



MASSES & SERVICES

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

Mon – Fri Masses: 8am
Thurs OLPH Novena: Following 8am Mass
Sat & Holidays: 9am Mass
Sat: Adoration 9:30am - 10am

Reconciliation

Sat 4pm – 4:45pm
Or by Appointment:
Call 604-224-4344

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4pm
Friday 9:30am – 2:45pm

CLERGY & STAFF

Pastor
Fr. Babu Mathew, CSsR
Associate Pastor
Fr. Joseph Horo, CSsR

Office Manager

Virginia Fong
Pastoral Coordinator
Bertilla Watanabe, MA PS
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke
Jr. Kindergarten Director
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 [Olphchurchvancouver](https://www.facebook.com/Olphchurchvancouver)



OLPH Church, 2465 Crown

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Reaching Out To Those Who Do Not Know Jesus

Dear Parishioners,

There is always an air of eager anticipation when the season of Advent begins. Putting up lights, baking treats and planning family gatherings are great ways to prepare for the season. However, the preparation that brings the deepest joy to the heart is remembering the One whose coming we will celebrate.

There are many ways to engage our hearts for this. Making sure you have quiet time for prayer is the most of these. We have an Advent prayer service next Saturday Dec 4 at 7pm organized by the Music Ministry. The readings are inspirations from Fulton Sheen and Henri Nouwen. The Redemptorist Associates are also putting on a retreat with readings from the works of St Alphonsus. The focus is on Jesus in the crib, a tender contemplation of what it means to experience the presence of God as man.

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

The inspiration for our congregation came to St Alphonsus as he found himself in the hill country of Scala away from the churches and busy pulse of Naples. There he lived among the poor, simple folks who had no exposure to the Gospel and limited means to receive the sacraments. St Alphonsus felt a strong urge to reach out to these communities. Missionary outreach continues to be a priority for the Redemptorists to this day even though it may look a little different from the days of St Alphonsus.

The final instalment of the Redemptorist document we've been talking about over the last few weeks, talks about this. It proposes a few unique ways we can reach out to those who do not know Jesus even as we work out of parish settings. Some suggestions are:

- Opening our premises to those in our neighbourhood so that they may know who we are and what we are about
- Reaching out to others in programs such as soup kitchens, offering legal counsel to refugees and immigrants, homeless shelters etc. including people of all faiths or those of no faith at all
- Using technology to create more virtual communities offering novenas, podcasts and studies
- Collaborating with parishioners on ecological goals that recognize that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are closely connected

1 QUESTION THIS WEEK: A PLACE OF MISSIONARY OUTREACH

Please take a few minutes to answer the 1 question on missionary outreach at our parish. Positive or negative - all answers are welcome and appreciated!

1. Do you have 3 or 4 ideas on how we can reach out and share the Gospel with those who have not heard or experienced it?

Send your response to rsvp2olph@gmail.com by noon Tuesday Nov 23.

Thank you for your help in our discernment process! Let us ask our blessed Mother of Perpetual Help to aid us in this endeavour.

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

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. – Psalm 25

NEWS & NOTICES

CHILDREN'S MASS SIGN-UP

The next children's mass is on December 5th at 9am. Please sign your child(ren) up for a role using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945ADA82CA6FB6-olph>. The sign-up will close on November 29th at 6pm. We hope to see many of you at this wonderful mass for families on December 5th at 9am. If you have any questions, please email Agata at kroondyk@aquinas.org. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meal Prep Helpers: We are looking for more helpers for the Meal Prep Program. Please contact Lara Garcia, olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested in helping

PROJECT ADVANCE

Please note the deadline for Project Advance is Thursday Dec 30 if you wish to receive a 2021 tax receipt. 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, read Fr Babu's message and find out about our parish appeal, [please use this link](#).

ADVENT MEDITATION & CHURCH LIGHT-UP

Join us for an evening of prayer and music presented by OLPH Music Ministry with readings from Henri Nouwen and Fulton Sheen. The event will close with the Christmas light-up of the church. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. A free will offering will be taken up during the service for the Icon of Love Scholarship Fund.

ADVENT RETREAT

Join us for a Saturday morning meditation with readings from the writings of St Alphonsus on the Crib, the birth of the Lord. Presented by the Redemptorist Associates and friends. Sat Dec 11 from 10am - 11:30am in the Church. Admission is free.

REFLECTING ON MISSIONARY OUTREACH

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you've read the message on the front, please answer:

1 QUESTION THIS WEEK ON MISSIONARY OUTREACH

Positive or negative - all answers are welcome and appreciated!

1. Do you have 3 or 4 ideas on how we can reach out and share the Gospel with those who have not heard or experienced it?

Send your responses to rsvp2olph@gmail.com by noon Tuesday Nov 30.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Luke 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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