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What Do You Seek?

By Fr. Andrew Apostoli

It's so important to know where to find Jesus in our lives; but do we really understand what (and *Whom*) we're looking for? This is the question that we find Jesus asking two of His future Apostles: "What do you seek?" (John 1:38). This story takes place after Jesus' Baptism by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The Baptism of Jesus marks the end of His hidden life at Nazareth. Let's start exploring this question of Jesus by exploring His Baptism.

The baptism of John was not our sacramental Baptism. John's baptism could not take away sins; only Jesus' Baptism can, because Jesus has the power to forgive sins. John's baptism was just a sign of a new life of repentance. But Jesus came for John's baptism even though He had no sins to repent of. John even says, "I need to be baptized by you" (Matthew 3:14). Our Lord insisted, though, and went down into the waters of the Jordan — waters that had become spiritually polluted by the sins of those who had confessed and repented there. Jesus took those sins upon Himself. As Isaiah the prophet said, He "has borne" our sins (Isaiah 53:4); that is why He suffered.

As He did this, He purified the waters and gave them, in His Baptism, the power to take away sins. To this day, if a priest or deacon baptizes using water from the Jordan River, he doesn't have to bless the water, since it was blessed by Christ two thousand years ago.

As Jesus emerged from His Baptism, two things happened. First, a voice spoke out: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). The Father is speaking, revealing His Son. At the same time, St. John tells us that he saw the Holy Spirit descend as a dove and land on Jesus (John 1:32). In other words, Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit for His mission as the Messiah (which means "anointed one"). He was now filled with the Holy Spirit to bring to others in His mission as the Savior of the world. It's with that background that we pick up the story in the Gospel of John:

"The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour." (John 1:35-39)

These two disciples of John the Baptist are my patron saint: St. Andrew the Apostle and an unnamed man traditionally assumed to be St. John the Apostle. When the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah, they leave the Baptist and begin to follow Jesus.

Note what Andrew and John say when the Lord asks what they're looking for: they ask where He is staying. Isn't that what we should be looking for, too — to find out where we can find Jesus and be with Him? And in response He gives that beautiful invitation: "Come and see." From this moment on, Andrew and John stayed with Jesus. The Old Testament practice was that disciples stayed with their rabbi, their teacher, as long as the rabbi could teach them something, at which point they would go out on their own to become rabbis in their own right. But when it comes to being a disciple of Jesus, we don't leave Him. We don't leave His message, which is inexhaustible. We don't start teaching our own truths or our own opinions. We must always teach what the Lord has given us. We must always remain with Him, just as Andrew and John did. It's by being with Jesus that we too are transformed.

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN RCIA

Heavenly Father,
you call each one
of us by name,
to a loving and trusting
relationship with you
and your Son, Jesus
Christ,
by the guidance
of the Holy Spirit.
Open the hearts
and minds of our
brothers and sisters
in RCIA as they
journey toward a
deeper understanding
of the mysteries of
salvation.

Prepare their hearts and
minds to receive you
with joy and eager
anticipation for a new
life lived in you through
Baptism, Eucharist and
Confirmation
this Easter.

We ask this through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sacred Encounters ~ Taking A Listening Stance

Pope Francis often speaks about the word Encounter ~ an experience with the other when both people walk away changed. When we experience Jesus in our lives, we acknowledge a sacred encounter. *Meeting another* simply means that both of us walk away unchanged. An encounter is animated by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, drawing us ever closer to the person of Jesus.

Listening is vital if we are to encounter the other. Listening to the word of God, listening to the presence of the Holy Spirit, listening to what the rich tradition and teaching of the Church has to say to us. Obedience is not such a popular word in our culture ~ yet the very word obedience means to listen. This stance of active listening throughout the world is at the heart of the ongoing synodal experience in the Catholic Church.

Once again, I want to highlight an upcoming pre-Lenten retreat aptly named, the Art of Listening with Sr John Francis Sullivan of the Archdiocese of Vancouver on Saturday, Jan 27th. We will begin with Mass at 9 am. This will be followed by a short period of silence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 am. Sister John Francis will be with us until 12:30 pm. Marriages, family life, work relationships and personal development are **all** enhanced when we listen more and speak less. **Bring a friend and bring a nonperishable food item for the food bank.**

Making it real – here are ten points to help us:

1. Focus on being interested not interesting.
2. Start by asking questions.
3. Look for commonalities.
4. Tune in with all your attention.
5. Communicate you are listening with a nod or sound.
6. Paraphrase what the speaker says.
7. Validate the speaker's emotions.
8. Maintain eye contact.
9. Let go of your own agenda.
10. Turn off the TV. (Dr John Gottman)

Why is all of this so important? It's because we want to be more like Jesus, disciples of the ONE who showed us by perfect example His listening stance to God, to the Holy Spirit and to all people that He ever ENCOUNTERED.

