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Remembering Things We'd Rather Forget

By **Marcellino D'Ambrosi, Ph.D.**

On the final Sunday in the liturgical year, it is time to remember things that we'd prefer to forget. For starters, we recall that there is an infinite qualitative difference between us and God. He is immortal and infinite. We are not. Each one of us will come to our individual end. But so will our society, our world, even our universe.

Another thing to call to mind on this day is that while the Son of God came the first time in a way both lowly and hidden, he will come one day in a way both public and glorious. Yes, he is the Lamb of God. But He is also the Lion of Judah. He takes away the sin of those who let him. But he is also will bring things hidden in darkness into the light, call a spade a spade, and insist that all bear the consequences of their choices. That is what any judge does. And he will come in glory, says the creed, to judge the living and the dead.

But what will the Last Judgment be like? By what criteria will we be judged?

Only one passage in the Gospels provides a sneak preview of that day of reckoning — Matthew 25:31-46. First of all, note that most of Jesus' parables have a jarring punchline. He's always upsetting the preconceived notions of just about everyone, especially the most religious of the bunch, whether they be Pharisees or disciples.

Clearly, all of us expect that the Judge will condemn evil and impose sentence on the guilty.

And we tend to think of evildoing as stepping over the line and infringing on the rights of others, taking their possessions, maybe even taking their lives. The language of the Our Father lends itself to this interpretation of sin when it says "forgive us our trespasses."

The problem with this understanding of sin is that it is incomplete, even shallow. Lots of people think that, as long as they don't lie, cheat, and steal, but just keep to themselves and mind their own business, they deserve big rewards from God. The story of the Last Judgment addresses these "decent folks." Imagine their shock as they swagger smugly up to the judge's bench expecting praise only to be sent off to eternal punishment! Why? Because they neglected to do the good that love required them to do. They did not "commit" offenses or infractions of the law; they did nothing positively destructive. It's just that, in the presence of suffering, they heartlessly did absolutely nothing. Their sin was not a sin of "commission" but a sin of "omission." But note—these sins of omission ultimately seal the fate of the damned.

There are lots of negative commandments, often expressed as "thou shalt not's." But the two most important commandments are positive "thou shalt's." "You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and strength and you shall love thy neighbor as yourself." These commandments require an interior disposition that naturally produces outward actions. If you are hungry, you love yourself enough to go to the fridge or drive to McDonald's. If you truly love your hungry neighbor as yourself, you don't just say a prayer and offer sympathy (James 2:15-17). Loving God with all your heart doesn't mean giving a respectful nod to God and then going on your merry way. It means going *out* of your way, passionately seeking to love him and serve him in the least of his brethren.

In this Last Judgment scene, we see how these two commandments, these two loves, are really one. Jesus makes clear that loving God with your whole heart is expressed in loving your neighbor as yourself. And whenever you love your neighbor in this way, you are actually loving the Son of God. So ultimately, the judgment is simple. It all comes down to love. The judge happens to be the King of hearts.

catholicexchange.com



November 26, 2023
 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

Prayer to Jesus Christ the King

Lord, Jesus Christ,
 Our Sovereign King
 The beginning and
 end of all things,
 You have made your
 Church to be a people
 that bears witness to
 the goodness and beauty
 of your kingdom.
 By your Holy Spirit,
 you have united us
 as one body, called to
 live as one family of God.
 Fill our hearts with your
 grace that we may be
 close to you
 by being close to the
 vulnerable and
 marginalized.
 Give us the patience to
 share one another's
 burdens and give us the
 courage to always
 be friends of the truth.
 May we remain with you
 always. Amen.

uscbb.org

Imitating the Servant Heart of our Sovereign King

Dear Parishioners,

We have a beautiful piece of art hanging in the dining room of the rectory. It is a simple depiction of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. This is the heart and soul of the Servant Leadership of Jesus. It was not by accident at that Passover meal with his disciples that Jesus got up from the table, tied a towel around his waist and washed their feet. He set the example for us to follow. On that same night Jesus instituted the Eucharist --the gift of his most Holy Body and Blood. The washing of feet - rendering service to others and the Eucharist go hand in hand.

In fact, with every act of charity, every expression of kindness and service, we are being Eucharist for one another. We receive the Eucharist so that we in turn may be Eucharist for others on their pilgrim way. This is the core of our Catholic identity.

Following on the words of last week's bulletin - we strongly urge you to take notice of the following:

Please pray with the children celebrating their first reconciliation on Sat Dec 2nd. Please remember their families at this graced time in their lives. What an example they are for us! Later that same day at 7:00 pm, please come and join us for our annual Advent concert and tree lighting.

Please remember to start bringing non-perishable food items to Mass each time you come. This practice beginning next weekend Dec 2nd and 3rd is a great way of following the servant heart of Jesus who was always so concerned about the poor and the marginalized.

Please mark Wed Dec 6th at 7pm, on your calendar. This is the date and time of our Advent Parish Penitential service. We will also inform you of the dates for reconciliation services in other parishes throughout Vancouver West.

And finally, one more way to celebrate this great season: there is a Parish Advent retreat scheduled for Sat Dec 16th. All of these are parish efforts to strengthen us to follow the servant heart of Christ our Sovereign King.

