

Lent is often a struggle for me. Trying to find just the right ways to prepare can sometimes leave me unsettled. What should I give up? How much time should I spend in prayer? How much should I donate? Who should I give it to? What else could I be doing? How do I know if I am doing enough? Such questions can weigh on one after a while and possibly take away from the true meaning of this time. This year, I tried something new. I was reading an article the other day about the life of a submariner. I have always been intrigued by these individuals, who willingly choose to live below the waves for months at a time, in the service of their country. My grandfather held this noble distinction during WWII, as an Electrician's Mate aboard the SS Jack, as it patrolled the waters of the South Pacific. Theirs is a unique life, and it offered much for me to meditate on. Submariners are an elite group of sailors, recognized by their "Dolphins." They volunteer for this duty, and regardless of rank, happily share the load as one family. They are humble, devoted, and most importantly, they serve us in silence. Humility. Devotion. Silent service. Three qualities that I needed to examine more thoroughly.

Humility: Submariners practice a sense of humility that speaks volumes when it comes to selflessness. When an emergency arises, they disregard rank and status and simply get to work. There is no time to consider who is more important, who should give the orders, or who will get the credit for a job well done. They are all equal and they work together. Furthermore, they act for the greater good of the other, ahead of themselves. As one Commander put it, "...Our lives depend on knowing that we can count on each other to watch our backs, to make sure the safety of the ship is placed well ahead of rank or rate."

We should try to forget about ourselves, and instead, concentrate on those around us (regardless of "rank"). Be an immediate solution to problems as soon as they arise. Do not wait for someone else to handle it. Many of us have a tendency to ignore doing what we ought if we believe it is beneath us to do so. This does nothing to accomplish our goal as Christians.

Devotion: “We can’t jump on any life boats, abandon the ship or parachute out of a plane to avoid the fire, flooding or catastrophic mechanical failure,” says Chief Electronics Technician, William Murtha. We, too, experience “fires, floods, and catastrophic mechanical failures” in our lives. Devotion is about sticking around and tackling them head on and not looking for a way out. We should take time to reflect on those areas, where we often search for an escape, and instead try to become more diligent at handling them. Each member of the submarine community is part of the “damage control party.”

This combination of confidence and competence, along with speaking out when mistakes are made, is significant. Mistakes are costly, especially those that could have been easily avoided. The same is true with injustice. Speaking out against an injustice is necessary in order to better contribute to a more productive society. This requires knowledge, and it is therefore necessary to be well informed of what is going on around us, so that we can always respond accordingly.

Silent Service: Submariners choose to forgo the usual comforts, while serving in isolation, with no sun and no fresh air. They are not in it for the glory or special recognition. They are in it for each other and they are in it for us. This sense of sacrifice and service has inspired me and has led me to a deeper understanding and appreciation for the job they perform. As I considered the ways such attributes could help me better prepare for Lent, I began to feel more drawn to the life of St. Joseph, and for good reason. He perfected these qualities.

Two Goals of Lent: Of all of the lessons we can take away from life of St. Joseph, none are more significant than his humility, devotion, and silent service. St. Joseph reminds us of two very important goals that come out of living these qualities, and ones we can practice this Lent. One: listening more intently (to where the Lord is guiding) and Two: be willing to fulfill His mission for us.

St. Joseph exercised a deep sense of dedication to the Holy Family, placing their needs above his own. Although Sacred Scripture does not offer nearly as many details into the life of St. Joseph, it does offer us insight into his wisdom. St. Joseph was a man of deep prayer, who was always open to the words our Lord placed on his heart, throughout every aspect of his life. His willingness to respond without hesitation demonstrated his humility, devotion, and service.

