

## A Reflection on Treasure: 100% Ownership vs 100% Stewardship

We have all been entrusted with the gifts of time, talent and treasure. Treasure can be interpreted in a variety of ways – our bodies (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20), our minds (Rom. 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:13), our opportunities (Col. 4:5) and financial resources. Let us focus on the treasure of our financial resources since Scripture has so much to say about this basic concern that affects us all.



When it comes to governing our financial affairs, we must choose between two radically different approaches: the values of our society, or the values of the Bible. The first alternative tells us to find happiness and peace through money; the second tells us to find the desire of our hearts in the Lord and to be content with what He gives us. Money is a good servant but a bad master. If we follow the world's wisdom, money will dominate us but if we submit to "the wisdom from above" (Jas. 3:17), money will serve us as we use it to serve God and others.

While the Bible has about 500 verses on prayer and approximately 500 verses on faith, there are over 2,300 biblical verses that deal with money and possessions. Over 10 percent of the New Testament relates directly to financial matters. Why is there such an emphasis? One reason is that money has a profound effect on interpersonal relationships. Many people spend more than half their time thinking about money, and financial difficulties are a major cause of marital conflict and divorce.

Another reason is that the way we use our money is a real measure of our commitment to Christ. Scripture relates how we use our money to the commitment we have in loving God: "But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

This week, let us as a church community ask ourselves the following questions:

- How do I spend my money?
- Am I a consistent and cheerful giver?
- Does the way I spend my money reflect my Catholic beliefs?
- Do I trust God's promise of provision enough to give generously no matter what my financial situation looks like?
- Do I support my church by giving regularly? Do I give to Catholic charities or other worthy causes?

**Scripture for Reflection: Deuteronomy 8:18 Deuteronomy 28:8,11 Malachi 3:10 Luke 6:38**

### Financial Freedom

Financial freedom should be a part of our new life in Christ, and the wise person seeks the timely practice of timeless principles in this vital area. We will look at the biblical guidelines concerning the proper attitudes toward money (ownership, priorities, contentment), and the proper actions with money (responsibilities, giving, borrowing, budgeting, saving, communicating).

### Ownership

God is the owner of all things. "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it" (Ps. 24:1). We come into the world with nothing and leave it with nothing (Job 1:21; 1 Tim. 6:7), but God says, "every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine" (Ps. 50:10-11). Everything we have, therefore, comes from Him (John 3:27; Jas. 1:17). "What do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" (1 Cor. 4:7).

We may believe this truth in theory but deny it in practice. When this happens, we slip into the rebellious attitude that "My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth" (Deut. 8:17). Instead, we must come to grips with the fact that everything we have in this world belongs to God and is only "on loan" to us.

This includes not only our money and possessions, but also our families, careers, and plans for the future. If we can get straight on the principle of 100% ownership, we will be ready for the principle of 100% stewardship. As a St Thomas Aquinas church community, let us read these passages and then ask ourselves what people or things we are still clinging to as if they were our own rather than the Lord's.

**Scripture for Reflection: 1 Chronicles 29:11-14 Job 41:11 Psalm 89:11 Psalm 104:24 1 Corinthians 10:26.**

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### Parish Council

Donna Trasolini  
trasolini@telus.net

### Finance Council

Lauri Ann Fenlon  
lauri.ann.fenlon@gmail.com

### Parish Education Committee

Maili Wong  
pec@olphbc.ca

### COORDINATORS

#### Altar Guild

Bridget Bird 604-228-9180

#### Altar Servers

Kate Carr 604-730-5640

#### Catholic Women's League

Meg Knowling  
MKnowling@Outlook.com

#### Children's Liturgy

Kathy Mok  
communications.olph@rcav.org

#### Craft Group

Doris Rankin 604-224-0876

#### Development & Peace

Deirdre Webster 604-736-0714

#### 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 604-649-1111

#### 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



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

September 23, 2018

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>  
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.

#### In Residence

William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

#### Office Manager

Virginia Fong

#### Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

#### Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

#### Youth Ministry Coordinator

Theresa Barao

#### OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

#### Jr. Kindergarten Director

Maria Cortese

### CONTACT

Email: parish.olph@rcav.org

Website: www.olphchurch.ca

Parish Office: 604-224-4344

OLPH School: 604-228-8811

Jr. Kindergarten:

jrkindergarten@olphbc.ca

Olphchurchvancouver

OLPH Church, 2465 Crown  
Street, Vancouver BC V6R3V9

## Giving in the Biblical Sense Calls for a Different Attitude

Dear Parishioners,

The day we present the Financial Statement is indeed a day of great thanksgiving to the Lord. When we look at our families, our church, our school, the resources our children have access to – all these surely give us cause to pause and be thankful.

