



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
Bertilla Watanabe, MA PS
Reception
Kathy Mok
Office Manager
Virginia Fong
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy

Jr. Kindergarten Director
Maria Cortese

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 Olphchurchvancouver



August 20, 2023

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Faith That Disregards All Obstacles

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

Jesus had gone to the region of Tyre and Sidon, modern-day Lebanon, and a local woman approached him for a favor. This was pagan country, home turf of the infamous Jezebel. The inhabitants of these parts were fondly referred to as “dogs” by their Jewish neighbors, who viewed them as unclean.

Did Jesus too regard these people with disdain? At first glance, it appears so. She cries out, “Lord, son of David, have pity on me!” and makes him aware that her daughter is troubled by a demon. He ignores her at first. Then he rebuffs her. “My mission is only to the lost sheep of Israel.” She is undaunted and, as if she did not hear him, insistently cries out: “Help me Lord!”

Then comes what many would take as a put down. Jesus says: “It is not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to the dogs.” She could simply have taken offense and walked off in a huff. But instead she persevered, responding with humility and wit: “even the dogs eat the leavings that fall from their master’s table.”

Jesus could no longer resist: “Woman, you have great faith, your wish will come to pass.” And immediately, her daughter was delivered from the power of evil. Many people think faith is “belief that” . . . Belief that God exists, or that Jesus is the Messiah. This woman certainly has this kind of belief. Though she is not a Jew, she calls Jesus “Son of David,” which means she believes that he is the anointed king of Israel foretold by the prophets. Yet faith is more than “belief that.” It is belief in. To believe in someone is to trust them, to entrust something of value to them, even to entrust one’s very self to them. Here, the woman entrusts the destiny of her daughter to the man who stands before her. And desire for her daughter’s salvation propels her to pursue him, to seek him tirelessly until she obtains what she believes he can provide.

Jesus often rebukes his disciples for having little faith. Their faith is little because it cowers before every obstacle. This woman’s faith is great because it disregards every obstacle. He is the King of the Jews. She is a Gentile. She asks; he is silent. She asks two more times, he says no. She doesn’t care. She just keeps on coming. Notice that though she is insistent, she is nonetheless humble. She does not dispute Jesus’ “preferential option for the Jews.” She does not arrogantly demand to be served first. She’ll settle for leftovers.

Jesus had come first for the people of Israel, then for the whole world. He was only in phase one of his mission. The time of the Gentiles had not yet come. But the great faith of this woman appears to have induced him to move forward the timetable. It reminds me of another woman of faith who moved forward Jesus’ timetable when the wedding guests had no more wine (John 2). His first response appeared to be a no, but her determined perseverance turned it into a yes that launched his public ministry.

There is a place in the gospels where Jesus says that faith can move mountains. Here we see that faith can move something even more formidable than mountains—it can move God himself!

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PROJECT ADVANCE 2023

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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

Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you. -- Psalm 67



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

Family Eucharistic Summit

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

Saturday Aug 26, 1 pm | St. Francis de Sales Parish

6610 Balmoral Street, Burnaby, BC V5E 1J1

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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