman.net



The Forgotten Church: 5 Reasons to Pray for the Souls in Purgatory

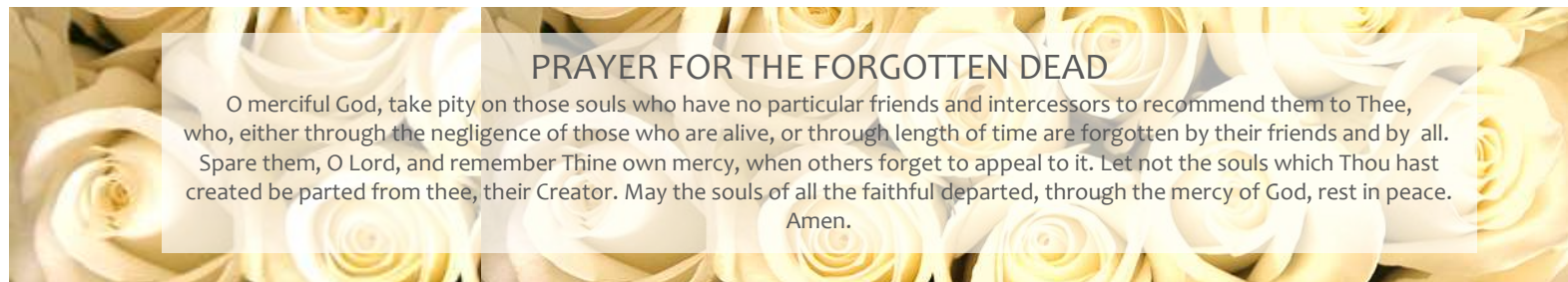
By Sam Guzman

When is the last time you heard a homily on purgatory? If your parish is like most, it's been a very long time. Getting more personal, when is the last time you prayed for the Holy Souls? If you're like many Catholics, the answer is not recently. The souls in purgatory are too often forgotten by Catholics, and I fear this is often out of a misguided desire not to seem medieval (as if that were a bad thing), superstitious, or worse yet, ecumenically insensitive.

Regardless of the reasons for its neglect, it is the constant teaching of the Church that purgatory is quite real and that there are countless souls there in need of our prayers. But my point here is not to prove that purgatory exists or to provide a theological basis for its existence. Rather, it is to urge you to pray for the Church suffering. Here are 5 reasons to pray for the relief of our brothers and sisters in purgatory.

1. The pain is real – The suffering of purgatory is likened by the saints to burning in a blazing fire. In fact, some saints have even said that the pain of purgatory is not all that different from the suffering of hell. One of the chief sources of the pain is the fact that salvation has been obtained, and yet one cannot immediately enjoy its consolations. This delay of the enjoyment of heaven leads to a spiritual agony of sorts. St. Thomas Aquinas explains it like this:

The more one longs for a thing, the more painful does deprivation of it become. And because after this life, the desire for God, the Supreme Good, is intense in the souls of the just (because this impetus toward him is not hampered by the weight of the body) had there been no obstacle; the soul suffers enormously from the delay. So the souls in purgatory are suffering in a very real and painful way, a way we cannot fully comprehend. We have the ability to help them and relieve them by our prayers and actions.



PRAYER FOR THE FORGOTTEN DEAD

O merciful God, take pity on those souls who have no particular friends and intercessors to recommend them to Thee, who, either through the negligence of those who are alive, or through length of time are forgotten by their friends and by all. Spare them, O Lord, and remember Thine own mercy, when others forget to appeal to it. Let not the souls which Thou hast created be parted from thee, their Creator. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.