Our Finance Council has done a good job of keeping things on track for the parish. They have identified some areas of need which we must be mindful of. You will see this reflected in the financial statement. We need to prayerfully reflect on these areas of need and think of what we can do to alleviate the situation.

The excellent values that our school promotes and that young parents seek so sincerely for their children stem from the principles of our Catholic beliefs and the Church that embodies it. This love and dedication for the church ought to be reflected in your Sunday offering.

Giving in the Biblical sense calls us to have a different attitude to money than we would have in secular thinking. The article on the back page explains very clearly the principles of giving with a sense of gratitude for the gifts that God has entrusted to us.

To all who have been giving, thank you for your support. Let us pray that our Blessed Mother may help us to be grateful for the gifts we have received and gracious in sharing them for the growth of God's kingdom here on earth.

Yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Babu Mathew, CSsR**

## OLPH Youth Selling Pies for Yellowknife Fundraiser

OLPH Youth will be selling pumpkin, apple, and blueberry pies next weekend and Thanksgiving weekend. What better way to welcome Autumn with the scent of pies baking in your own kitchen at home! Funds raised for the sales will go toward expenses for our big Yellowknife trip being planned for next summer. Parish teens interested in this expedition, please come and chat with us!

A very important part of the Yellowknife trip will be outreach work with a few indigenous communities which is currently being planned with the help of Bishop Jon Hansen. We are hoping to have a lively exchange of faith and cultural experiences with those we meet.



No details yet, but we are also working on a musical presentation of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. It is our way of promoting the Redemptorist mission of honouring Our Blessed Mother and making her known. Afterall, she is the greatest intercessor of all our prayers because she brings them all to her Son.

Please show your support for this worthy fundraiser by buying a pie or two! We will have a table in the foyer after all masses next weekend, Sept 29 & 30 and October 6 & 7. Cost per pie is \$15. Cash and cheques accepted. Donations to Youth Ministry can be made at www.olphchurch.ca. See you after Mass!



## NEWS & NOTICES

**Weekly Collection:** Sunday Mass Offering Sept 15 & 16: \$7,229.82. Offering for the Needy: \$110. CSsR Pension: \$3332. Initial Offering: \$100. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

**Project Advance Report:** On Sept 14 pledges were at \$60,497 with participation from 106 donors. We have now exceeded our archdiocesan goal of \$52,000. All funds raised now will be rebated to the parish. Our total goal is \$104,000 which will go toward the Parish infrastructure renewal. Please make a prayerful contribution to Project Advance this year. Thank you for your support.

**PREP:** PREP classes begin this Tuesday at 6:30pm at OLPH School.

**PREP Teachers Needed:** We are still in need of a few people to assist with teaching Catechism to children in non-Catholic schools. If you can help, please contact Elizabeth Towers 604-440-8809.

**CWL Meeting:** OLPH Catholic Women's League will meet on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:30pm in the Madonna Room. If you have any agenda items, please forward to [mKnowling@outlook.com](mailto:mKnowling@outlook.com).

**Pro-D Day:** There is no school on Friday Sept 28 because it is a Pro-D Day for teachers. Mass will be at 9am. After school care will be in the hall from 8am – 6pm.

**Youth Mass Musicians:** We are looking for more musicians to help with the Sunday 5pm Mass. If you play guitar (acoustic or electric), bass, percussion, violin or other instruments, please contact Theresa. Email: [olphyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:olphyouthmin@gmail.com)

**Food Bank Update:** Baby foods will be on sale at this weekend's Food Bank appeal. Thank you in advance for your support. We are also looking for more helpers for this outreach work. If you would like to volunteer in this ministry, please contact Robyn Sirmul. Email: [robysirmul@shaw.ca](mailto:robysirmul@shaw.ca)

**Children's Liturgy:** In this program, children up to 7 years are taught the Gospel message of the day in simple and engaging ways. Children's Liturgy is available at the Sunday 11am Mass starting Sept 23.

**Sunday Morning Coffee:** The work of hospitality is a beautiful service to the parish community. We need helpers on Sunday mornings for the 9am after-Mass coffee. It's a wonderful service for the whole family to work on together - kids can select the kind of donuts or cookies to serve, dad can make the coffee and mom can help with serving. Everyone helps with clean-up! Please sign up on the sheet in the church foyer.

**RCIA Begins September 23:** If you are interested in the Catholic faith or have been away from the Church for some time and would like to come back, join us on Sunday mornings for The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is a beautiful journey of spiritual discovery culminating in Easter celebrations on April 21 next year. If you are already in the faith and know of people who have not discovered Jesus, have missed receiving First Communion and Confirmation, or simply fallen out of the practice of the Faith, extend a personal invitation to them to join us on this spiritual journey. Starting Sunday Sept 23, 9am-10:30am. Application forms available in the church foyer and parish office.

