



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 – 1:30pm


CLERGY & STAFF

Pastor
Fr. Leo English, CSsR
Associate Pastor
Fr. Alfredo Medina Ramos, CSsR
Pastoral Coordinator
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Jr. Kindergarten Director
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 Olphchurchvancouver



August 13, 2023

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Walking On Water In the Face of Adversity

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

One of the most famous stories of the New Testament is the one about Jesus walking on the water. If there is any gospel story we never tire of hearing, this is it. The lake is rough. Though several of the apostles spent most of their life in a boat, they're still worried. But when they see a phantom walking towards them on the whitecaps, they get really scared. Then the figure speaks and they recognize a familiar voice—it is the Lord!

Remember the old saying “fools rush in where angels fear to tread?” Well here goes Peter: “Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you across the water.” The Lord takes him up on it. “Come!” he says. So Peter gives it a try. The first few steps go great and he's pumped. But funny thing—when the Lord told him to come, he neglected to calm the wind and the waves. And as Peter, far from the security of the boat and the company of his buddies, finds himself buffeted by strong gusts and swirling waves, fear gets the best of him. He begins to sink. Remembering that Jesus is not too far off, he has the sense to cry out “Lord save me!” The Lord fishes him out and then gently rebukes him. Jesus doesn't say that Peter has no faith. After all, he had more faith than the other eleven—at least he stepped out of the boat. But Jesus' statement is telling: “how little faith you have! Why did you falter?”

I think we love this story because we can so easily relate to it. In various moments of pious enthusiasm, we surrender our lives, our will, and our future to God. “Just tell me Lord, what you want me to do and I'll obey.” And then He surprises us a bit by taking us up on our offer. Undaunted, we respond to the call. It could be to the sacrament of matrimony which entails lifelong fidelity and generous openness to children. It could be to priesthood and religious life which involve celibacy and obedience to a superior. Or it could be to a degree program, or a tour of duty in the armed forces. We often embark on our journey amidst fanfare and congratulations. Then the harsh reality of the everyday grind sets in. Next come unexpected road hazards. No sooner is a child born with serious medical problems than you lose your job. A model child turns into a rebellious teen who seems to reject all of your values, including your faith.

If we are honest, most of us notice butterflies flying inside our stomachs amidst such circumstances. Does trust mean immunity from feelings of fear and discouragement? No. Jesus himself experienced anguish and dread in the Garden of Gethsemane. But notice that he was not deterred by it. He did not hesitate or falter as Peter did and as we usually do.

“Little” faith means *immature* faith. Faith, to be mature, must be tempered with courage, also known as fortitude. Courage is only manifested in the face of danger. If there is no danger, no threat, no trial, then there is no possibility of courage. Mature faith means believing more in what you *can't* see than in the terrifying things you *can* see. It means keeping the eyes of your heart fixed on the master of the wind and waves even as you feel the spray in your face. The most frequently repeated phrase in the gospels is “Do not be afraid!” The Lord is not speaking to our emotions here, since you can't command emotions. He is speaking to our will. We must make a conscious decision not to allow fear to paralyze us. Peter sank because he stopped walking. Faith means to keep walking even when your knees are knocking.

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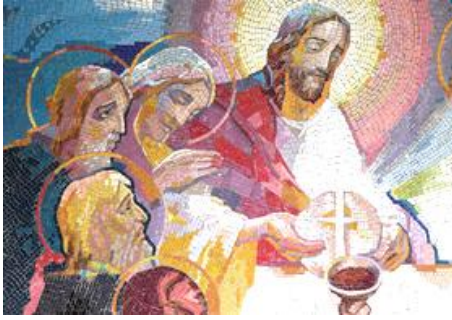
PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 our Parish Vision

PROJECT ADVANCE 2023
Archdiocesan Goal: \$49,800
OLPH Parish Target: \$130,000

Proposed church upgrades for 2023

- Repositioning of tabernacle with new furnishings, reflooring, millwork & new lectern & cladding of existing pillars
- Improved lighting in the side aisles
- Organized seating for the choir area & four stained-glass windows

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. -- Psalm 85



Family Eucharistic Summit

Saturday Aug 26, 1 pm | St. Francis de Sales Parish
6610 Balmoral Street, Burnaby, BC V5E 1J1

The Family Eucharistic Summit is a one-day event for families to enter into the wonder and awe of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Program includes Eucharistic Adoration and Procession, Mass with Archbishop Miller, CSB, Host Making, Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, BBQ Dinner (No options for special diets.)

Registration: \$50 flat rate/family OR \$20/adult \$10/youth
FREE for children 12 and under

Are You Thinking of Becoming Catholic?

Have you been wondering what it means to be Catholic? Have you thought about how to support your child who's going to Catholic school? Have you wondered if life's difficult questions can really be answered by religion? Find out more in RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) which starts on Sunday September 10. Gathering sessions are from 9am – 10:30am. Go to <https://olphchurch.ca/join/become-catholic/> to sign up. You can also simply email rcia.olphbc@gmail.com for more information.

Accompanying RCIA Inquirers

If you would like to spend a little time once or twice a month sharing your faith or simply being present to someone who wants to know Jesus better, sign up to be an RCIA supporter. Please email rcia.olphbc@gmail.com to express your interest in sharing your faith.

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Healing the Wounds of Abuse

The Grief to Grace Retreat helps those who have endured neglect, physical, emotional, sexual and/or spiritual abuse to find healing and begin their journey to wholeness. Abuse can be experienced in one's family of origin, community, workplace, or from their partner or spouse. The event will take place on Saturday, October 28, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The location will be shared upon acceptance of applications. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org.

Call for Volunteers: Upper Room 2023

If you've attended Upper Room before, you know that it can be a powerful momentum moment for those attending. Volunteering can be a way to be part of our mission. To volunteer, please sign up at rcav.regfox.com.

Save the Date: The Men's Retreat 2023 | Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1

Hosted by Life Restoration, this retreat offers something for every man: adventure, brotherhood, powerful keynotes, prayer, Sacraments, and the rugged outdoor beauty of Rockridge Canyon in Princeton, B.C. Save the date and join us.

OLPH Sponsorship of Upper Room: Sept 23, 2023

Join Fr Leo and Fr Alfredo this Sept 23 at the Upper Room Conference. We want to tap into a wealth of knowledge, resources and inspiration that will propel our faith and leadership skills forward at this annual event organized by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. It features two keynote speakers, great breakout sessions and Mass with Archbishop Miller.

If you're a parishioner, OLPH parish would like to offer you a partial sponsorship to attend this event. We'll cover \$40 of the \$75 ticket. A follow-up meeting at our parish hall is scheduled for Sat Sept 30, 10am-11:30am to exchange thoughts and ideas over coffee. We hope you're as excited as we are about unlocking the full potential of this parish. Find out more about the conference at upperroom.rcav.org and contact Bertilla bwatanabe@rcav.org about sponsorship details.



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