

The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph



The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, ‘God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary’s sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.’ (First Homily on the ‘Missus Est’).

Today’s celebration demonstrates Christ’s humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, ‘Redemptoris Custos’(Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for whom Saint Joseph ‘.. shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men’ (Encyclical Quamquam Pluries[1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, ‘.. Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was.[...] It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.’ Not many years before, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, ‘Patron of the Catholic Church’ (1870).

Almost intuitively, one can recognize that the mysterious, exemplary, guardianship enacted by Joseph was conducted firstly, in a yet more intimate way, by Mary. Consequently, the liturgical feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care that we must render to the Body of Christ. We can understand this in a mystical sense, as guardians of the Church, and also in the Eucharistic sense. Mary and Joseph took great care of Jesus’ physical body. Following their example, we can and must take great care of His Mystical Body, the Church, and the Eucharist which He has entrusted to us. If Mary was, in some way, ‘the first tabernacle in history’ (John Paul II *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, n. 55) then the Tabernacle in which Our Lord chose to reside in person, in His Real Presence, was also entrusted to us. We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus’ physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

Things to Do:

- Let us imitate the Holy Family in our Christian families, and our family will be a cell and a prefiguration of the heavenly family. Say a prayer dedicating your family to the Holy Family. Also pray for all families and for our country to uphold the sanctity of the marriage bond which is under attack.
- Read more about Pope Leo XIII who instituted the Feast of the Holy Family and read his encyclical On Christian Marriage. You can also check out the Vatican's page of Papal documents on the Family.
- Have the whole family participate in cooking dinner. You might try a Lebanese meal. Some suggestions: stuffed grape leaves, stuffed cabbage rolls, lentils and rice, spinach and meat pies, chicken and dumplings, hummus, Lebanese bread, tabbouleh — a Lebanese salad and kibbi, a traditional Lebanese dish of specially ground meat mixed with spices and cracked wheat. This is the same kind of food that Mary served Jesus and St. Joseph. It's healthy and delicious.

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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

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Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.

In Residence

William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family

Pope Francis’ Christmas Message 2018



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

To you, the faithful of Rome, to you, the pilgrims, and to all who are linked to us from every part of the world, I renew the joyous proclamation of Bethlehem: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favours” (Lk 2:14). Like the shepherds who first went with haste to the stable, let us halt in wonder before the sign that God has given us: “A baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:12). In silence, let us fall to our knees and worship.

What does that Child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters. This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the fraternity that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty.

For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is a wish for fraternity. Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him.

The face of God has been revealed in a human face. It did not appear in an angel, but in one man, born in a specific time and place. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity! Our differences, then, are not a detriment or a danger; they are a source of richness. As when an artist is about to make a mosaic: it is better to have tiles of many colours available, rather than just a few!

The experience of families teaches us this: as brothers and sisters, we are all different from each other. We do not always agree, but there is an unbreakable bond uniting us, and the love of our parents helps us to love one another. The same is true for the larger human family, but here, God is our “parent”, the foundation and strength of our fraternity.

May this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds of fraternity linking us together as individuals and joining all peoples. May it enable Israelis and Palestinians to resume dialogue and undertake a journey of peace that can put an end to a conflict that for over seventy years has rent the land chosen by the Lord to show his face of love.

Continued ➞

Redemptorist Associates Share Meditations of St Alphonsus



Redemptorists Associates of OLPH hosted a retreat with meditations from St Alphonsus de Liguori just before Christmas to share the beautiful prayerful writings of the founder of the Redemptorists. The talks focused on the incarnation of Jesus symbolized by the child Jesus in the crib. As part of the retreat, the little Infant Jesus was passed from one person to another so that they might ponder the tender love of the Father in giving us His Son for our salvation. The group also pondered the tremendous humility and suffering which Jesus had to endure in order to unite us with our Father in heaven.



