



THE REDEMPTORISTS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

**MASSES & SERVICES**

October 17, 2021

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mon – Fri Masses: 8am  
Thurs OLPH Novena: Following  
8am Mass  
Sat & Holidays: 9am Mass

Reconciliation  
Sat 4pm – 4:45pm  
Or by Appointment:  
Call 604-2244344

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm  
Friday 9am – 2:45pm

CLERGY & STAFF  
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 Olphchurchvancouver



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## St Gerard: The Young Patron Saint of Mothers

### Dear Parishioners,

It might seem strange that a young man and religious Brother should be the patron saint of mothers and mothers-to-be. However, that is in fact the case of St Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist, whose feast day we celebrate on Saturday Oct 16. Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in the southern Italian town of Muro near Naples.

Even as a child he was a joyful bundle of holiness. He would bring home loaves of bread which he said a little child gave to him in the church. One day his mother decided to take a peek at who his generous little benefactor might be. To her astonishment, she saw the statue of the infant Jesus, descend from the Blessed Virgin's arms and begin to play with her son, sending him home with the loaf of bread when play-time was over.

This and many other amazing miracles were witnessed through the intervention of this virtuous young man. Gerard's patronage of mothers and mothers-to-be is attributed to his saving of a mother and child in a difficult labour. Both were saved after the mother placed a kerchief that once belonged to the holy young man on her belly. At the age of 23 despite his weak health, Gerard was somewhat reluctantly accepted as a Brother by the Redemptorists. It was felt he would be of little use because of his weak constitution but he surprised all by his tireless devotion and hard work. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 29.

The widespread popularity of devotion to Sr Gerard Majella was perhaps not so much the work of the Redemptorists as it was the word of mouth of Italian mothers who emigrated to the United States and other countries, all of whose lives were touched by the intercession of St Gerard. A group of mothers from our own parish pooled their savings to buy the statue of St Gerard for OLPH church so that you too may know about him. If you never noticed it before, you will find St Gerard in a niche close to the piano.

To mark St Gerard's feast day, Saturday morning Mass will include a special blessing for mothers and especially mothers expecting a child. If you know someone who is pregnant and would like to join us for this special celebration, please extend an invite to join us for the 9am Mass and blessing. Instead of adoration, a brief prayer service will be held with the relic of St Gerard on display until 10am.

**Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Babu Mathew, CSsR**



### Prayer to St Gerard Majella

Almighty and loving Father, I thank you for giving St. Gerard to us as a great role model and powerful friend. Through his example, he has shown us how to love and trust You.

You shower many blessings on those who call upon his assistance. For Your greater glory and my welfare, please grant me the favours which I now ask in his name.

(Share your request...)  
And you, my powerful patron, intercede for me before the throne of God.

Draw near to His throne and do not leave until you have been heard.

O Good Saint, to you I address my fervent prayers; graciously accept them and let me experience in some way the effects of your powerful intercession. Amen.  
**St Gerard Majella, Pray for Us**

*Fill us with your love, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad. – Psalm 90*

## NEWS & NOTICES

### 2021 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES PICK-UP

It is important to use the envelopes of the correct year when you make your Sunday offerings because envelope numbers can change and be reassigned to different parishioners. If you don't use envelopes from the current year, your donation may be credited to a different person. The last of the 2021 Sunday Offering envelopes are still available for pick-up at the Parish Office. Envelopes for 2022 will be issued in mid-December and are not to be used till the start of the new year. Office hours for 2021 envelope pick-up: Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4pm and on Fridays till 2:45pm.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MEAL PREP PROGRAM

OLPH's Friends of Liguori Meal Prep Program needs volunteers to help prepare frozen meals for Inner Hope Ministries one Saturday morning each month. We need 12 leaders who will be trained to do this with some helpers. Inner Hope's mission is to walk alongside youth and families in East Vancouver, nurturing hope, belonging, and transformation. This would be a great way for us to reach out to communities in need. If you think you can help please look up our bulletin on [www.olphchurch.ca](http://www.olphchurch.ca). You will be contacted when more information is available.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a journey of growth in the knowledge and love of God through the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Gathering sessions at OLPH Parish are on Sundays 9am-10:30am. Registration to cover the cost of books and materials is \$50. You can make your payment here. Start date: Sunday Sept 26.

### PROJECT ADVANCE

Our parish goal for Project Advance this year is \$106,000 which will go toward education bursaries for families affected by the pandemic as well as infrastructure development. To make your donation, find out about the Archdiocesan appeal and watch the video message of Archbishop Miller, please use this link. You will be asked to click on the name of your parish for your donation.

### ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

#### Monthly Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Monthly Mass and vigil to pray for respect for all human life from its beginning to its natural end. Please join your voice with ours as we pray on the first weekend of each month at a different parish for a new culture of life. Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m. Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

#### Opening Mass for the Synod of Bishops

Pope Francis has announced a Synod of Bishops will take place in October 2023. The official opening of this multiphase Synod called "For a synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" took place in Rome on October 9 and 10. The first phase (October 2021 to April 2022) will then begin in Dioceses and Episcopal Conferences around the world. In solidarity with the Holy Father's desire that we walk together in communion to pursue a common mission by participating in this Synod, the Archdiocese of Vancouver will celebrate an Opening Mass at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, at Holy Rosary Cathedral. For our local Church, this Synodal Process is a new opportunity to walk together, listen to one another in charity, and to hear what is on the hearts of our brothers and sisters. It is a chance to gather in community, to reach out to those who may have fallen by the wayside and to ask the Holy Spirit to guide not only the universal Church but also our Archdiocese. Sunday, October 24 at 2:30 p.m. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events).

#### Ecumenical Faith Break - Overcoming Challenges Together

Hosted by the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Join us for a time of conversation, reflection, and sharing the gifts of the Spirit amongst Christian communities. Bishop Gregory Mohr (ELCIC) and Archbishop Miller (RCAV) will be giving their reflection. Saturday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

If you held a mirror up to your life, would it reflect God's love and mercy? If you are struggling with this, try changing your attitude from "I want more" to "thank you God for everything you have given me, I have enough to share". This change in perspective will bring you joy through service to others. Pray daily to become less self-centered and to become more God-centered.

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