



The month of Mary

May 5, 2024 ❖ Sixth Sunday of Easter



Pastor's Pen



A little child will lead them ...

It comes from Isaiah 11:6, which reads: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them."

Thank you to the children who are receiving their First Communion this weekend on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm. You are setting such splendid example for the rest of us. You have been preparing for quite some time to make this special time a sacred encounter with Jesus. We could not be more pleased and happier with and for you.

To regularly receive this central sacrament with your families, is at the heart and soul of our Parish and our Catholic School -Our Lady of Perpetual Help. While volumes have been written on the Eucharist - the most important thing we must acknowledge, is that this is fundamentally about our belief and not our understanding. We may never know how bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. Today and everyday we seek God's grace in acknowledging the necessity of belief.

May the Lord Himself give us the mind and heart of children, so that we would approach every sacrament of the church with wonder and awe. When we come to church, we are participating in the great works that God is doing for us and not the other way around.

In our thoughts and prayers we call to mind those preparing for confirmation on Monday June 3rd and those baptised adults of our parish who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, 11 am, May 19th.

Peace with gratitude ~ Fr Leo

**Congratulations to
OLPH 2024
First Communicants**



THE RICHNESS OF THE EUCHARIST



What is the Eucharist?

What is supposed to happen when we gather to celebrate the ritual that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper and asked us to perpetuate until his return? Is this meant to be a family meal or a re-enactment of Jesus' sacrificial death? Is it meant to look like the old Latin mass or like it looks in most churches today?

There are no simple answers to these questions because there is no one theology (to the exclusion of all others) of the Eucharist, even in the New Testament. Rather there are various theologies of the Eucharist, complementary to be sure, but each emphasizing different aspects of a reality that is too rich to capture in a single concept. What is the Eucharist?

In essence, the Eucharist is a reality with these interpenetrating dimensions.

1. *The Eucharist is God's physical embrace of us.* Without the Eucharist, as Andre Dubus asserts, God becomes a monologue. The Eucharist is where God touches us physically. It is the place where God is still taking on physical flesh.
2. *The Eucharist is a meal we share together.* The Last Supper was many things, but it was also a meal, a time of human fellowship, a celebration at table. So too for the Eucharist, it is many things, but it is also a table for a family to gather around, where joy can be shared and where it is safe to break down in sorrow.
3. *The Eucharist is an intensification of our union with each other inside the Body of Christ.* As disciples of Jesus, we too constitute the Body of Christ. At a Eucharist, not just the bread and wine are meant to be changed into the body and blood of Christ, so too we, the people. That is why St. Augustine, when giving out communion, would sometimes say, "Receive what you are."
4. *The Eucharist is a sacrifice.* It is a making memorial (*Zikkaron*) of the saving event of Jesus' death. In short, it is the Christian Passover supper. The Eucharistic prayer does not just ask God to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, it also asks God to make the saving event of Jesus' death available for us to participate within today.
5. *The Eucharist is the new manna.* Just as God fed his people in the desert with manna each day, so now, daily, God feeds his people with bread from heaven. (This motif is particularly strong in John's Gospel.)
6. *The Eucharist is a vigil act.* Jesus told us to celebrate the Eucharist so as to wait for his return. We celebrate Eucharist as a vigil. As Gerhard Lohfink puts it: "The early apostolic communities cannot be understood outside of the matrix of intense expectation. They were communities imminently awaiting Christ's return. They gathered in Eucharist, among other reasons, to foster and sustain this awareness, namely, that they were living in wait, waiting for Christ's return." At the Eucharist, we meet with each other in vigil to stay awake for Jesus' return.
7. *The Eucharist is a washing of each other's feet.* The Gospel of John does not mention bread and wine at the Last Supper; instead, where the other Evangelists and St. Paul highlight Jesus changing the bread and wine into his body and blood, John substitutes a basin and towel for the bread and wine. Why? Among other reasons, to teach that this kind of humble action towards each other, washing each other's feet, is one of the major meanings of the Eucharist.
8. *The Eucharist is a prayer for the world, making Christ's flesh food for the life of the world.* It is a prayer for God's help for the whole world. Akin to a "Quaker Silence", it brings the helplessness of the world to God and asks God to do for it what it cannot do for itself -bring about peace and justice.
9. *The Eucharist is a sacrament of reconciliation and forgiveness.* We go to Eucharist to have our sins forgiven, to be as sinners at table with Jesus.
10. Finally, the Eucharist is the ultimate religious ritual through which we sustain ourselves in faith, discipleship, and community. We gather for Eucharist in order to stay alive. A Eucharist gathering is analogous to an Alcoholics' Anonymous meeting. We gather because without this regular ritual gathering, our faith, discipleship, and community would eventually fall apart. In the words of Ronald Knox, the Eucharist is our one great act of fidelity to Jesus. We are not ever really faithful to the Gospels; we don't love our enemies and don't turn the other cheek, but we are faithful in one major way, we keep the Eucharist going – and that single act is going to save us.

(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.
- ◆ Confirmation Prayer Partners - Be a prayer partner for one of our OLPH children who will be confirmed on June 3. Your prayers will help strengthen the Confirmandi in their preparation for the final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic faith. Envelopes with the name of each Confirmandi will be available for pickup at all Masses this weekend. Thank you for your faith-filled support!
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Vancouver College's Mayfair will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 10am - 4pm. It is a day filled with delicious international food, midway fun, music, raffles and bazaars! Mayfair is one of Vancouver College's primary fundraising and community-building events each year. Learn more at vcmayfair.com.
- ◆ Second Collection this weekend May4/5 : The Pope's Pastoral Work - This national collection is passed on to the Holy Father for the immediate support of victims of war, famine and natural disasters. Donations can also be made online at rcav.org/second-collection Thank you for your support.

❧ UPCOMING EVENTS ❧

Food Bank Donations	Every Weekend	Before and after Masses, Foyer
Inner Hope Meal Preparation Program	May 11	9:30 am in the hall kitchen. If you would like to volunteer or be our grocery shoppers, please visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4BAFAA2DA1FB6-46459533-inner#/
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 ❧

Spring Concert & Art Show	May 8	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Mother's Day School Mass	May 10	9:00 am
Parish Education Meeting (PEC)	May 14	7:00 pm at School (please inform the school if you plan to attend)
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

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Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR

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Kathy Mok

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

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