



# MASSES & SERVICES Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm

Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm Sunday Masses: 9am, 11am, 5pm

Mon – Wed Masses: 8am Thurs Mass & OLPH Novena: 8am, 7pm 1st Thurs: 8am Mass/Novena, 12pm Mass/Novena/Healing Prayer Fri, Sat & Holidays: 9am Mass Fri in July & August: 8am Mass

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

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Olphchurchvancouver
OLPH Church, 2465 Crown
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January 19, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Calling to Mind the Graces Received in Baptism

By Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

The Christmas season ended with the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord last Sunday but the theme of Baptism continues in this week's Gospel reading.

The Baptism of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ summons all of us who have received the great gift and grace of the Sacrament of Baptism to renew our own baptismal promises. Meditate on the profound but simple words taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church on Baptism:

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door that gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and the word." (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1213)

Spiritually and supernaturally, it all started at the moment of our own Baptism when the minister poured water on our forehead and pronounced the words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The graces were a deluge, to say the least. Listen to all that happened the day and moment of your Baptism! Transformed into child of God, brother to Jesus Christ, intimate Friend of the Holy Spirit, temple and icon of the Blessed Trinity—all of these personal graces we receive in relationship to the Blessed Trinity when baptized.

However, more graces and gifts descended in an invisible but very real way. The following are the many virtues that our soul was imbued with in the moment of Baptism: the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity as well as the moral or cardinal virtues - justice, temperance, prudence and fortitude. And then, at the same time we received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

If that were not enough, in the moment of Baptism we became members of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, exorcised of the presence of the malignant enemy. With Baptism too we receive the right and privilege to the many heavenly inspirations that come from God's spirit and if we live out our baptismal promises one day eternal life is ours! How generous the good God is!

Given that it all started spiritually with Baptism we are called to live out our own baptism by renouncing the devil and his seductions. Also, we are called to renounce the world and its allurements as well as the base promptings of our lower nature that we call the flesh. In a word, from Baptism we are all called to pursue a life of holiness, calling to mind the words of Jesus who said: "Be holy as your heavenly Father is holy." (Mt 5:48)

We should renew our own baptismal commitment with faith, fervor and commitment to renounce sin and follow Jesus with steady determination. It could be a very powerful teaching and catechetical moment for parents—especially for the little ones—to celebrate the Baptism date of their child the same way they would celebrate their natural birthday. Indeed, baptism is our second birth.

Making the sign of the cross with both faith and reverence also enhances our awareness of the graces of this Sacrament. When we make the sign of the cross, the prayer: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," calls to mind our dignity as baptized sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and close friends of the Holy Spirit.

www.catholicexchange.com

Here I am Lord; I come to do your will. - Psalm 40

#### **NEWS & NOTICES**

**Weekly Collection:** Sunday Offering Jan 11 & 12: \$4,900.80. Pre-Authorized Giving for December: \$17,953.08. Offering for the Needy: \$1,405. Christmas Offering: \$20. Initial Offering: \$60. Solemnity of Mary: \$140. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

**Thursday Mass & Novena:** Starting in February the Thursday Mass and devotions will be in the morning at 8am and at noon every week. There will be no Mass/devotions in the evening. The noon Mass on the first Thursday will continue to be a special Mass & Novena with benediction, healing prayers with the relic of St Alphonsus followed by fellowship over soup in the hall.

**2020 Sunday Offering Envelopes:** 2020 Sunday envelopes are ready for pick up this weekend in the church foyer. Please make sure you pick up the right box as some names may be similar to yours and addresses are not printed on the label. If your envelope box is not in the foyer, please contact the parish office. **NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR 2019 OR ANY PREVIOUS YEAR'S ENVELOPES IN 2020.** 

RCIA Sponsors: We are looking for sponsors to support this year's catechumens in RCIA. A sponsor's role is to accompany the catechumen in their spiritual journey through prayer and faith-inspired friendship. If you can speak Mandarin or Cantonese, it would be helpful as well. You will not be expected to attend RCIA sessions except on some important dates. Just make some time for sharing the faith! Please email Bertilla if you have questions or if you'd like to help: bwatanabe@rcav.org.

Redemptorist Pilgrimage in May: In collaboration with the Centre for Redemptorist Spirituality in Rome, we are planning a 10-day pilgrimage and course in Redemptorist Spirituality, to be offered in the Redemptorist houses and centres associated with the foundation of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in southern Italy. The program will take place May 5-15, 2020. Please feel free to contact Anne Walsh, amfwalsh@gmail.com if you have questions. Cost is \$2,300.00 which includes all meals and lodging for the10-day pilgrimage/course in Italy, all transportation within Italy, guides and lecturers & tips. Not included in this price are airfare and travel/health insurance.

**Recharge and Refresh Your Marriage:** Feb 7 – 8, 2020. A two-day getaway Marriage Conference at Harrison Hot Springs, BC. More info available at www.catholicmarriageandfamily.com.

BRAVE Women's Retreat: April 17 – 19, Rockridge Canyon, Princeton BC. This Women's Retreat is for every woman searching for deeper relationship with the Trinity and what it means to live bravely as a woman of God. We will dive into what it means to be brave in our prayer life, brave with our voice, brave in our vocation, brave in our spiritual battles and brave in the world. It is an opportunity to get away from the busyness and demands of our schedules to personally encounter God and experience His generous love. Retreat, accommodation & meals: \$295 dormitory style, \$415 per person for room shared with 2 or 3, \$515 for single private room. Speakers: Beth Davis, Sarah Kaczmarek, Heather Khym and Fr Justin Brady. Registration opens Feb 1 at 9 am. For info visit liferestoration.ca/womensretreat



## **Stewardship Reflection**

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..." (Isaiah 49:5)

God has given each of us different gifts. In order for God's plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and generously share them with others.

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