



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/Olphchurchvancouver)



OLPH Church, 2465 Crown

January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

A Time for Hope and New Beginnings

Dear Parishioners,

The new year is always a time for renewed hope and fresh beginnings. It can sometimes be a sad reminder of things that have not improved... the obvious one being Covid. Whatever our outlook for the year may be, despair is not for Christians. Giving prayer a place of priority in our lives will definitely make things better. There is a quote from Padre Pio particularly apt for these times: "Prayer is the best weapon we possess. It is the key that opens the heart of God." In 2022, let us make consistent and persistent prayer to our heavenly Father, a central focus of our lives.

Speaking of new beginnings, Fr Joseph will be leaving Vancouver to take up his new posting in India. Some of you have already heard this. His last day is next week although Covid might delay his actual departure. We thank Fr Joseph for his many years of kind service to our parish and wish him all the best in his new place of mission.

Taking Fr Joseph's place as Associate Pastor will be Fr Alfredo Medina Ramos, CSsR, ordained in May this year. He was born in Malpas, Mexico, the 11th of 14 siblings. He undertook his studies in New York and Chicago, then went on to Toronto for his novitiate. He professed his first vows in Mexico and did some mission work in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

In his words, "As a Redemptorist missionary, I have had the opportunity to know different places of mission. Every summer I went to different parishes to help and to learn more about the charism of the Redemptorists in its different facets. I was blessed to see most of the houses in the Denver Province, such as Biloxi, Minneapolis, Whittier, Fresno, Houston, Chicago, Oregon, and more. As a postulant, I earned the title of "postulant forever" for my duration of 7 years in this process! Thanks to the Redemptorists, I have experienced that I belong to a family extended all over the world with the mission of reaching the poor and especially the most abandoned."

You can [read the full article by Fr Alfredo](#) here. I trust you will make Fr Alfredo feel very much at home in his new parish in Vancouver.

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



O bless the Lord, my soul! – Psalm 104

NEWS & NOTICES

2022 DONATION ENVELOPES FOR PICK-UP

Donation envelopes for 2022 are available for pick-up in the church foyer before and after Masses. Please make sure you get the correct donation box as some last names and first names may be similar to your own. During the week and after the year-end, boxes will be available for pick-up at the parish office during office hours. If you are not able to find your box please email reception.olph@rcav.org.

SUNDAY COFFEE SIGN-UP JANUARY/FEBRUARY

If you can help with Sunday coffee, please use the link below. More details are available on the sign-up page. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CAEA728A7FC1-sunday>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

What Our Lord's Baptism Teaches Us About Salvation

By Gayle Somers

At the Nativity, we celebrated Jesus' birth in flesh and blood. On Sunday, we celebrate a second "birth"—His and ours. We know from the Gospel accounts that John the Baptist raised many Messianic expectations when he preached a baptism of repentance at the Jordan River. Because of an Old Testament prophecy in the Book of Daniel, in which the angel Gabriel revealed a kind of "timetable" for the coming of the Messiah (see Dan 9), the people in Jesus' day, knowing that the prophecy's date had come due, were on high alert. John's charismatic presence and his clear prophetic vocation aroused suspicion that he might be the Lord's "Anointed." John corrected them: "I am baptizing you with water, but One mightier than I is coming" (Mt 3:11).

Why was John baptizing "with water"? It was a long-standing element in Jewish purification rituals, for obvious reasons. Water cleanses and purifies; it also sustains life. Going all the way back to the Flood, the Jews knew that water figured prominently in salvation history. By John's day, going down into water and rising up out of it represented a sinner's desire to turn from sin, be cleansed from its effects, and start fresh. When Jesus appeared one day at the Jordan, why then did He take His place in line and submit to John's baptism? Why would God's Son need to participate in a ritual like this? Even the Baptist balked at this idea: "John tried to prevent Him."

In a most dramatic way, Jesus demonstrated that He did not come only to be human like us. That was accomplished in the Incarnation. No, He became flesh and blood so that He could step into the place of sinners and accomplish what John's baptism only symbolized. Water, all of its own, can't wash away the ocean of human sin! That could only happen with the death of sin itself, represented in baptism by the penitent's disappearance under the surface of the water.

Sin's consequences mean death; man's rebellion against his Creator requires a just punishment. When that requirement is satisfied, the penitent is free. Jesus got baptized as His first public act of identification with man's sin and His first step to defeat it, releasing all those held captive by it. That, of course, would require Him to be submerged into death, into the grave, into the netherworld—the Cross. His victory over those would be accomplished by His Resurrection; here it is symbolized by the opening of heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit. In the old order, death meant the end, a dissolution. In the new order Jesus came to bring, death in the water of baptism means new life, a re-birth, a truly new and eternal start.

God spoke on the day of Jesus' baptism: "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well-pleased." All those re-born in the waters of baptism that Jesus has given to His Church receive this same expression of love and delight from our Father. Jesus makes it possible for all of us to be born again into the relationship God originally intended for man and woman, blurred and distorted now by sin. His baptism is not only with water but with "the Holy Spirit and fire." It wipes away sin and implants divine life in us. John the Baptist knew his baptism could not accomplish that! In humility, he acknowledges this: "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?" Still, God allowed him to participate in the first public act of the Messiah for Whom he worked so tirelessly to prepare. What a blessed day that must have been for him.

www.catholicexchange.com

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastoral Council

Donna Trasolini
trasolini@telus.net

Finance Council

Kevin Chan
kchanolph@gmail.com

Parish Education Committee

Kate Nemeth
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

Lyse Rowledge
lyse.rowledge@gmail.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

Kathy Mok
communications.olph@rcav.org

Friends of Liguori

Jesse Gemmell
friendsofliguori.olph@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry

Gerry Macken 604-222-1369

Knights of Columbus

Greg Cowley
greg.alan.cowley@gmail.com

Madonna Group

Monica Cheung 604-739-8837

Ministry of the Word

Roger Poirier 604-224-0426

Music Ministry

Yenny Lee
yennyeeun@gmail.com

Communion to the Sick

Mary Thompson 604-263-6008
PREP

Eydie Cowley
prep.olph@gmail.com

Project Advance

Bertilla Watanabe 604-224-4344

RCIA

Bertilla Watanabe
bwatanabe@rcav.org

Volunteers Coordinator

Lara Garcia Carton
olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com

Weddings

Fr. Babu Mathew 604-224-4344