



The Story of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God’s behalf, addresses Mary as “full of grace” or “highly favored”. In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary’s intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary’s whole life.

The logic of piety helped God’s people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

www.franciscanmedia.org

Prayer to the Immaculate Conception

By St Maximillian Kolbe

Allow me to praise thee, O most holy Virgin Mary, with my personal commitment and sacrifice.

Allow me to live, work, suffer, be consumed and die for thee, just for thee.

Allow me to bring the whole world to thee.

Allow me to contribute to your ever-greater exaltation, to thy greatest possible exaltation.

Allow me to give thee such glory that no one else has ever given up to now.

Allow others to surpass me in zeal for thine exaltation and me to surpass them, so that by means of such noble rivalry, thy glory may increase ever more profoundly, ever more rapidly, ever more intensely as He Who has exalted thee so indescribably, above all other beings Himself desires.

Amen.

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

Parish Fundraising Committee

Sandie Weitz
sweitz20@gmail.com

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

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

December 2, 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

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.

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@olpbc.ca

Olphchurchvancouver

OLPH Church, 2465 Crown
Street, Vancouver BC V6R3V9

Looking Ahead to Parish Milestones

Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Office and hall is buzzing with activity these days. Towards the end of the year, there is a feeling of excitement in the air. The quiet of Advent is full of promise and potential for the coming of the Lord.

The Redemptorists have a vision too for this community which will be unfolding in greater detail in the weeks and months ahead. In 2023, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the presence of the Redemptorists in Vancouver. Two years after that we will mark the centennial of the establishment of our parish. These are wonderful milestones that we are planning to mark in very significant ways.

The work of the Infrastructure Renewal Committee which will be working hand-in-hand with all our other councils, will be critical for the 7-year plans that we are putting in place. We are in the process of visioning what we will be doing.

I urge you to be part of the process through prayer. The ideas we have will be of tremendous benefit not only to our parish and school but the surrounding community as well. You will be hearing more about this when we have more details.

Let us ask our Blessed Mother to guide our thinking, our planning and our celebrating at this wonderful time of the year.

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

Christmas Cookies for Youth Yellowknife Fundraiser

OLPH Youth are selling lovely shortbread cookies as part of their Yellowknife fundraiser. The cookies are packed into attractive Christmas tins and come in a variety of sizes. \$15 for a dozen, \$20 for the larger tins of 18 cookies and \$25 for 2 dozen. Cookies are available for sale after all Masses. You can also email: olphyouthmin@gmail.com to put in your order. School orders can be picked up at the school gym on Thursdays 2:30-3:15pm. Parish orders can be picked up after Sunday Masses.



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. – Psalm 25

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Nov 24 & 25: \$9,224.70. Home Missions: \$100. Youth Ministry: \$56. Offering for the Needy: \$25. Food Bank \$72. CSsR Pension \$100. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Project Advance Report: On Nov 4 pledges including recurring donations up to 31 Dec this year were at \$74,551 with participation from 142 donors. We have 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. Thank you for your prayerful support.

PREP: A big thank you from PREP students and catechists for the generous donations of candy and cash to buy candy for the Door Is Open and the Missionaries of Charity. In total we collected \$360. This cash will be used to purchase candy which will be delivered next week.

Sock Sunday: Thank you for participating in Sock Sunday today. If you forgot to bring socks, you can make a donation. Just use a pink envelope for your donation, write Sock Sunday on it and drop it in the collection.

LFA Entrance Exam: Little Flower Academy is accepting applications from prospective Grade Eight candidates for the 2019-2020 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the Entrance Exam on Saturday, December 8, 2018. To apply please fill out the online form on our school website www.lfabc.org/apply or contact Kathi Wilson at 604-738-9016 ext 114.

Taizé Prayer Service: Come and experience a quiet meditative Taizé Prayer service with candlelight, music and prayers, Scriptures and silence. It is on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month. All are welcome. Monday, Dec. 12, at 7:45 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church, Vancouver.