Blessed are those, blessed are those who live in your house O Lord. – Psalm 84

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Dec22 & 23: \$9,200.35. Christmas Offering: \$570. Youth Shortbread: Sales & Donation: \$1595.60. Christmas Mass Offering Dec 24 & 25: \$14,341.11. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Project Advance Report: Congratulations! We have reached our parish goal. If you have any unpaid pledges for Project Advance or would simply like to make a donation, please send in your contributions to the parish (marked Project Advance) by tomorrow morning (Dec 31) if you wish to have a 2018 tax receipt. Thank you all for your prayerful support!

2019 Sunday Offering Envelope Boxes: The 2019 Sunday Offering boxes are ready for pickup. Please do not use them before January 1 after which 2018 envelope boxes (or any past year) should not be used. If your box of envelopes is not in the foyer, please email reception.olph@rcav.org and let us know. Please consider giving your donation by Pre-Authorized Giving. The PAG form has been inserted into your Sunday Offering box.

OLPH School Break: OLPH School will be closed from Dec 24 – Jan 7. On Pro-D Day, Jan 7, please note the Parish Hall is being used by After School Care all day.

Parish Office Closed: The Parish office will be closed over the holiday from Dec 24 to Jan 2.

Christmas Tree Chipping Fundraiser: Take part in the Thunderbird Elementary School Fundraiser for vulnerable students who have no opportunities to learn about gardening. Drop off your trees at UBC Botanical Garden 10am - 4:30pm any day Dec 26 to Jan 8. The suggested minimum donation for this service is \$5. Location 6804 SW Marine Drive.

Jesuit Spiritual Exercises: The Jesuit Spirituality Apostolate of Vancouver helps people arrive at a deeper, personal encounter with Christ through the Spiritual Exercises, retreats and talks. If you are interested in Ignatian spirituality and wish to discern Christ’s voice in the busyness of everyday life, you are welcome to find out more. Please feel free to contact Coordinator@jsav.ca or leave a message on 778-806-4378.

March For Life, Washington, D.C: Fr. Larry Lynn is going to Washington, D.C., to march for joy, for love, for peace...to march for life on Jan. 18, 2019. Anyone interested in joining him? Clergy? Youth ministers? Old-guard pro-lifers? Come to Washington and help Fr. Larry bring back some of that beautiful energy that is generated by 500,000 people, mostly young people, all celebrating the simple fact that life is precious. If interested, please contact Fr. Larry Lynn at 604-926-6881 or visit <https://rcav.org/event/march-for-life-3> for more info.

A Blessed Way to start 2019: The Community of the Risen Lord invites you to an evening of praise and worship, an anointed message, adoration, and benediction. All are welcome to join us on Thursday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. at St. Peter’s Parish, New Westminster. <https://rcav.org/event/a-blessed-way-to-start-2019>

Quo Vadis – Men’s Discernment Events: Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Nick Meisl - Hearing God’s Call in the Bible on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish, Vancouver. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at vocations@rcav.org or call 604-443-3254.

St. Mary’s Padre Pio Prayer Group: While Padre Pio was being investigated by the Holy Office, the pain inflicted by the various condemnations and restrictive measures was compounded by the death of his mother. Padre Pio was overcome with a deep sorrow. The rest of the story will be presented at the prayer meeting on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Parish, Vancouver, in the church basement. We will commence with Mass at 8:30 a.m. St. Mary’s Padre Pio Prayer group is an intercessory prayer group that meets every first Saturday of the Month. We welcome all who are called to stand in the gap to pray for others with the intercession of Saint Padre Pio. For more info please contact Lucy Rodjito at lucy.rodjito@yahoo.ca <https://rcav.org/event/st-marys-padre-pio-prayer-group-16>

Winter Institute: Archdiocesan Institutes are dedicated to the Church's mission of lifelong faith formation. Our one-day courses equip Catholics with the knowledge, skills, and spiritual foundation necessary for active participation in the life of the Church. With Winter Institute approaching, take this opportunity to prepare yourself and your catechists for the start of the new year. *Basics of the Faith* and *Discovering the Gospels* are great courses to renew, refocus, and refresh yourself for 2019. Saturday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Notre Dame High School, Vancouver. Cost: \$40 per person, includes lunch. Register at rcav.org/winter-institute

Stewardship Reflection

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God’s children, it’s important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

JANUARY
NEW YEAR’S DAY MASSES



(Holy Day of Obligation for Solemnity of Mary)
Tuesday January 1
9am Mass
11am Mass

WHY DO WE GO TO MASS ON NEW YEAR’S DAY?

