

MARIAN FEAST: MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



Mother of the Church Feast Added to Liturgical Calendar

By John L. Allen Jr.

ROME - Pope Francis, whose devotion to Mary is well-known, on Saturday established a new feast for the Catholic Church devoted to Mary as the "Mother of the Church," to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. The decision was announced in a decree by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, released on Saturday by the Vatican Press Office.

The decree observes that the veneration of Mary as Mother of the Church has ancient roots in Catholic tradition, reaching back to St. Augustine and St. Leo the Great. The title, the document says, is rooted in New Testament accounts about Mary.

"She became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross, handing on the Spirit," the decree said. "Christ, in turn, in the beloved disciple, chose all disciples as ministers of his love towards his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they might welcome her with filial affection."

In 1964, at the close of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), Blessed Pope Paul VI formally declared Mary as the "Mother of the Church," and invited Catholics to invoke Mary's help under that title.

During the jubilee year of 1975, the Vatican produced a special Mass, called a "votive Mass," for Mary under the title of *Beata Maria Ecclesiae Matre*, or "Blessed Mary Mother of the Church," and also approved inserting the title into various prayers in honor of Mary.

With the new decree, devotion to Mary as Mother of the Church now becomes an approved feast for the universal Church. "Having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety, Pope Francis has decreed that the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on the Monday after Pentecost and be now celebrated every year," the document said.

"This celebration will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God," it said.

The decree stipulated that the feast should appear in all calendars and liturgical books. It also said that once translations of the texts for the new feast are approved by bishops' conferences, they will be published after the congregation gives its confirmation.

Last October, Francis transferred primary responsibility for overseeing many matters of liturgical translation from the congregation to bishops' conferences around the world.

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Archbishop Miller's Share Lent 2018 Message

February 18, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we journey through this Lenten Season, the Lord Jesus calls us to devote ourselves to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Our Development and Peace organization, Caritas Canada, offers us practical ways to respond to this Gospel appeal. This year's Share Lent theme, "Together for Peace," echoes Pope Francis's desire that we "strive to build lasting peace in the world, and to arm ourselves and our children with the weapons of dialogue."

We pray for the true peace of Christ in a world where strife seems endless. We pray for an end to conflict together with our partners in Lebanon, Cambodia, Nigeria, Peru and elsewhere. Through dialogue, they are building bridges of tolerance among peoples, generations, communities, and religions. And we pray not only for the absence of war but also for the establishment of justice.

Today I invite you to join me in this year's Share Lent campaign: that we might work "Together for Peace."

Share Lent resources are available in your parish, on rcav.org and on devp.org, including a Solidarity Calendar to guide you through our Lenten journey.

On March 18, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, you will have the opportunity to donate to the Solidarity Sunday Collection in support of this campaign. I urge you to give sacrificially in support of our Development and Peace partners who are on the front lines. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, may we "be instruments of God's peace." Together let us build a world where peace and justice prevail.

With cordial greetings and my prayers for a blessed Lent, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver



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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)
Children's Mass: 9am 1st
Sunday of the month Oct-June
Children's Liturgy: 11am All
Sundays except the 1st Sunday
from Sept- June
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

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Olphchurchvancouver

OLPH Church, 2465 Crown

Street, Vancouver BC V6R3V9

March 11, 2018

4th Sunday of Lent

Working Towards Becoming Good Stewards

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

It is tax season again. It is amazing how quickly it seems to come around. You will be happy to know that your tax receipts are available for pickup in the foyer and in the office on weekdays. Enclosed with your receipts is a form which some of you may not be aware of. It is the form which enables you to make your parish donations through Pre-Authorized Giving. Some of you are already doing this.

Advantages for you:

- Convenience: Your offering is deducted from your account once each month and automatically deposited to the Parish account or automatically paid by credit card.
- You can plan your giving in advance for the whole year.
- You can continue to support the parish when you are away.

Advantages for the Parish:

- A regular, dependable flow of contributions to the parish especially over the summer holiday months.
- A reduction of paperwork and bookkeeping.

Then there is the question of how much to give. We should be giving to the Lord at least the first fruits of our labour, an hour of our day's income for each week. In the agrarian society of Biblical times, first fruits meant the best yield of one's labour in crops or cattle. Today, we interpret this as an hour of your wage for the week offered to God at Sunday worship. We have good stewards in our parish who give more and for this we are indeed blessed. For the sake of good financial planning, the parish would benefit tremendously if we all worked towards the goal of being good stewards.

Wishing you blessings for a great week!

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



THE NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT

OLPH Parish Hosting the New Evangelization Summit

Our Parish is one of several sites hosting an international event with the Archdiocese of Vancouver that will inspire Catholics in our locale to be engaged in the New Evangelization.

This two-day conference will bring together speakers who are leaders in the New Evangelization to provide inspiration, encouragement, training, practical wisdom and resources on how Catholics can effectively evangelize. All Catholics – pastors, missionaries, lay ministers, and the lay faithful – will benefit immensely from this powerful opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church.