Fiat: Women's Discernment Day of Recollection: Join us for an advent evening of recollection – Fiat of Women in the Old Testament on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. at the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist Convent, 2811 Venables Street, Vancouver. Email womensvocations@rcav.org for more information.

OLPH Sacristan Receives Archdiocesan Stewardship Award



Frank Kaweski our longtime parishioner and sacristan who has dedicated the last 27 years of his life to the parish was awarded the Archdiocese Stewardship Award last Sunday. The Awards are given out every three years to honour and recognize those who give outstanding witness to their faith through lives well-lived, gifts shared and time and talents given freely for parish and charitable works.

There is no doubt that Frank Kaweski is one of those people. For the last 20 years he has been coming almost every single morning to prepare the altar for morning Mass. He changes the frontals, lights the candles, gets the lectionary and Missal ready, fills up the cruets and makes sure that everything is at hand for Mass. He is also often the altar server, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, sometimes lector and even the cantor for the Alleluia at weekday Masses. That's just the list

of tasks anyone sitting in the pew would notice. There is also a lot of behind-the-scenes work essential for the smooth running of the church and our liturgical celebrations which we often don't notice. When asked about the acknowledgement for his dedication, Frank replied that the award certainly came as a surprise.

"One day Fr Babu asked me how long I've been doing this and the next thing I know I've got a letter from the Archbishop about this award. Why do I do it? I do it because I enjoy it and it's not for any reward or recognition. But my family is very happy for the recognition. I am a retiree. I like to keep busy. For as long as my health allows I will keep doing this."

Congratulations Frank and thank you for your quiet dedication and kind and generous spirit. You are an excellent and inspiring model of good stewardship for all of us.

Please pray for the soul of Anita Clarke. Her funeral will be here at OLPH on Tuesday Dec. 11 at 11am with prayers on Monday Dec. 10 at 7pm.

*In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our sister.
In this life you embraced her with your tender love;
deliver her now from every evil and bid her eternal rest.*

Stewardship Reflection

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."
LUKE 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Advent Retreat



Come and join us for a beautiful Advent Retreat with meditations from the works of St Alphonsus. This Retreat is organized by the Redemptorist Associates of our parish. Sat Dec 8. Mass: 9am, Coffee: 9:30am in the hall. Retreat 10am-12pm. Admission is free.

Giving Tree Gifts

Donations for this year's Giving Tree Program will go to Strathcona Elementary School. Please pick up a tag from the Giving tree in the foyer over the next 2 weekends and drop off your donation on Dec 15/16 at Mass times in the hall. (No donations accepted at Sunday 5pm Mass.) Volunteers who signed up for Santa's Workshop will help package the gifts after the 11am Mass on Dec 16.

Jesus' Birthday Party



All are invited to this fun Christmas celebration for children. There will be lunch, games, crafts, cake and lots of fun activities. Join us Sunday Dec 23 after the 11am Mass.



1st Sunday of Advent: A New Liturgical Year

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

www.loyolapress.com

CWL and the Knights Spread Christmas Cheer at the Fair

OLPH celebrated another year of our traditional Christmas Fair with homemade crafts, baked goods, books and treasures. The Tea Room buzzed with activity as OLPH students helped with serving sandwiches and sweets. The Raffle was a big attraction this year as there were attractive wine baskets and other gifts to be won, including a wad of tickets for the Knights of Columbus Charity Draw. Thank you to the Catholic Women's League, Craft Group, Knights of Columbus and other volunteers who helped make this such a successful event.



ADVENT

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 other places of interest in Italy.

The cost of the trip is \$4800. The early bird rate is \$4600. A deposit of \$500 must be made before Nov 30 for the early bird rate. Full payment is due by Jan 30, 2019. Arrangements can be made for pre-authorized payments as well. For more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Brian or Deon royaleorchid@shaw.ca or call Brian 778-999-4599 / 778-866-8118.



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 – Montecassino – 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