Jan 1 is a day of obligation and a solemnity. A solemnity is the highest ranking holy day in the Church calendar. The Solemnity of Mary is a liturgical feast day honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood in the wake of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. This holiday is also the Octave of Christmas or the 8th day of Christmas. As Mary's fiat reminds the faithful: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

New Year's Day has been associated with the Virgin Mary since the earliest days of Catholicism when many of the faithful in both the East and West would celebrate with a feast in her honor. Other early Catholics observed the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Jan. 1. It wasn't until the introduction of the Novus Ordo in 1965, that the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating Jan. 1 to the Mother of God was revived as a universal feast.

-- www.thoughtco.com

40 Hours Adoration

Our parish will be hosting 40 Hours Adoration on Mon-Wed Jan 14-16. Exposition will begin at the end of morning Mass and continue till 7pm. We will need at least two people to be present every hour on these three days. We would very much appreciate your commitment to make some time for the Lord. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

Jesus’ Birthday Party: Fun Stuff for Kids

Kids had a blast at Jesus Birthday Party in OLPH Hall on the weekend just before Christmas. It was planned with a child’s birthday party in mind. Food, fun and craft activities were infused with the messages of peace, joy and hope for the coming of baby Jesus. Santa made an appearance with candy canes for all and Fr Babu was spotted wearing his animated elf hat. Thank you, parents and other volunteers who brought such merriment to all who shared in the celebration!



...Pope’s Christmas Message

May the Child Jesus allow the beloved and beleaguered country of Syria once again to find fraternity after these long years of war. May the international community work decisively for a political solution that can put aside divisions and partisan interests, so that the Syrian people, especially all those who were forced to leave their own lands and seek refuge elsewhere, can return to live in peace in their own country.

My thoughts turn to Yemen, in the hope that the truce brokered by the international community may finally bring relief to all those children and people exhausted by war and famine.

I think too of Africa, where millions of persons are refugees or displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance and food security. May the Holy Child, the King of Peace, silence the clash of arms and allow a new dawn of fraternity to rise over the entire continent, blessing the efforts of all those who work to promote paths of reconciliation in political and social life.

May Christmas consolidate the bonds of fraternity uniting the Korean peninsula and help the path of rapprochement recently undertaken to continue and to reach agreed solutions capable of ensuring the development and well-being of all.

May this blessed season allow Venezuela once more to recover social harmony and enable all the members of society to work fraternally for the country’s development and to aid the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

May the Newborn Lord bring relief to the beloved land of Ukraine, yearning to regain a lasting peace that is slow to come. Only with a peace respectful of the rights of every nation can the country recover from the sufferings it has endured and restore dignified living conditions for its citizens. I am close to the Christian communities of the region, and I pray that they may develop relationships of fraternity and friendship.

Before the Child Jesus, may the inhabitants of beloved Nicaragua see themselves once more as brothers and sisters, so that divisions and discord will not prevail, but all may work to promote reconciliation and to build together the future of the country.

I want to mention, too, all those peoples that experience ideological, cultural and economic forms of colonization and see their freedom and identity compromised, as well as those suffering from hunger and the lack of educational and health care services.

A particular thought goes to our brothers and sisters who celebrate the Birth of the Lord in difficult, if not hostile situations, especially where the Christian community is a minority, often vulnerable or not taken into account. May the Lord grant that they, and all minorities, may live in peace and see their rights recognized, especially the right to religious freedom.

May the little Child whom we contemplate today in the manger, in the cold of the night, watch over all the children of the world, and every frail, vulnerable and discarded person. May all of us receive peace and consolation from the birth of the Savior and, in the knowledge that we are loved by the one heavenly Father, realize anew that we are brothers and sisters and come to live as such!

w2.vatican.va



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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. 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