



May 12, 2024 ❖ The Ascension of our Lord



Pastor's Pen



This week I find myself thinking of my own mom. Like each of you, I want to remember with deep gratitude all the sacrifices that she and all mothers made over a lifetime. I am one of fourteen children, and you better believe it - there were sacrifices! Here at our Lady's School and Parish may we together seek the outpouring of God's Pentecost Spirit in acknowledging all of those who have been and are life giving to us.

I am deeply moved by the wonder and awe of those who received First communion. We had a grand celebration. Let us continue to remember all school families especially those preparing to celebrate Confirmation in a few weeks from now.

This weekend we mark Ascension Sunday. It is that mountain top moment when we see Jesus returning to his Father in heaven, from where He intercedes for us. The fulfillment of His promise is what we celebrate at Pentecost - next weekend, when the Spirit comes to rest upon the early disciples and to rest upon us.

First Communion, Confirmation, Mother's Day, and Ascension Sunday – they are sacred moments of encounter with God's grace on the journey of life. Blessings on the journey, fellow pilgrims.

Peace with gratitude ~ Fr Leo

A Message from OLPH's to All mothers & mother figures on this Beautiful Day!



PAINFUL GOODBYES AND THE ASCENSION



Among the deeper mysteries in life perhaps the one we struggle with the most is the mystery of the Ascension. It's not so much that we misunderstand it, we simply don't understand it.

➤ What is the Ascension?

Historically it was an event within the life of Jesus and the early church and is now a feast-day for Christians, one that links Easter to Pentecost. But it is more than an historical event, it is at the same time a theology, a spirituality, and an insight into life that we need to understand to better sort out the paradoxical interplay between life and death, presence and absence, love and loss.

The Ascension names and highlights a paradox that lies deep at the center of life, namely, that we all reach a point in life where we can only give our presence more deeply by going away so that others can receive the full blessing of our spirits.

➤ What does that mean?

When Jesus was preparing to leave this earth he kept repeating the words: "It is better for you that I go away! You will be sad now, but your sadness will turn to joy. If I don't go away you will be unable to receive my spirit. Don't cling to me, I must ascend."

➤ Why is it better sometimes that we go away?

Any parent with grown children has heard similar words from their children, unspoken perhaps but there nonetheless. When young people leave home to go to college or to begin life on their own, what they are really saying to their parents is: "Mum and dad, it is better that I go away. You will be sad now, but your sadness will turn to joy. If I don't go, I will always be your little boy or little girl but I will be unable to give you my life as an adult. So please don't cling to the child you once had or you will never be able to receive my adulthood. I need to go away now so that our love can come to full bloom."

The pain in this kind of letting go is often excruciating, as parents know, but to refuse to do that is to truncate life. The mystery of love and intimacy contains that paradox: To remain present to someone we love we have to sometimes be absent, in ways big and small. In the paradox of love, we can only fully bless each other when we go away. That is why most of us only "get" the blessing our loved ones were for us after they die. Mystically, "blood and water" (cleansing and the deep permission to live without guilt) flow from their dead bodies, just as these flowed from Jesus' dead body.

And this is even true, perhaps particularly so, in cases where our loved ones were difficult characters who struggled for peace or to bless anyone in this life. Death washes clean and releases the spirit and, even in the case of people who struggled to love, we can after their deaths receive their blessing in way we never could while they were alive. Like Jesus, they could only give us their real presence by going away.

"It is better for you that I go away!" These are painful words most of the time, from a young child leaving her mother for a day to go to school, to the man leaving his family for a week to go on a business trip, to the young man moving out of his family's house to begin life on his own, to a loved one saying goodbye in death. Separation hurts, goodbyes bring painful tears, and death of every kind wrenches the heart.

But that is part of the mystery of love. Eventually we all reach a point where what is best for everyone is that we go away so that we can give our spirit. The gift that our lives are can only be fully received after we ascend.

(Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI)

🌸 NEWS & NOTICES 🌸

- ♦ The PEC Nominating Committee is calling for nominations for the Parish Education Committee at OLPH School. PEC Elections will be held at all Masses the weekend of May 25 & 26. Nominations must be received by the nominating committee by 4:30pm on May 24. Please contact the Parish office or email lerato.chondoma@me.com with any questions. For further details, please refer to the bulletin insert.
- ♦ If you are a baptized Catholic in a Catholic high school and have yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the Parish office if you are interested in joining our celebration on June 3.
- ♦ Confirmation Prayer Partners for OLPH children who will be confirmed on June 3 - You can drop off your envelopes in the donation basket when you come for Mass on the weekends or at the parish/school office. Thank you for your support!
- ♦ Catholics' Netflix - *FORMED.ORG* - Formed is a Catholic streaming service free to all OLPH parishioners. It brings beautiful and faithful Catholic contents to parishes and families. It offers various movies, faith studies, audio books and children's programs. Easy to sign-up! Just follow these steps:
 1. Visit signup.formed.org
 2. In the 'Find Your Parish' box, enter parish postal code V6R 3V9 for OLPH
 3. Enter your name & email to signup.
- ♦ 2024 Donation Envelopes - If you have requested a box of Sunday offering envelopes and have not yet picked it up from the Parish office, please do so as soon as possible. Boxes that are not picked up by May 31 will be reassigned to new families. Thank you!

❖ **Archdiocesan Events** ❖

- ♦ Ordinations of Permanent Deacons - The Archdiocese of Vancouver will be celebrating the Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Deacons to the Permanent Diaconate through the imposition of the hands by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, on Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver. All are welcome to attend this joyous occasion!
- ♦ Magnificat Spring 2024 Luncheon: Please join us at a brunch for all women where we will share together in that same spirit of gratitude and praise of God. Following our brunch, there will be a time of prayer for the needs of all present and an opportunity to hear our speaker's experience of the transforming love of Christ in her own life. Come, magnify the Lord and bring a friend to rejoice in His presence! Sat, May 25, 11am - 2pm, at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. Cost is \$30. Registration deadline: Fri, May 17. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

🌸 UPCOMING EVENTS 🌸

Food Bank Donations	Every Weekend	Before and after Masses, Foyer
Celebration of Adult Confirmation	May 19	11:00 am
Parish Education Committee Elections	May 25 & 26	At all Masses
Chalice - Catholic Child Sponsorship Program	June 1 & 2	All all Masses
Sacrament of Confirmation	June 3	7:00 pm

🌸 OLPH SCHOOL NEWS 🌸

Parish Education Meeting (PEC)	May 14	7:00 pm - School (please inform the school if you plan to attend)
Kindergarten Orientation	May 22	6:00 pm
Family BBQ & Outdoor Movie	June 15	Time to be announced



MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm

Sunday Masses: 9am, 11am, 5pm

Daily Mass :

Mon – Fri 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

Stat Holiday, Sat & Sun: Closed

CONTACT

Email: parish.olph@rcav.org

Website: www.olphchurch.ca

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

2465 Crown Street, Vancouver, BC V6R 3V9

Parish Office: 604-224-4344

CLERGY & STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Leo English, CSsR

Associate Pastor

Fr. Alfredo Medina Ramos, CSsR

In-Residence

Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR

Reception

Kathy Mok

Available Mon & Wed - Fri

Administrative Assistant

Carolina Demaria

Available Tue - Thurs

Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

Contact email: csiy.olph@rcav.org

OLPH School Principal

Deirdre O'Callaghan

Jr. Kindergarten Director

Maria Cortese

OLPH School

604-228-8811

Jr. Kindergarten:

jrkindergarten@olphbc.ca

PARISH INFORMATION

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

sweiz20@gmail.com



Use this QR code to visit our website, Instagram or Facebook

Altar Guild

Adrienne O'Callaghan 604-376-4780

Altar Servers

Kate Carr 604-730-5640

Children's Liturgy

Kathy Mok

communications.olph@rcav.org

Communion to the Sick

Mary Thompson 604-263-6008

Craft Group

Elizabeth Hii e1knhii@gmail.com

Development & Peace

Deirdre Webster 604-736-0714

Eucharistic Ministry

Kathy Mok

communications.olph@rcav.org

Friends of Liguori

Jesse Gemmell

friendsofliquori.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

PREP

Claudia Mok

prep.olph@gmail.com

Project Advance

Fr. Alfredo Medina Ramos

amedinaramos@rcav.org

RCIA

Fr. Alfredo Medina Ramos

amedinaramos@rcav.org

Weddings

Bridget Bird 604-341-9180

bridget.bird@telus.net