

REDEMPTORIST FEAST DAY

St Gerard Majella: Patron Saint of Mothers

St. Gerard Majella was born in Muro Lucano, Italy, on April 6, 1726, into a humble family. From his parents he learned the love of prayer and sacrifice.

His father, Dominic Majella, died while Gerard was a child. His pious mother, owing to poverty, was obliged to apprentice him to a tailor. His master loved him, but the foreman treated him cruelly. Being the only son, he had to provide for his family by working as a tailor.

At the age of 14 he sought to enter the Capuchin friary but was rejected because of his poor health. After a short time as the domestic servant of the bishop of Lacedonia, he returned to tailoring but earned a minimal income.

In April 1749, after attending a Redemptorist mission in Muro, Gerard succeeded in getting himself accepted by the congregation. Following a trial period and a year of novitiate in the house at Deliceto, he professed religious vows on July 16, 1752.

His only ambition was to be like Jesus Christ in his sufferings and humiliations.

His earnings he divided between his mother and the poor, and in offerings for the souls in purgatory. After futile attempts first to become a Franciscan and then a hermit, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1749. Two years later, he made his profession.

Saint Alphonsus considered him a miracle of obedience. He not only obeyed the orders of superiors when present, but also when absent he knew and obeyed their desires. Although weak in body, he did the work of three, and his great charity earned for him the title of Father of the Poor.

He was a model of every virtue, and so drawn to Our Lord in the tabernacle that he had to do violence to himself to keep away. An angel in purity, he was accused of a shameful crime; but he bore the calumny with such patience that Saint Alphonsus said: "Brother Gerard is a saint."

He was favored with infused knowledge of the highest order, ecstasies, prophecy, discernment of spirits, and penetration of hearts, bilocation, and with what seemed an unlimited power over nature, sickness, and the devils. When he accompanied the Fathers on missions, or was sent out on business, he converted more souls than many missionaries. He predicted the day and hour of his death.

Gerard died on 16 October, 1755; beatified by Leo XIII, 29 January, 1893, and canonized by Pius X, 11 December, 1904.

Reflection

Saint Gerard proved to be an unusual man whom God gifted in many ways. He had the humility to recognize that the gifts came from God and so he became a humble and loved saint. May we relish and use well the gifts that the Lord has given to us.



www.catholicnewsagency.com



Prayer For Mother and Child

O Almighty and Everlasting God, through the Holy Spirit, you prepared the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary to be a worthy dwelling place of your divine Son. Through the same Holy Spirit, you sanctified St. John the Baptist, while still in his mother's womb.

Hear the prayers of your humble servant who implores you, through the intercession of St. Gerard, to protect me amid the dangers of childbearing and to watch over the child with which you blessed me. May this child be cleansed by the saving water of baptism and, after a Christian life on earth, may we, both mother and child, attain everlasting bliss in heaven. Amen.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastoral Council

Donna Trasolini
trasolini@telus.net

Finance Council

Kevin Chan
kchanolph@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
MKknowling@Outlook.com

Children's Liturgy

Kathy Mok
communications.olph@rcav.org

Craft Group

Elizabeth Hii e1kmhii@gmail.com

Development & Peace

Deirdre Webster 604-736-0714

Eucharistic Ministry

Pamela Brammall 604-228-9206

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

Communion to the Sick

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



MASSES & SERVICES

- Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm
- Sunday Masses: 9am, 11am & 5pm
- Monday – Wednesday Masses: 8am
- Thursday Mass/OLPH Novena: 8am & 7pm
- 1st Thursday: 8am Mass/Novena & 12pm Mass/Novena/Healing Prayer
- Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am Mass
- 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: 4pm - 4:45pm
- Adoration Saturday 9:30-10am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

Babu Mathew, CSsR

Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, CSsR

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



October 13, 2019

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Greatest Gratitude We Owe Is to the Lord

Dear Parishioners,

A very blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

I hope you have the opportunity this weekend to gather over a meal, prayer and good conversation. Thanksgiving may not be a liturgical celebration but there is no better time to give thanks to the Lord for his many blessings. We have only to look around us to notice how the beauty and bounty of God's creation enrich our lives and fill our days with countless blessings.

