



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

MASSSES & 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

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August 11, 2019

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

By Stephen Beale

The Assumption of Mary is not just a Catholic extra or add-on to the fundamentals of the faith. It is a vitally important teaching with deep roots in Scripture and direct relevance to our daily lives. Here are eight ways it is significant.

1. We will share in Christ's resurrection

At the core of our faith is the belief, based on Biblical accounts, that Christ experienced a bodily resurrection from the dead and ascended, while still in bodily form to heaven. The Assumption of Mary confirms that this extraordinary reversal of death is not limited to Christ. If Mary can end up in heaven, body and soul, so can we who share in her humanity.

2. Our hope is for a physical resurrection

The whole point of the dogma is its emphasis on Mary's bodily assumption. Otherwise there would be no need for it. Arguing that Mary's soul went to heaven at the end of her earthly life is to claim nothing different than what happens to every other person who died in a state of grace.

Mary's assumption reminds us that salvation is holistic. God does not just save half of us. He doesn't just pluck the soul out of the husk of a sinful body. We are saved in the fullness of our humanity, body and soul. (Pope Pius XII makes this argument in his definition of the dogma.)

3. Heaven is for saints

One of the peculiarities of the Old Testament is that it did not have a well-defined concept of heaven. When people died, they ended up in Sheol, the shadowy underworld, the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek Hades. The Assumption of Mary clarifies and confirms that the heaven of the New Testament is a place where the saints experience the presence of God. She is the first one to enter under the New Covenant. Mary opened up heaven for the rest of the saints, just as she opened up the earth to the fullness of God's Incarnate presence.

4. The final reversal of the Fall

The Church teaches that Mary shares in Christ's lot. This is based upon her role as the New Eve to His New Adam, which is evident in Simeon's prophecy and her presence at the crucifixion. Mary's Assumption to heaven is the final reversal of the evils of sin and death unleashed by the Fall.

5. Man is not meant to be alone

To be human is to live in relation to another. In the Garden of Eden Adam was in paradise, presumably lacking for nothing, yet it was 'not good' for him to be 'alone.' So God created Eve. Christ, who was perfectly human, 'needs' the perfect companionship of another human, especially in paradise, as theologian Matthew Levering points out in his book on the assumption. Christ is not a solitary savior. In His divinity he enjoys the communion of the Trinity. In His humanity he reigns from heaven with his Mother.

6. Marian veneration is Christo-centric

Mary's assumption means that there are no bones or tombs of Our Lady to venerate. This means that, contrary to the Protestant accusations, Marian veneration is particularly Christo-centric. Thanks to the Assumption, it is impossible to think of her without thinking of her being in the fullness of Christ's heavenly presence.

7. Mary is uniquely positioned to help us

Although souls in heaven are not deprived of the beatific vision, they are somewhat limited by not having bodies, according to St. Thomas Aquinas. He explains that souls without bodies are in an unnatural state, lacks perfection, and are denied the fullness of happiness. Even the beatific vision is affected in a way. Although God is seeing through the eye of the intellect, souls need bodies in order to see His glory reflected in other creatures, according to Aquinas. The Assumption of Mary ensures that she has none of these limitations. Having her body is particularly crucial for her given that it is a source of so much of her power: in the Incarnation God took flesh from Mary and it was through her body that He was born. The upshot of this is that Mary has everything she needs to see our problems—as well as our potential for holiness—and to help us grow into little Christs.

8. Mary's beauty is perfected

One further implication of what has just been stated above is that Mary's beauty in heaven is perfected. She is not a disembodied soul. She is not a spirit flitting about in paradise. The beauty that became espoused to the Holy Spirit lives in her fullness in heaven, as the vision of Revelation 12 shows us so well. This is one reason that the Church venerates Mary above all other saints.

www.catholicexchange.com

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage. – Psalm 33



NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering August 3 & 4: \$4,104.15. Offering for the Needy: \$4. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Fr. Bill Comerford's Farewell: Fr Bill will be completing his 10-year ministry with our parish and will return to Toronto on September 7. He will be living at the St. Patrick's Redemptorist Community at 141 McCaul St, Toronto, ON. M5T 1W3. He can also be reached at 416-979-9992. To wish him well, a farewell gathering will be held on Sunday Aug 25 after the 11am Mass. All are welcome.

Becoming Catholic: If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, you are welcome to register for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). The journey of getting to know Jesus and finding out more about the Catholic church begins on Sunday Sept 22. We gather between 9am and 10:30am. Registration forms are available in the church foyer and the parish office. You can email your completed form to Bertilla. Her email: bwatanabe@rcav.org.

Joining the Parish: If you would like to be part of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, please email reception.olph@rcav.org for a registration form or drop in at the parish office during office hours. Registration forms are also available in the magazine rack near the entrance of the foyer. Feel free to fill it out and email it to us along with your Baptism certificate.

PREP: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep.olph@rcav.org for information.

Choir Members for 9am & 11am Masses: The OLPH choir is seeking new members: we especially need singers who can commit to the Sunday 9am and 11am Masses. Rehearsals are on Monday evening 7-8pm. Please contact Music Director Catherine Walsh for more information: catherine.organist@gmail.com.

Catholic Charismatic Conference 2019: Come and experience God's love and healing at our annual conference with Robert Canton & Patti Mansfield. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Miller. Conference schedule: Friday Aug. 30, 7pm- 9pm and Saturday Aug. 31, 9am - 7pm at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond. Tickets \$25. Contact Lennie at lennieptl@telus.net or 604-597-8227.

Family Golf Day

OLPH Parish will be hosting our 1st Family Golf Day on Saturday, September 28, 2019. We invite parents, students, staff and parishioners to participate in this new event that will be both a community builder and fundraiser for the Parish.

Don't golf? No problem! Come socialize with the OLPH community by joining for dinner. Since golf rounds will be staggered, we recommend a 6PM arrival time if you are joining for the dinner only portion.

- Musqueam Golf Course: 3904 West 51 Avenue, Vancouver
Tee Time: 4:00 PM
- Ticket Prices: Adult \$85 / Student \$80 / Dinner Only Option \$35

With the exception of the "dinner only option", your ticket purchase includes: a 9-hole golf round, a bucket of practice golf balls (used at driving range), pull cart, and a burger dinner: French fries, salad, dessert & beverage included.

- OTHER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

50/50 Tickets – \$20 / Longest Drive – \$20 / Best Team Score – \$20 / Raffle Tickets – \$20
Look out for registration details in the coming weeks.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Live gratefully,
give generously.

You can make a donation to Project Advance by filling out the pledge form you received in the mail or using the detachable envelope on the leaflet.
You can also go to www.rcav.org. Just indicate that your parish is OLPH.



Stewardship Reflection

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Luke 12:34)

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more time in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

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