

## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Pastoral Council**  
Donna Trasolini  
trasolini@telus.net  
**Finance Council**  
Kevin Chan  
kchanolph@gmail.com  
**Parish Education Committee**  
Ken Kwong pec@olphbc.ca  
**Parish Fundraising Committee**  
Sandie Weitz sweitz20@gmail.com

**COORDINATORS**  
**Altar Guild**  
Bridget Bird 604-341-9180  
**Altar Servers**  
Kate Carr 604-730-5640  
**Children's Liturgy**  
Kathy Mok  
communications.olph@rcav.org  
**Craft Group**  
Elizabeth Hii elknhii@gmail.com  
**Development & Peace**  
Deirdre Webster 604-736-0714  
**Eucharistic Ministry**  
Kathy Mok  
communications.olph@rcav.org  
**Friends of Liguori**  
Jesse Gemmill  
friendsofliguori.olph@gmail.com  
**Hospitality Ministry**  
Gerry Macken 604-222-1369  
**Madonna Group**  
Monica Cheung 604-739-8837  
**Ministry of the Word**  
Kathy Mok  
communications.olph@rcav.org  
**Music Ministry**  
Theresa Barao  
theresabarao@gmail.com  
**Communion to the Sick**  
Mary Thompson 604-263-6008  
**PREP**  
Claudia Mok  
prep.olph@gmail.com  
**Project Advance**  
Bertilla Watanabe  
bwatanabe@rcav.org  
**RCIA**  
Bertilla Watanabe  
bwatanabe@rcav.org  
**Weddings**  
Bridget Bird 604-341-9180  
bridget.bird@telus.net

## Be Eclipsed By Another's Light

By Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The Christmas story is surely one of the greatest stories ever told. It chronicles a birth from which the world records time as before or after. Moreover, it is written in a way that has inflamed the romantic imagination for 2000 years. This hasn't always been for the good. Beyond spawning every kind of legend imaginable, the story of Christmas has, in the Christian imagination, too often taken on a centrality not accorded to it in the Gospels themselves. This is not surprising, given its richness.

Inside its great narrative there are multiple mini narratives, each of which comes laden with its own archetypal symbols. One of these mini-narratives, rich in archetypal imagery, is the story King Herod and the wise men. We see this in the Gospel of Matthew when he tells us how various people reacted to the announcement of Jesus' birth. Matthew sets up a powerful archetypal contrast, blessing and curse, between the reaction of the wise men, who bring their gifts and place them at the feet of the new king, and King Herod, who tries to kill him.

We are all familiar with this story since it has been much celebrated in song, icon, and legend. Jesus is born inside of a religious tradition, Judaism, and his birth is announced to that faith-community in a manner that befits religion, namely, by the angels, by supernatural revelation. But those outside of that faith-tradition need another way to get to know of his birth, and so his birth is announced to them through nature, astrology, through the stars. The wise men see a special star appear in the sky and begin to follow it, not knowing exactly to where or to what it will lead. While following the star, they meet King Herod asks the wise men to find the child and bring him back information so that he, too, can go and worship the newborn.

The wise men follow the star, find the new king, and, upon seeing him, place their gifts at his feet. We do not know what happened to them afterwards and that is exactly the point. Their slipping away into anonymity is a crucial part of their gift. They have placed their gifts at the feet of the young king and can now leave everything safely in his hands. His star has eclipsed theirs.

And Herod, how much to the contrary! The news that a new king has been born threatens him at his core since he is himself a king. The glory and light that will now shine upon the new king will no longer shine on him. Far from laying his resources at the feet of the new king, he sets out to kill him. To ensure that his murderers find him, he kills all the male babies in the entire area. An entire book on anthropology might be written about this last line. Fish are not the only species that eats its young! But the real point is the contrast between the wise men and Herod: The former see new life as promise and they bless it; the latter sees new life as threat and he curses it.

This is a rich story with a powerful challenge: What is my own reaction to new life, especially to life that threatens me and takes away some of my own popularity, sunshine and adulation? Can I, like the wise men, lay my gifts at the feet of the young and move towards anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even though those hands are not my hands? Or, like Herod, will I feel that life as a threat and I try somehow to kill it, lest its star somehow diminish my own?