Thanksgiving is also a reminder that many hands from all over the world work together as a community to put food on our tables. We should remember especially our farmers who are outdoors from dawn to dusk often experiencing harsh conditions and challenges they have no control over such as weather, infestations and disease. Let us pray for them and be grateful for their labours.

The greatest gratitude we owe is of course to our heavenly Father who gave us his son for our salvation. The Greek word *Eucharist* means thanksgiving. In the Eucharist we celebrate the tremendous gift of the body and blood of Christ as a sacrifice, commemorating and renewing the sacrifice of the cross so that we may be united with God in heaven for eternity.

The act of giving thanks to God must evoke a response to all. This response is a natural, intuitive feeling that is hardwired within us. It reminds me of that sad joke: When an atheist feels thankful, he or she doesn't know who to thank! Well, we know exactly who to thank.

Speaking of thanks, let me offer my sincere appreciation to those of you who have already responded to this year's Project Advance appeal. For those of you who have not had a chance to make your contribution, please look out for the Appeal letter and pledge form in the mail. You should have received it by now. Your participation in this appeal is very important for us all. There are several ways you can make your donation. Project Advance brochures are available in the foyer for details. You can also make your contribution through our website www.olphchurch.ca.

Let us join our Blessed Mother in constant praise and thanksgiving for all graces and blessings he has showered upon us.

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



The Lord has revealed his victory in the sight of the nations. - Psalm 98

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Oct 5 & 6: \$6,209.30. Needs of the Canadian Church: \$180. CSsR Pension: \$40. Offering for the Needy: \$110. OLPH Youth Pie Sales: \$1,480. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Project Advance: If you have not made your 2019 Project Advance contribution yet, you would probably have received a pledge form in the mail this week. Our parish's current total in pledges is \$67,492. Thank you to all who have given. We are still some way from reaching our own parish goal of \$104,000. If you have not made your donation yet, please prayerfully consider how you can support this year's appeal. Thank you for your support!

Church Closing Times: In the week of Mon - Fri Oct 21-25 the church will close at 4:30pm each day. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Monday Mass: Since Monday is a public holiday, morning Mass will be at 9am.

Raffle Ticket Sale: The Knights of Columbus will be selling raffle tickets after mass in support of the Kits Shower program and Mary's Place. Tickets are \$2 or a book of 10 tickets for \$20. If you fill in the top ticket in a book of 10, the Knights will fill in the rest for you. Thank you for giving generously to support Kits Shower program which brings comfort to our local unhoused people and Mary's Place which supports women at risk.

CWL Meeting: The next CWL business meeting is on Thursday, October 17 at 7:30pm, Madonna Room. Presentation on Anti-Human Trafficking by the Archdiocese of Vancouver to follow.

Morning Prayer in the Chapel: Join us every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 – 9:20am for morning prayer in the Rectory chapel. Please download the iBreviary from the App store for convenient access to these prayers.

Upper Room Conference: At the Upper Room Conference, you will hear from incredible speakers, be able to connect with other disciples, and gain insight and resources on how to live out your missional call in your homes and communities. We'll have times of worship, prayer, fellowship and hear from amazing speakers like Cardinal Dolan, Sr. Miriam James, and Archbishop J. Michael Miller. The conference takes place at the Vancouver Convention Centre on Saturday, Oct. 26. Registration and conference info at upperroomvancouver.com We believe that God is beginning a new movement in Vancouver. Join us as we listen to the Holy Spirit and respond to God's call in our Archdiocese.

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). We gather between 9am and 10:30am on Sundays. 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.

Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium: Cause of Our Joy (COJ) is the Junior Praesidium of the Legion of Mary in the Kitsilano and West Point Grey for both Parishes of St Augustine's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help under the guidance of Spiritual Directors, Fr. Andrzej Stenzina, Bishop David Monroe and Fr. Joseph Horo. Weekly meetings will be held Saturdays after the 5pm mass at St Augustine's Parish Library and open to the youth (6-18 years of age).