**Pro-life Mass and Prayer Vigil:** Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on Saturday, Oct. 6. Mass is at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's, Surrey, followed by the Rosary. For upcoming dates visit <https://rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil/>

**Handmade Sacred Artifacts for Sale:** The Sisters of St Elizabeth from Belarus will be at OLPH to sell icons (including hand painted), crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments. It is their prayer that these goods made with love and prayer may bring blessings to their owners. The Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults with Downs syndrome, birth traumas or congenital physical defects and put on woodcraft and rosary-making workshops for those dealing with addictions. Please support their cause on Thanksgiving weekend.

**Archbishop's Dinner 2018:** Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. at Hyatt Regency, Vancouver. Reception at 6 p.m. Archbishop Miller has designated the proceeds of the Seventh Annual Archbishop's Dinner to help the Archdiocese meet the costs of its intensive and comprehensive formation program for our future permanent deacons, along with the continuing education of those already ordained. Purchase tickets today at <https://rcav.org/dinner2018/>

## Stewardship Reflection

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." -- MARK 9:35*

Jesus teaches us that we are called to serve one another. Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" which means sacred and "facere" which is to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### 12-week Marian Meditations

In the 12 Thursdays between the Birthday of Mary (Sept 8) and the start of Advent (Dec 2) we will be holding a series of Marian Meditations with prayers and music. Thursdays at our parish have been dedicated to novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This will be another beautiful way to invoke the help of Our Blessed Mother for the spiritual and temporal needs of your family and friends for the coming year. Starting: Thursday Sept 13, 2:30pm-3pm

#### Social Justice Talks



#### OLPH Parish Social Justice Talks 2018

Fr. Gonzalo Ituarte is a Dominican friar and priest, a former Provincial of his order who led the Dominican Mission to Ocosingo (Chiapas, Mexico). He served for many years as Vicar for Peace and Justice of the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, working with the renowned late Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia. Fr. Ituarte is a member of the International Interreligious Peace Council.

#### Thursday September 27, 2018 (English)

*"He has sent me to proclaim the good news to the poor: A reflection by Fr. Gonzalo Ituarte, OP on his work with the indigenous people of Chiapas."*  
Mass: 8am with Fr. Ituarte. Coffee immediately after. Talk: 9am. Madonna Room. By donation.

### OCTOBER

#### Altar Server Training

Training for new altar servers will be starting in October. Anyone in Grade 3 or up who has received First Communion is welcome to join. For more information and to sign-up, please contact Kate Carr at [cecarr@telus.net](mailto:cecarr@telus.net) by Sunday, September 30.

## Starting A Fresh Academic Year with Blessings

OLPH School staff, PREP teachers and Parish Education Committee members celebrated the start of a new academic year with special blessings and the Eucharist at the 11am Mass last Sunday. The church was packed with families of the staff as well as regular attendees of that Mass.

This is the only time of year when parishioners get a glimpse of all our hardworking teaching and administrative staff gathered at one place. And there certainly seemed to be a large number. Apart from the Principal, Lora Clarke, vice-principal and 3 members in the administration, the school employs 19 teachers, 33 support staff which includes the educational assistants and learning resource assistants, as well as 4 maintenance workers.

The pouring rain did not dampen spirits for the BBQ which was held in the school gym instead of the courtyard as soon as Mass was over. All the best to our teachers in the coming year! Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped organize the lovely celebration.



## OLPH SCHOOL COMMISSIONING SUNDAY



## Redemptorist Pilgrimage: May 2-14

As part of our 150th Jubilee Icon of Love celebrations, the Redemptorists all over the world have organized several pilgrimages to visit the actual icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, places where St Alphonsus and St Gerard Majella lived and prayed as well as a few other places of interest in Italy.

#### 12-DAY ITINERARY

Day 01: May 02 2019 - Canada to Rome / Naples  
Day 02: May 03 - Arrive in Rome – Marianella – Naples  
Day 03: May 04 - Pompeii – Amalfi Coast  
Day 04: May 05 - Excursion to Scala  
Day 05: May 06 - Sites of St. Alphonsus and St. Gerard Majella  
Day 06: May 07 - Amalfi – Montecassiano – Rome  
Day 7: May 08 - Papal Audience – Holy Doors of Rome – Relics of Jerusalem  
Day 8: May 09 - Rome (Vatican)  
Day 9: May 10 - Assisi – Sites of St. Francis and St. Clare  
DAY 10: May 11 - Pisa – Padua  
DAY 11: May 12 – Venice – St. Mark's Square - Murano Glass Factory  
DAY 12: May 13 – Goodbye Italy