To bless another person is to give away some of one's own life so that the other might be more resourced for his or her journey. Good parents do that for their children. Good teachers do that for their students, good mentors do that for their protégés, good pastors do that for their parishioners, good politicians do that for their countries, and good elders do that for the young. They give away some of their own lives to resource the other. The wise men did that for Jesus. How do we react when a young star's rising begins to eclipse our own light?

ronrolheiser.com



## A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

May we each day  
open the window of  
our worlds,  
inviting the fresh  
Light of Epiphany  
to flood us with hope,  
to bring us fresh  
insight and to fill us  
with grateful joy.  
May we see the world  
around us with new  
creation eyes,  
filled with potential  
and brimming  
with promise.  
Amen.

January 7, 2024  
Epiphany of the Lord



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

### The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:*

*to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

Dear Parishioners,

A huge word of gratitude from the Redemptorists for all your greetings and generosity throughout the Christmas season. We were overwhelmed with your kindness. Thank you, thank you! A lot has happened in a short space of time, and it has all exceeded our expectations. We had an advent concert, the lighting of trees, a school concert, penitential services, a beautiful manger scene and decorating, an advent retreat, a JK concert, Christmas masses, carolling, choirs, altar servers and a children's dance to Mary's Boy Child on Christmas Eve. The CWL worked tirelessly in building community at the Christmas Craft Fair and Tea. You gave generously to our efforts to collect socks and gently used coats for the Men's Shelter. To all who worked so tirelessly to make all of this happen – our deep gratitude! So many, doing so much, to bring the spirit of Christmas to our Parish Family!!!

With Our Lady's School returning to classes on **Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>** we want to wish all every grace and blessing. May the Spirit of God rest upon all your endeavours in 2024. Believe it or not, one month from the Feast of Epiphany – on **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** we will mark our selves with Ashes and begin once again that Lenten pilgrimage. To help us as pilgrims begin that journey, we will host a retreat on **Saturday Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** – mark your calendars – the theme of the retreat is Listening. Something that we all need to practice more. The older I get the more I listen to people who speak less!

**A few highlights:**

In the spirit of the opening poem – the work of Christmas – we want to encourage you to continue bringing nonperishable food items, each time you come to church. What we do for those who have less, will be our passport into heaven.

On Thursday morning **January 25<sup>th</sup>**, 9:00-10:00 am, we will host an educational presentation on the Prevention of Fraud for seniors – something that we can all benefit from. Save the date.

Please reread the poem – I strongly believe that putting flesh on faith, is the heart and soul of the whole thing.

Peace with gratitude.  
Fr Leo

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. – Psalm 72*





## 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-Friday 9:30am-4pm

## CLERGY & STAFF

**Pastor**  
 Fr. Leo English, CSsR  
**Associate Pastor**  
 Fr. Alfredo Medina Ramos, CSsR  
**In-Residence**  
 Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR  
**Pastoral Coordinator**  
 Bertilla Watanabe, MA PS  
 Available Mon - Thurs  
**Reception**  
 Kathy Mok  
 Available Mon/Wed-Fri  
**Office Manager**  
 Virginia Fong  
 Available Tue - Thurs  
**Bookkeeper**  
 Corinna Siy  
 Contact email: csij.olph@rcav.org

## OLPH School Principal

Deirdre O'Callaghan  
**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



Use this QR code to visit our website, Instagram or Facebook page.  
 OLPH Church, 2465 Crown Street, Vancouver BC, V6R3V9

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Archbishop Miller's 2024 New Year Message

*Excerpt:* "As time passes, we are continually amazed by how ultimately short and ephemeral life is. So often we ask ourselves: what's the meaning of our life, and what meaning, in particular, can we give to our days of toil and sorrow?" Read [Archbishop Miller's full message here](#) or pick up a copy at the back of the church.

### 2024 Sunday Offering Donation Boxes For Pick-Up

Please pick up your 2024 Sunday Offering box in the church foyer. Note, 2023 envelopes cannot be used anymore. Using envelopes from the past may result in your donation being credited to someone else.

