



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

March 3, 2019

8th 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)
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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Pope Francis Outlines 8 Points in Battle Against Abuse

By Courtney Grogan

Pope Francis last Sunday outlined eight points that the Church will focus on in an “all-out battle” against the sexual abuse of minors to, he said, “turn this evil into an opportunity for purification.” He also said, “We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for they are an image of Jesus,” Pope Francis said Feb. 24 following the Vatican summit’s closing Mass in the Sala Regia.



“For this reason, the Church has now become increasingly aware of the need not only to curb the gravest cases of abuse by disciplinary measures and civil and canonical processes, but also to decisively confront the phenomenon both inside and outside the Church,” he continued.

The pope’s closing address for the Vatican sex abuse summit Feb. 21 - 24 was filled with statistics on the overall phenomenon of all child sexual abuse worldwide, most of which occurs within the context of the family, Francis pointed out. However, these statistics can only provide an explanation of the phenomenon, but not the meaning behind the acts, the pope said.

The meaning behind child sex abuse comes from “the present-day manifestation of the spirit of evil,” he said, later adding that consecrated persons who commit such crimes become “tools of Satan.” “Today we find ourselves before a manifestation of brazen, aggressive and destructive evil,” he said. “We need to take up the spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer and penance. This is the only way to overcome the spirit of evil. It is how Jesus himself overcame it.”

Building upon the World Health Organization’s “Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children,” the pope presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in “developing her legislation” on the issues. The following is a summary:

1. A “change of mentality” to focus on protecting children rather than “protecting the institution.”
2. A recognition of the “impeccable seriousness” of these “sins and crimes of consecrated persons.”
3. A genuine purification beginning with “self-accusation.”
4. Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.
5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for “rules.”
6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.
7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.
8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.

“The Church’s aim will thus be to hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are,” Pope Francis said. “To achieve that goal, the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones.” Francis said that, “the brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility.”

“I would like to stress the important need to turn this evil into an opportunity for purification,” Pope Francis said, thanking priests and faithful Catholics who have silently and faithfully lived out their vows of celibacy.

“The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world, are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable,” he said.

“In people’s justified anger, the Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons. The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides, encountered tormentors, will shake hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power. It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry,” Francis said.

The pope made “a heartfelt appeal for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth.”

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Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. - Psalm 92

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Feb 23 & 24: \$7,112.75. BC Catholic: \$20.00. Offering for the Needy: \$10.00. St. Joseph's Society \$5.00. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Ash Wednesday Masses: Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent is this Wednesday March 6. This is a day of fast and abstinence. Mass and distribution of ashes will be held at 8am, 9am with OLPH School students and 7pm.

Church Washrooms:

For security reasons, the church washrooms will be locked after weekday Masses until further notice.

Lenten Prayer Series: U Hill Congregation is organizing a half-hour Lenten Prayer Series on Wednesdays at noon. Soup & bread offered after most gatherings.

Mar 13 – St. Helen's Anglican, 4405 West 8th Ave.

Mar 20 – West Point Grey United Church, 4595 W. 8th Ave.

Mar 27 – St. Anselm's Anglican, 5210 University Blvd.

Apr 3 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic, 2465 Crown St.

Apr 10 – West Point Grey Baptist Church, 4509 W. 11 Ave.

St Mark's Parish Lenten Retreat: *Lent Through the Lens of Love* explores 3 Lenten Gospel narratives leading up to the Passion which reveal great love. Engage the Scriptures, imagination, music, poetry and art, and the spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola. The morning includes time for prayer and reflection as well as small group faith sharing. Saturday March 9 at 9:30am with mid-morning coffee break and lunch at 12pm. Registration: \$40/students \$20. Parking available at Carey College, 5920 Iona Drive for \$8. All are welcome. For more information, contact St. Marks Parish, 604-822-0261 or visit <https://rcav.org/event/lent-through-the-lens-of-love-retreat>

God's Love Heals Our Memories: A Lenten Day of Reflection: Seek God's healing for the wounds of your past through a contemplation to obtain God's love. Saturday, March 9, from 10-4:30 p.m. (with anticipated Mass) at Christ the Redeemer Church, West Vancouver. Cost \$20 (includes lunch). To register visit rcav.org/courage. Sponsored by the *Courage and EnCourage Ministries*.

40 days for Life Campaign: Join us for the annual 40 days for Life Campaign and pray for an end to abortion. Campaign begins Wednesday, March 6. Location: In front of the priests' residences, 4885 St. John Paul II Way, Vancouver. For more info contact Alba Stevenson, Campaign Coordinator at 604-299-4123.



Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

While Ash Wednesday (March 6) is not a Holy Day of Obligation, all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this day and to receive ashes on their foreheads in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

The Distribution of Ashes: During Mass, the ashes which give Ash Wednesday its name are distributed. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday; many churches ask their parishioners to return any palms that they took home so that they can be burned. After the priest blesses the ashes and sprinkles them with holy water, the faithful come forward to receive them. The priest dips his right thumb in the ashes and, making the Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead, says, "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return" (or a variation on those words).

A Day of Repentance: The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned, and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. The ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.

Fasting and Abstinence Are Required: The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 14 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in-between. Catholics are also required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday.

Taking Stock of Our Spiritual Life: This fasting and abstinence is not simply a form of penance, however; it is also a call for us to take stock of our spiritual lives. As Lent begins, we should set specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them—for instance, by going to daily Mass when we can and receiving the Sacrament of Confession more often.

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Stewardship Reflection

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." (Luke 6:43)

Are you using your God-given gifts in the way God intended? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

MARCH

Lenten Study



March 8

On Fridays of Lent after the Stations of the Cross, we will be screening Bishop Robert Barron's *Conversion: Following the Call of Christ*. Stations of the Cross start at 7pm. The 20 min video screening will follow soon after.

Lenten Mission

March 11-14

Father Lucien Larre is our Lenten Retreat guest speaker this year. Fr Larre is a priest working in psychology and education to help children. The central theme of his work is how to be missionaries of love.

Sat evening Sun. Masses: March 9/10
Introductory Mission Sermon
The Most Important Decision in Life

Mon. March 11

Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission
Talk: 7 pm.

Clinging to Faith in a Godless Society

Tues. March 12

Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission
Talk: 7 pm.

Maintaining Hope in Hopeless Situations

Wed. March 13

Rosary 6pm, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission
Talk: 7 pm.

(First Class relic of St John Bosco, saint for children and adolescents will be available for veneration.)

Building a Loving Home in a Selfish Society

Thurs. March 14

Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission
Talk: 7 pm.

(First Class relic of St Maria Goretti, will be available for veneration.)

Bringing Love to a Violent, Hateful Society

Archbishop Miller's Visit

Sun. March 17

Join us for a very special Mass at the end of Archbishop Michael Miller's parish visit at the Sunday 9am Mass. There will be refreshments in the hall. Take this opportunity to say hello to your bishop!