Peace with gratitude,
Fr Leo

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. - Psalm 23



NEWS & NOTICES

Children's Mass Sign-Up

The next children's mass is on December 3rd at 9am. Please sign up your child(ren) up for a role using [this link](#). The sign-up will close on Monday, November 27th at 6pm. We hope you will join us as we celebrate this children-led mass. If you have any questions, please e-mail Melissa at olphchildrensmass@gmail.com. Thank you!

Project Advance Update

Dear friends, we are drawing close to the end of this year's Project Advance appeal. Our pledges are currently at \$104,529. All we need is \$25,500 to hit our parish target. To all who've given thus far, thank you! If you have not donated yet, please pray about how you can support this year's appeal. Please submit your donation by 11am Friday Dec 29 to allow processing time for a 2023 tax receipt. Please submit online donations by Sat Dec 30.

Development & Peace Fall Campaign

Development and Peace-Caritas's *Create Hope: Stand for the Land* campaign is supporting defenders of human rights and the environment in Honduras this year. Communities are being displaced. Rights, violated. Access and rights to water, denied. Find out more on devp.org/campaign. Then join us in signing the petition on the following weekend. All are welcome to find out more about this issue in a D&P presentation 7pm Thursday, Nov. 30 in the Madonna Room.

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

Join Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB for Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Saturday, December 16 at 12:00 p.m. starting with the Rosary at 11:30am and reception after. We recognize and celebrate all life from conception to its natural end and the people who witness and volunteer in this field. Donation of finger food would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off before Mass at the Holy Rosary Hall.

Applications to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

We are now accepting applications to our parish school for the 2024 - 2025 school year. Please visit the school website at www.olphbc.ca for the link to complete the application form. We are looking forward to welcoming many new families next year!

Applications to Little Flower Academy

Little Flower Academy is accepting applications from prospective Grade Eight candidates for the 2024 - 2025 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the entrance exam on Saturday, December 2, 2023. For more information and online application, please visit our website (www.lfabc.org) or contact Kathi Wilson, Registrar, at silsonk@lfabc.org or call (604)738-9015, ext. 114.



PROJECT ADVANCE



Support Sancta Maria House

Sancta Maria House is launching their annual fundraising campaign now with a testimony by one of the women they helped through recovery. If you're online, click to watch [Ariel's Story](#).

Sancta Maria House is a non-profit Catholic long-stay recovery home for women seeking freedom from substance abuse and trauma. They provide loving support, direction and encouragement as they journey through recovery and healing.

WAITING FOR THE LIGHT ADVENT CONCERT & CHURCH LIGHT-UP



7PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and Advent reflections.
Christmas light-up of the gardens following concert.
Hot chocolate and cookies served! A freewill offering will be taken up in support of OLPH Music Ministry.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 2465 Crown St, Vancouver, BC V6R 3V9

PROJECT ADVANCE 2023

Archdiocesan Goal: \$49,800 | OLPH Parish Target: \$130,000

Proposed church upgrades for 2023

Repositioning of tabernacle with new furnishings | Reflooring |
New lectern | Cladding of existing pillars | Improved lighting on side aisles |
Seating for choir | Four stained-glass windows

UPCOMING EVENTS

Development & Peace Meeting	Thursday Nov 30	7:00pm Madonna Rm
First Reconciliation & Reception	Saturday Dec 2	10:00am Church/Hall
Advent Concert & Light-Up	Saturday Dec 2	7:00pm - 8:30pm Church/Grotto
Children's Mass & Coffee	Sunday Dec 3	9am Church/Landing
Penitential Service	Wednesday Dec 6	7pm Church
Advent Retreat	Saturday Dec 16	9:30am - 3:30pm Church
4th Sunday of Advent Masses	Saturday Dec 23 Sunday Dec 24	5pm (Anticipated Mass) 9am & 11am
Christmas Eve Masses	Sunday Dec 24	4pm (Children's Mass) 11:45pm Caroling 12am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Masses	Monday Dec 25	9am, 11am & 4pm
Christmas Week	Tues - Sat Dec 26 - Dec 31	9am Morning Mass
Feast of the Holy Family	Saturday Dec 30 Sunday Dec 31	5pm (Anticipated Mass) 9am, 11am & 5pm
New Year's Day Masses	Monday 1 January	9am & 4pm

ADVENT RETREAT

Come as a Child:
An Advent Retreat
for Men and Women

9:30am - 3:30pm
December 16,
2023
OLPH Parish Hall

Presenter:
Allan Forsberg



Advent

MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm
Sunday Masses: 9am, 11am, 5pm
Mon - Fri Masses: 8am
Thurs OLPH Novena: After 8am Mass
Sat & Holidays: 9am Mass
Sat Adoration: 9:30am - 10am
Reconciliation:
Sat 4pm - 4:45pm
Or by appointment: 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

In-Residence

Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR

Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe, MAPS

Available Mon - Thurs

Reception

Kathy Mok

Available Mon/Wed-Fri

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Available Tue - Thurs

Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

Contact email: csiy.olph@rcav.org

OLPH School Principal

Deirdre O'Callaghan

Jr. Kindergarten Director

Maria Cortese

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