Peace with gratitude.

Fr Leo

Here I am Lord; I come to do your will. – Psalm 40





NEWS & NOTICES

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. Using envelopes from the past may result in your donation being credited to someone else.

Collection of Used Palms

If you have used palms from previous Palm Sunday celebrations at home, feel free to bring them to church by Sunday Feb 4 and drop them into the palm collection box in the church foyer. These palms will be used to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday Masses on Feb 14.

Prevention of Fraud for Seniors

This talk by Ann Kumpula, CPA, CA covers the common fraud schemes targeted at seniors. Learn to spot them - the foreign letter email scam, the inheritance scam, advanced fee loan, cheque overpayment fraud, phishing schemes, telemarketing fraud and credit/debit card fraud. The presenter, Ann Kumpula is an active member of the Chartered Professionals Accountants of BC and is currently the Credit Manager for EMBERS Staffing, an award-winning non-profit social enterprise labour agency. No charge. Thursday Jan 25, 9-10am Madonna Room.

Ushers' & Hospitality Ministry Workshop

Hospitality —being friendly, welcoming and generous—is one of the pillars of a good parish. One of the simplest ways we can show others the love of God is by letting them know they are wanted, valuable and welcome. Come and be part of a ministry which welcomes others and is a presence of Go among us. Our workshop is on Tuesday January 23, 7-8pm, OLPH Church. New volunteers welcome! If online, [sign up here](#).

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Join us for a monthly Mass and vigil to pray for respect for all human life. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, it takes place on the first Saturday of each month at 9am (8:30 am in April), with Mass, rosary and Adoration. All are welcome! Next meet - Sat, Feb 3 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Vancouver at 9am. Learn more at [beholdvancouver.org/events](#).

The Great Divorce For Young Adults Book Club

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis is the story of the journey of a man taking a bus ride from Hell to Heaven. Along the way, he has some very interesting adventures. Young adults aged 19-35 are welcome to a book study with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese. The next meeting is on Friday, February 9 at 6pm until 8:30 pm at the Vanspec Centre (2811 Venables Street, Vancouver). [beholdvancouver.org/events](#).

Join the Non-Perishable Food Drive. Your Donation Makes A Real Difference!



Friends, please keep those canned foods and non-perishables coming! Our current efforts to collect non-perishables for the Food Bank is a Friends of Liguori initiative. As you know, OLPH's Friends of Liguori helps determine and respond to legitimate spiritual, emotional and material needs within our community and beyond.

One amazing organization we support and collaborate with is Lookout Housing and Health Society. This is a charitable 'social safety-net' organization which provides caring and respectful services to vulnerable people living in a number of its lower mainland residences.

An especially needy Lookout site is in the Vancouver Downtown East side, Sakura So (Cherry Blossom, in Japanese as it's located in old Japan Town). Sakura So is a low barrier single room occupancy (SRO) residence that 'meets people where they are'. The people living there are primarily young men between 20 and 38 years of age. All are impoverished and most struggle with mental health illnesses, physical diseases, gender identity issues, addiction, and homelessness.

Sakura So uses the Food Bank as its primary source of food, however this isn't enough for each of its 38 residents to have one meal each day. When asked what their most urgent need is, the manager of Sakura So describes the residents as "hungry" and said that they need food.

Our goal is to make a delivery of non-perishable foods, i.e., oatmeal, canned fruit, canned soup, cereals, granola bars, canned meals such as Boyardee and Chili, to Sakura So every week to help to alleviate some of the suffering experienced there.

This past December our parish was exceptionally generous and we were able to achieve this goal. Sakura So is so very grateful for the charity and kindness shown by our parish. Thank you everyone for your continued care and generosity!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Bank Donations	Every Weekend	Before and after Masses, Foyer
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

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. If online, [register here](#).

Agenda

9am Mass | 9:30: Adoration | 10am Presentation/Activity
11am Break | 11:15 - Presentation/Activity | 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. She currently works for the Archdiocese of Vancouver as an Associate Director in Ministries and Outreach and is the Coordinator for Marriage and Family Ministries.

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

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Deirdre O'Callaghan

Jr. Kindergarten Director

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



The Catholic Parent

By Catholic Parents for Catholic Parents on Formed.org

The Catholic Parent is an empowering video series created to help young families deal with the struggles of raising a family in the Faith. This series of six short episodes will empower parents to:

- Faithfully take your family to Sunday Mass
- Commit to praying as a family even when life is hectic
- Receive Jesus' forgiveness and mercy in the Sacrament of Confession
- Live sacrificially for each other out of love
- Give generously to those in need even when it's tough
- Raise the next generation of saints...now!

To watch this series, sign up for free to OLPH Parish's subscription of Formed.org using our zip code V6R3V9.