### Development & Peace Planning Meeting

Pope Francis calls us to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (Laudato Si', 49). We hope to inform parishioners how we can help support people and heal the earth. A Lenten planning meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 7-8pm in the Madonna Room. All welcome!

### Adult Confirmation Classes

If you're a Catholic over 18 but missed out on Confirmation or any other sacraments, please join us for 3 Wednesday evenings in January to prepare yourself to enter fully into the Church. Classes are Jan 17, 24 and 31 from 7pm – 8:30pm in the Madonna Room. There is a fee of \$30. [Please use this link to register.](#)

### Spiritual Care Training Program

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is offering Spiritual Care Training to answer the call to reach out to seniors and the isolated. The eight-week course teaches how you can connect with them with genuine concern and be a presence in their lives. Topics covered include aging, communication, boundaries and self-care. Training is offered online via Zoom every Thursday, from February 1 to March 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$30. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](#).

### Making Sense of Counterwill

This video course by Dr. Gordon Neufeld reveals the dynamics behind this instinct and provides suggestions for how to deal with it. This material is applicable for all those dealing with toddlers through adolescents: teachers, parents and helping professionals. Discussions will be facilitated by Kevin Bredeman, M.A. On Tuesdays, from January 23 to February 20, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$25. These workshops are not being recorded. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](#).

### Zoom Workshop on Building Habits for Spiritual Resiliency

If you are struggling to see how it might be possible to grow in your spiritual life you will discover much in this free workshop. Fr. John O'Brien's simple recommendations will not overwhelm you or require you to give up every spare moment in an already busy life. These habits will give you a framework on which to grow. Thursday, January 11, at 12 p.m. via Zoom. Free. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](#).

## The Art of Listening: A Lenten Preparation



### The Art of Listening: A Lenten Preparation Saturday January 27, 9am -12:15pm OLPH Church

Lent is a time of purification and quieting ourselves to listen to the will of God in our life. It is also a time to prepare ourselves to bring His word to others. Explore the traits of a good listener and understand why listening plays a vital role in evangelization. Learn how effective listening is the cornerstone of mentorship and deepens connections with those you accompany on their faith journey. Admission is free. Please [register here](#).

### Agenda

9:00 – Mass  
 9:30 – Adoration  
 10:00 – Presentation/Activity 1  
 11:00 – Break  
 11:15 – Presentation/Activity 2  
 12:15 – End



**Sister John Mary Sullivan**, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, holds a Master's in Theological Studies from the John Paul II Institute at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. She earned her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at Central Connecticut State University. Sister John Mary is currently working for the Archdiocese of Vancouver as an Associate Director in Ministries and Outreach and is the coordinator for Marriage and Family Ministries.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Bank Donations	Every Weekend	Before and after Masses, Foyer
Catholic Adult Confirmation	3 Wednesdays Jan 17, 24, 31	7pm – 8:30pm Madonna Room
D&P Lenten Planning Meeting	Thursday Jan 11	7pm – 8pm Madonna Room
Usher's /Hospitality Ministry Workshop	Tuesday Jan 23	7pm – 8pm Church
Prevention of Fraud for Seniors	Thursday Jan 25	9am-10am Madonna Room
Lenten Reflection Sr John M Sullivan	Saturday Jan 27	10am – 12:30pm Church



### Ushers' & Hospitality Ministry Workshop Tuesday January 23, 7-8pm, OLPH Church New Volunteers Welcome!

Hospitality —being friendly, welcoming and generous —is one of the pillars of a Stewardship Parish. One of the simplest ways that we can show others the love of God is by letting them know they are wanted, valuable and welcome. First and foremost, parishes today should be bastions of hospitality, so that those who enter may become engaged in the life of Christ's Church.

Each and every Sunday, we as Catholics have the opportunity to be Jesus to others. Nowhere is this more evident than when someone leaves their home to attend Sunday Mass at our parishes.

Believe it or not, our practice of hospitality doesn't start when someone enters the Church doors—it starts before that. In turn, it continues until they leave the church campus. While our practices should focus on welcoming the stranger, an unintended side effect will be the welcoming of our own membership. It will show our parish members how to welcome the stranger, and give them ways to practice hospitality when they go out into the community.

- Catholic Stewardship