During the weekly meetings, spiritual formation is learned in the recitation of the rosary and the Legion of Mary prayers. Planned activities throughout the year include Rosary making days, running book barrows, Mothers/Fathers day card making days, Month of May flower offering, making christening gift baskets, participate in helium balloon Rosary release event and Blessed Virgin Mary shrine visitation just to name a few. Parents are encouraged to attend and experience faith development in a fun, family-friendly setting. For further info, you may call the Legion of Mary Immaculate Conception Praesidium at 604.767.8087 or maryl.barin@gmail.com

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

“... proclaim the word, be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient...” (2 Timothy 4:2)

It is not always convenient to be a good steward, especially when all the temptations of our busy and materialistic world get in the way. Now add our own pride and ego into the equation and living a stewardship lifestyle may be downright uncomfortable! Remember, God didn't call us to be comfortable. He called us to be faithful.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Icon of Hope Concert



In connection with Extraordinary Mission Month, OLPH Youth will be presenting the Icon of Hope Yellowknife Tour in our church on Friday Oct 25 at 7pm. It will be an evening of great music and powerful reflections on the icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help. Admission is by donation. Proceeds will go to L'Arche and the priestly and lay formation in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith where the youth shared the message of hope in a concert at a men's prison and a parish.

Anti-Human Trafficking Presentation

The Anti-Human Trafficking Committee is thrilled to host presenters from the archdiocesan Anti-Human Trafficking Committee on October 17, 7:45pm OLPH Madonna Room. Pope Francis is calling on the Church to play a role in dismantling and eradicating human trafficking, calling it "an open wound on the side of contemporary society". Despite concrete efforts, human trafficking is still rampant. Come hear what remains to be done and how we can help. All are welcome.

New Mother's Lunch

Expectant mothers and mothers with children a year and under are invited to a special St Gerard's Feast Day lunch gathering on Sunday Oct 27 at noon (after the 11am Mass). Spouses and children are welcome to attend. Please email rsvp2olph@gmail.com by Oct 18 if you are attending and state the number of adults and children in your group. Thank you!

Youth Ministry Pie Sale

OLPH Youth will be selling frozen pumpkin, apple and blueberry-peach pies in the foyer to celebrate Thanksgiving. Funds raised will go to youth ministry initiatives. Available after all masses this weekend. All pies are going for \$15. If you would like to pre-order pies, please email Theresa. olphyouthmin@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving and the Eucharist

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio

For Americans and Canadians, the term “Thanksgiving” conjures up images of turkey and cranberry sauce, parades and games. These “traditions” have come to mark an event made a perpetual institution of life by Abraham Lincoln. But why did Lincoln proclaim this national holiday? Because it was clear to him that the blessings of food, land, family, and freedom enjoyed by us are all gifts from the Creator. But Americans, he realized, had forgotten this. A special day was needed for us to forget our differences and remember our blessings. And remembering naturally leads to giving thanks to the Source of those blessings.

The Israelites had an annual Thanksgiving Feast, as well. It was actually a combination of two feasts, Passover and Unleavened bread, and occurred in early spring. This is when the first grain began to be harvested and when the ewes gave birth to their lambs. The pagan Canaanites had already celebrated the feast of unleavened bread at this time to thank the gods for the harvest and offer them the first fruits as a sacrifice of gratitude. The pagan Bedouins, wandering from place to place with their flocks, celebrated the spring gift of lambs by sacrificing some of them to the gods in gratitude for the gift of fertility. The ancients did not need divine revelation to know that divine forces brought about the world and all its creatures. That's just plain common sense.

But for the Jews, Passover was not just giving thanks for the blessings of creation. For them, God was not just the author of nature with its seasons and life-cycles. No, God was also the master of history. Among all ancient peoples, only the Jews believed that God entered into human history, manifested his love and power, and acted decisively to save his chosen people. So while the pagans thanked their gods each spring for the blessings of food and fertility, the Israelites thanked the Lord for food, but even more, for freedom. They remembered not only that creation comes from Him, but that salvation from slavery as well. This remembering happens each year in a solemn way in the Passover Meal that is the climax of the Jewish year.