Furthermore, St. Joseph's role in helping to raise the Son of God was monumental (and perhaps a bit intimidating) on the surface. However, his fulfillment to this call was a testimony to his humble obedience. As we prepare to contemplate the Paschal Mystery of Our Savior, we can reflect on those around us who have planted seeds that have taken root. These seeds have been further cultivated by the lives of the saints. Throughout Lent we recall the sins of Adam and Eve, which was in direct contradiction to the Original plans God had in store for us at the onset of His creation. Their deliberate misuse of freewill destroyed the Original State of Holiness and Justice. Nevertheless, we still find hope in humanity when we see examples of selflessness and service that encourage us on our earthly pilgrimage.

As we further embrace these qualities, we grow deeper in our intimacy with Christ, and with His saints. We continue to meditate on the major roles they have played in our faith and we begin to witness God's plan for fulfillment in our lives.

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5th Sunday of Lent

New Evangelization Summit: A Call To Be Re-Evangelized

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

It is very exciting that we are hosting the live-streaming of the New Evangelization Summit in April. We will be carrying information about it in the bulletin in the upcoming weeks. Parishishioners from the lower mainland will be invited to come here. I hope we will have a good turnout from our own parish too. For the cost of dinner at a restaurant you can tap into the knowledge and wisdom of several world-class speakers who have made definitive contributions to what we call the “new evangelization”.

What is the meaning of the “new evangelization”? St. Pope John Paul II used this first in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* in 1983 when he was speaking to the Latin American bishops. Here he describes that there are three types of evangelization the Church needs to carry out:

- Communities who have never heard of Jesus Christ and the Gospel
- Practicing Catholics already on the path of growing and deepening their faith
- Baptized Catholics who have become distant from the faith

Many of us know Catholics who have fallen away from the Church and need our support to be invited or inspired back to the faith. These talks are also aimed at helping us to grow deeper and more committed to our faith, reaching out to those who find it difficult to return, and connecting with others who have discovered a real joy in being disciples of Jesus. Let us pray for the success of this very worthwhile endeavor.

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



With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem. – Psalm 130

NEWS & NOTICES

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

CWL Meeting: The next Catholic Women’s League Meeting is on Wednesday March 21 at 7pm in the Madonna Room. 2017 Members who have not renewed their memberships are invited to renew at the meeting.

Knights Serving Coffee: The Knights of Columbus will be serving coffee after 9:00am Mass this Sunday. If you are interested in the work of the Knights of Columbus, please ask anyone serving coffee. The next general Meeting of the Knights (open to all) will be this Tuesday March 20 at 7:30pm in the Parish hall.

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.

Trip to Mexico: Fr Bill will be away from March 22-April 2 for his visit to the Orphanage in Mexico set up by Eduardo and Rosa Anna Ituarte. Please keep him in your prayers.

Solidarity Sunday Collection: This is the Solidarity Sunday weekend. The Share Lent Collection taken up today goes to the Canadian Catholic organization Development & Peace-Caritas Canada. If you forgot to bring your Share Lent donation, you can still drop it into the Sunday Collection next week. You can also make regular donations all-year round. Pick up a brochure in the church foyer for more info or go to devp.org.

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. A 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. The last one is this Wednesday Mar 21 at West Point Grey Presbyterian, 4397 West 12th Ave.

Pro-Life Mass and Vigil: Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on Saturday, April 7. Mass is at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s, Vancouver, followed by Rosary at Burnaby Hospital. For upcoming dates visit <http://rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil/>

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

| JAN & FEB COLLECTIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! | | |
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| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY |
| Sunday Offerings | \$33,606.00 | \$32,903.74 |
| Collection for the Needy | \$1,712.00 | \$1,712.00 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$2,455.85 | |
| Initial Offering | \$2,247.10 | \$40.00 |
| Catholic Press | \$25.00 | \$1,755.00 |
| Christmas | \$60.00 | |
| St Joseph’s Society | \$5.00 | \$2,149.00 |
| Food Bank (Hong Family) | | \$886.80 |
| OLPH Youth Ministry | \$500.00 | \$110.00 |
| Parish Mission | | \$1,880.00 |

Stewardship Reflection

“I will be their God and they shall be my people.” - JEREMIAH 31:33

What does it mean to be God’s people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

CALENDAR

MARCH
Solidarity Sunday Film

A short film by Development and Peace partners will be screened today Sunday March 18 at 6pm in the Madonna Room. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Development & Peace Talk

There will be a presentation open to all parishioners by Jeremy Laurie Development and Peace organization on Wednesday March 21 at 7:30pm in the Madonna Room after the CWL business meeting.