The annual NES will be held in Ottawa and streamed to 38 host-sites. The broadcasting of the event will provide a way for Catholics from around North America to participate in the Summit. Thus approximately 5000 like-minded Catholics from across the continent will be united in one goal – to be formed as evangelists and be part of a network of Catholic evangelists.

SAVE THESE DATES: FRIDAY APRIL 27 & SATURDAY APRIL 28 MORE INFORMATION NEXT WEEK!

Let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I do not remember you. – Psalm 137

NEWS & NOTICES

Tax Receipts: Tax receipts are available for pickup in the church foyer and in the parish office on weekdays.

Easter Egg Hunt: There will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Sunday. There will be no Children's Mass that day.

Solidarity Sunday Collection: Next Sunday, March 18 is the Solidarity Sunday Collection for Development and Peace-Caritas Canada. Archbishop Miller's message for Share Lent 2018 is on the back page. Please remember to use your Share Lent envelope in the Sunday Offering box next Sunday. You can also make regular donations all-year round. Pick up a brochure in the church foyer for more info. A short film by Development and Peace partners will be screened on Sunday evening March 18 at 6pm in the Madonna Room. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Book Keeper Wanted for OLPH School: Our Lady of Perpetual School (OLPH) is seeking applicants for the position of School Bookkeeper. The successful candidate will become a collaborative member of this dynamic community which provides an excellent Catholic education for students from Preschool to Grade 7.

The successful candidate will:

- Have exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to build strong professional relationships
- Demonstrate the ability to effectively network with all stakeholder groups in the school and parish community
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently, with initiative, confidentiality, and discretion
- Demonstrate excellent organizational and planning skills
- Have successfully completed secondary school and a minimum of 2-3 years of experience in a computerized accounting environment or the equivalent training in the accounting field
- Demonstrate a superior knowledge of SAGE, MS Office and Excel

A more detailed job description is available upon request. Please send resume and supporting documentation to: office@olphbc.ca

Spring Break: School is closed for Spring Break from March 12 – 23.

West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Series: Wednesdays at noon for 1/2 hour. Soup & bread lunch after prayer. Mar 14 – St. Anselm's Anglican Church, 5210 University Blvd. Mar 21 – West Point Grey Presbyterian, 4397 West 12th Ave.

Men's Discernment Night: Do you have questions about discerning God's call for your life? Vocations in Progress for men is an opportunity to meet priests, ask questions, and learn about their life and spirituality. The informal event will include prayer, dinner, and discussion. Wednesday, March 21, from 7-10 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Vancouver. vocationsvancouver.ca

Retrouaille Weekend in April: The next Retrouaille Program for troubled marriages will be held on the weekend of April 13 - 15, 2018. We are blessed to be able to have our weekend at the Christian Retreat Centre Barnabas Landing, on Keats Island. - www.barnabasfm.org

Go on a Catholic Gap Year! : Looking for adventure? In need of a break from studies? Want to serve others? Discerning your career? Seeking answers to life? Interested in becoming a missionary? If you answered yes to any of the above, then taking a Catholic Gap Year may just be what you're looking for! This is your chance to serve the Church and the world while exploring God's purpose for you. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is now accepting applications for the \$500 Catholic Gap Year bursary. A total of 4 individuals who apply by June 1 will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each to be applied to mission expenses. Learn more at catholicgapyear.ca.

St Mark's College Lenten Liturgy and Lunch Series: Back by popular demand, St. Mark's College at UBC will again be offering our weekly Lenten lecture series "Fill Your Bowl with Joy" every Wednesday of Lent. We start with Mass at 12:10pm in St Mark's Chapel followed by a talk and discussion at 12:45 in Plato's Cave (St. Mark's College).

Stewardship Reflection

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop them and return with increase.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

MARCH

Madonna Group Meeting

Madonna Group will be meeting on Wednesday, March 14 at Noon in the Church Hall. We will have a St. Patrick's celebration. Please contact Monica at 604-739-8837 if you plan to attend.

Lenten Talks

Our annual Lenten Talks take place after the 7pm Stations of the Cross. The book we are discussing is Sister Nuala Kenny's *Rediscovering The Art of Dying*. Books are available for \$15.16 from Novalis <https://en.novalis.ca>. You can buy a book or simply attend the talk prepared by our speakers for each session.

Friday Mar 16: The Art of Dying: Learning from the Master
Friday Mar 23: Consolation & Resurrection

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday March 25
Palm Sunday Blessings of Palms and Procession at all Masses
Penitential Service Sunday 2pm

Mon – Wed March 26-28
8am Mass as usual

Holy Thursday March 29
(No morning Mass)
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament till 10pm

Good Friday March 30
Prayer/Soup & bread: Noon
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3pm
Stations of the Cross: 7pm

Holy Saturday March 31
9am Morning Prayer (No Mass)
Confessions: 4-5pm
Easter Vigil 8pm

Easter Sunday April 1
Usual Mass Times



A Retreat on the Power of Prayer

RCIA members of the Elect turned up with great enthusiasm for the half-day Parish Retreat planned for them as they continue their journey towards receiving the Sacraments at Easter.

The theme of Prayer and Reconciliation featured prominently on the morning's agenda.