On the night before he died, Jesus celebrated this solemn memorial by deepening its meaning yet further. Liberation from Pharaoh's oppression was certainly something to sing about. But there was a crueler slavery that a change of geography and regime could not alter. This slavery to Satan was kept in force through the shackles of sin. Just as he acted through Moses to free his people from Pharaoh, God was now about to act decisively to liberate his people from the ancient curse. But this time, he would act personally, not through proxies.

And this liberation would be more costly. The only way that it could be won would be if God were to give not only his blessings but His very self. To do this, God had become man, capable of offering the supreme sacrifice. And before he did it in actual fact, he did it in sacrament by offering himself under the unassuming forms of bread and wine. Before delivering himself into the hands of the Romans to be their victim, he delivered himself into our hands to be our nourishment.

For his aim was not just to open the way to future bliss in heaven. His plan was to pour into our wounds the balm of Gilead that would begin the healing process here and now. The bite of the serpent had injected venom. His body and blood would be the antidote, the “medicine of immorality” in the words of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Blood brings nourishment and life to every cell of our bodies. It also carries away impurities that poison our system. The Eucharist offers us a transfusion—we put aside our old life and receive his ever-new life. We exchange his divine vitality for our tired, toxic blood. The life of a thing is in its blood. Blood was poured out at the foot of the altar and could never be consumed by a Jew, for it belonged to God alone. But here God pours out his own blood at the altar of the cross gives it to us as our drink, for the transformation of our lives.

“Do this in memory of me.” We are commanded to remember the supreme love of Christ for us that holds nothing back, that gives everything for our freedom. So naturally the sacrificial banquet of remembrance is called the Eucharist, or “thanksgiving.” The priest introduces the great central prayer of the celebration with these words: “let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” And we respond “it is right to give him thanks and praise.”

During the Eucharistic Prayer, I always silently add thanks for my personal blessings. I think of the natural blessings of home and work, of food on the table and the health of my family. I also thank God for my own salvation history, especially for plucking me out of the dangerous crowd I was running with as a teenager. I thank God for bringing me together with a woman who loves him and loves me, and for having kept us faithful to him and each other for many years and blessed us with wonderful children who love him. I thank him for our own family's salvation history. If you haven't already established the habit of adding your personalized thanks to the priest's Eucharistic Prayer, try it next time you're at Mass. It's a very appropriate mode of participating in that part of the Eucharist.

But true thanksgiving is not just a matter of words and warm sentiments. Gratitude for a gift means offering a gift in return. He gave his whole, entire self to us—his body, blood, soul, divinity. The only adequate response would be to offer ourselves. Note what Paul says in his letter to the Romans: “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1).

So thanksgiving cannot be separated from sacrifice. The Mass is a celebration of his love and the freedom it won for us through his sacrifice. Through it, the love of God is poured into our hearts and enables us to love with his love. In the power of that love, we offer ourselves back to him and enter into that sacrifice which we celebrate. True thanksgiving means self-giving. This is the meaning of eucharist.

www.catholicexchange.com

CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING



Prayer for Thanksgiving

God of all blessings,
source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth
that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which
there would be no life.
We thank you for the mystery
of creation:
for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown
that we cannot behold filling the
universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space
that draws us beyond the definitions
of our selves.
We thank you for setting us
in communities:
for families who nurture our
becoming, for friends
who love us by choice,
for companions at work,
who share our burdens and daily
tasks, for strangers
who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands
who call us to grow in
understanding, for children
who lighten our moments with
delight, for the unborn,
who offer us hope for the future.
We thank you for this day:
for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity
and one more day to work
for justice and peace,
for neighbors
and one more person to love
and by whom be loved,
for your grace
and one more experience
of your presence,
for your promise:
to be with us, to be our God,
and to give salvation.
For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks,
eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

Prayer by Vienna Cobb Anderson
www.beliefnet.com