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 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



OLPH Parish Is Host Site For 2018
New Evangelization Summit
“Our hearts need to be set on fire with a love for Christ and a desire to make Him known...”

On April 27th and 28th, join thousands of Catholics as the New Evangelization Summit is live in Ottawa, ON and webcast to cities across North America. Speakers who are leaders in the New Evangelization will 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 from this powerful opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church.

The Summit will feature world-class Catholic speakers including:
--George Weigle, acclaimed author and renowned scholar
--Curtis Martin, passionate evangelizer and founder of Focus
--Michael Dopp, founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries and the New Evangelization Summit
--Sr. Anne Shields, evangelization extraordinaire and acclaimed speaker
--Patrick Madrid, author, radio host, and amazing apologist
--Christy Dupuis, dynamic speaker, missionary, and member of local parish pastoral team

TICKETS : \$40 INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACKS TO BUY YOUR TICKET, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO WWW.NEWEVANGELIZATION.CA



COMMENTARY: SOLIDARITY SUNDAY



Increase in International Aid Budget: A Mixed Success

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada welcomes the budgetary increase in Canada’s international development assistance that was announced in the recent 2018 federal budget. However we call on the Government of Canada to increase its efforts to bring the budget level of aid closer to 0.7 per cent of GDP, the internationally recognized target.

The budget increase echoes the call of Development & Peace’s Fall education and action campaign, “Women at the Heart of Peace,” which asks the Government of Canada to: 1) adopt a strategy and timeline that will enable it to achieve a level of official development assistance equivalent to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI); and 2) to ensure that the resources allocated will be directed towards women and women’s organizations working to prevent violence and build peace in countries affected by armed conflict.

This budget increase is intended to support the federal government’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy, presented last June by the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie. This policy represents a new Canadian approach to international development and security, by placing the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of programs and initiatives.

In the text accompanying the budget, the government indicated that it wants the focus to be on, among other things, championing “the voice and participation of women and girls, including supporting local women’s organizations to defend women’s rights and address barriers.”

However, we doubt that the attributed amount will be sufficient to achieve the goals of strengthening and empowering women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, inequality, climate change and conflict.

The government plans to increase the budget by \$2 billion over five years, which is the largest investment in this sector in 16 years. Nevertheless, until this announcement, the Liberal government had been content to keep the aid budget at the same level maintained by the previous Conservative government. Thus, last year, the amount invested in international assistance represented 0.26 per cent of gross national income (GNI), compared to 0.49 per cent of GNI in 1988. This places Canada in fifth place among G7 countries, behind the UK, Germany, France and Italy.

Despite the additional amount budgeted for Canadian assistance, it is still not enough to raise the level of international assistance beyond 0.26 per cent of GNI. In fact, the allocated amount will barely cover inflation rates.

It should also be mentioned that the significant increase in the military budget—nearly \$14 billion over 10 years, an increase of 70 per cent—has been maintained, despite the fact that armed conflicts represent one of the main causes of vulnerability and insecurity in many countries around the world, especially for women and girls. Our hope would be for the Canadian government to prioritize approaches that are focused on building peace and respect for human rights rather than on military reinforcement and that this would be reflected in the budget.

The federal government will certainly take advantage of the upcoming G7 Summit, which it will host next June in Charlevoix, to promote this new approach and its additional financial commitments. However, Canada stills has a lot of catching up to do, both within the G7 and especially on the international scene, if it is to ensure that its commitments lead to concrete results in the lives of the poorest communities in the Global South that are exposed to violence and natural disasters.