Our first speaker was Jonathan Cooper, a realtor, who gave a powerful testimony of how Christ drew him into the Catholic faith after years as a Protestant. The real presence of Jesus is almost palpable for him in the Eucharist and this went on to develop into regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

"No matter what my day looks like, I make the time for daily Mass. As someone in finance, I understand how to make good returns on my investment, so to speak. That half hour I spend in prayer and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is abundantly rewarded by the sense of peace and focus I receive to do my work well for the rest of my day."

Our second speaker was Maria Murcia, a former parishioner and Ph.D student at UBC. She spoke of the When, Where and How of Prayer and how important it is for us to "pray without ceasing" as St Paul says.

She too talked about prayer in language that we can all relate to: "A life of prayer is a 0% risk, 100% return, life changing investment. Commit to at least 15 minutes every day and you will notice great change in your life! Even amidst difficulties and challenges your friendship with Christ will give you the peace to tackle and profit from them.

"Build your day, even better, your week around prayer! You can surely spare 15 minutes to do it (we are all famous for spending much more time fooling around with our devices, social media, etc). Just make sure you are specific to set the 'whens' and 'wheres'. Be deliberate and don't let prayer be another 'when' in your calendar that you can snooze and dismiss."

Her advice: "We want to start off our day with the one that loves us the most. We pray precisely because we want to have a relationship with HIM, and by praying regularly, we unite ourselves to HIM. And like friends who get acquainted, we develop the same mind, we feel alike! And therefore we are efficacious in our day as we work and play with the very heart and mind of Christ."

While you are praying, please remember to keep our RCIA members in mind.

LENTE REFLECTION

Finding God in The Art of Stillness

By Vanessa Santilli-Raimondo

In today's world, people are mostly foreign to stillness. Being continually busy is the norm, and finding time to do absolutely nothing but sit back, relax and be still is a novel concept. But hard as it may be to find time for stillness, it's a practice that can be used to increase our focus and direction — and to build a deeper connection with God in our lives.

Travel writer Pico Iyer is an expert on staying busy and being still. "Not many years ago, it was access to information and movement that seemed our greatest luxury," reflected Iyer in his book, *The Art of Stillness*. "Nowadays, it's often freedom from information, the chance to sit still, that feels like the ultimate prize."

Iyer would know — he's made a life of travelling the world. It was through his habit of movement that he found himself a visitor at a Benedictine monastery in California, where he first engaged in the pursuit of stillness. He's since visited more than 80 times and has found a silence that has enriched his life.

Society's collective need for downtime has surfaced through a travel trend called "silence tourism." According to an article published last summer in *Condé Nast Traveler*, "being quiet is the newest adventure trend" as people flock to vacation destinations that promise a digital detox from the demands of a 24/7 culture.

There's science behind the claim that silence — a key to stillness — is beneficial to health. In 2011, a World Health Organization report called noise pollution the "modern plague." The report found overwhelming evidence that exposure to environmental noise has adverse effects on the health of the population.

In the Catholic tradition, the benefits of silence are not new. Silent retreats are one means widely available for people to take time to be still, unwind and re-orient their life's direction. Another tool that can bring an encounter with the art of stillness is Christian meditation, often described as a "prayer of the heart."

Aside from the myriad spiritual benefits, the Canadian Christian Meditation Community's website lists a wide array of associated health benefits, including: improved attention, lower blood pressure, a boosted immune system, reduced anxiety and depression and improvement in coping strategies and emotional processing.

To meditate, sit upright and breathe calmly. Then, close your eyes and in your mind and heart repeat the Aramaic word "Maranatha." It's an ancient Christian prayer word that means, "Come, Lord Jesus." While you do this, pay particular attention to your breathing and listen to the sound of the mantra (to be recited as four syllables). "Let go of all thoughts (even good thoughts), images and other words," wrote Fr. John Main, an Oblate who played a major role in the rediscovery of this prayer tradition once practised by early Christian monks. "Don't fight your distractions: let them go by saying your mantra faithfully, gently and attentively and returning to it as soon as you realize you have stopped saying it or when your attention wanders."

It may sound easy — after all, you are kicking back and relaxing — but in practice it's not that straightforward. Even after multiple attempts, I still found it difficult. It feels counterintuitive to sit still in silence and let your thoughts pass by. But keeping up the practice has led me to moments of much-needed tranquility.

Christian meditation is essentially the discipline of finding time and training yourself to be still, which, in turn, helps focus your thoughts on God — even if it's just for a few minutes a day. Cutting through the external noise is the first step, but there is also internal noise and distractions that can be just as loud.

Praying the rosary is another tried and true method for becoming still and connecting with God. Praying the rosary in the silence of your home is one option, or you might try putting your rosary in your pocket and taking it on a walk with you, swapping your headphones for the decades of the rosary. There are many ways to achieve stillness but they all require much self-control. But it's definitely a worthy pursuit as a means to counter the distractions and overstimulation that is part of daily living.

"God hidden within me," wrote the late, great theologian Thomas Merton. "I find Him by hiding in the silence in which He is concealed."

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