

Tips on extending a warm welcome!



WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

to the parish is not just the job of the pastoral staff, ushers, ministers of hospitality or greeters. It is everyone's responsibility. Here are ten things you can do to provide better hospitality in your parish.

1. Cultivate the virtue of hospitality at mass. Many mass attendees tend to gather into little cliques and ignore those who are not members of their particular clique. They are not really inhospitable, just heedless of the need for hospitality. Make hospitality a new habit when you go to mass.
2. Come early, leave late. Instead of rushing to mass to be there on time, and then rushing out at its conclusion, make time to come a little early and linger just a bit later. Make room in your busy life to greet and spend time with others at mass.
3. Go in peace to greet someone! Seek out someone you've not met before. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them to your parish home, God's house.
4. Welcome everyone. Not only do visitors need your warm welcome, regular mass attendees also need a friendly greeting. Develop a good handshake and be enthusiastic about your parish. You are greeting others in the name of Christ.
5. Help newcomers connect. While you are getting to know visitors, introduce them to other parishioners as the opportunity presents itself. Feel free to invite visitors to sit next to you.
6. Say goodbye with genuine warmth. After mass, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Introduce them to the pastor if the opportunity arises.
7. Avoid parish business. Avoid conducting parish business with others just before or after mass. Focus on visitors.
8. Give visitors information about the parish. Ensure that a visitor has a bulletin and other information about the parish before they leave. If there is a social gathering after mass, invite them.
9. Be part of a greeting ministry team. Parishes are always in need of greeters to serve regularly, and provide ongoing formation to new greeters. If your parish doesn't have greeters, now is a good time to start!
10. Greet those who already minister in the area of hospitality. It isn't necessary to neglect the people who are already ministers of hospitality in order to make visitors feel at home. A simple wave and a smile go a long way.

This article is from the ICSC June 2011 issue of Parish Stewardship e-Bulletin.

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REDEMPTORISTS

2465 CROWN STREET
VANCOUVER
B.C. V6R3V9
ESTABLISHED 1923

MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.

Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

IN RESIDENCE

Brendan Boland, C.Ss.R.
William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

October 25, 2015

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

I am really thrilled that we are hosting the new parishioner welcome brunch this weekend after the 11am Mass. Being new in any community can be stressful for the whole family - parents adjusting to the demands of a new job or home environment, children starting school with no friends, and the separation from family, neighbours and old friends if you have come a long way. That's why the task of extending a warm welcome is so important for all of us.

A cheerful greeting, smile or introduction go a long way in helping people settle in happily. Being welcoming may not come naturally to all of us. That's why I've included some tips on the back page about how to extend a warm welcome. It's not just the new parishioners we need to be attentive to but those who have been sitting around our favourite pew for years!

Another group I'd like us all to welcome is the Parish Education Committee which is being commissioned at the same Mass. We have an excellent team of people this year. The nature of the Catholic school is to foster a Christian community so that the faith of its members may grow and be nourished. All the members of the PEC are people of Faith entrusted with the responsibility of forging this Christian community. I trust each member will recognize the spiritual dimension of their work as a participation in the Church's evangelizing mission. Let us turn to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for assistance in all that we set out to do.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.

The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy. – Psalm 125

NEWS & NOTICES

9am Coffee Social Volunteers Needed: If you are a regular at the 9am Mass, please consider helping with the social that follows. Hospitality is a very important aspect of serving the parish. Please contact the office if you think you can help.

OLPH Facebook Page: Our parish now has a Facebook page. We'd like to keep you updated on parish, archdiocesan, Vatican, Redemptorist and other events in the life of Church. Follow us on www.facebook.com/olphchurchvancouver.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): RCIA is a communal process of spiritual and educational formation for adults who are seeking to learn more about the faith with a view to becoming Catholic. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the parish office at 604-224-4344 or parish.olph@rcav.org. We gather on Sunday mornings 9 – 10:15am.

PEC Meeting: The next PEC meeting is on Tuesday October 27 in the Madonna Room.

Wholeness through Faith, Prayer and Healing: Father Bill Comerford is conducting a Retreat at "Rosemary Heights" Retreat Centre October 30 – November 1 2015. Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre 3690 152 St. Surrey BC. V3S1W2 ph. 604-576-8802. If interested please call. The Theme: "WHOLENESS THROUGH FAITH, PRAYER AND HEALING". Subtheme: "Mary, as intercessor" The Retreat begins on Friday evening at 7:30pm. All are welcome!

Support the CWL Christmas Tea and Crafts Fair: This event is on Sat Nov 28 and we are counting on your support. For our Treasure Trove and the book sale we are looking for gently used items such as fine china, glassware, silverware and books. The Bake Sale is looking forward to your contributions of handmade loafs, cookies, cakes and preserves. Our Craft Groups will gladly accept handmade needlework, soaps, paper crafts and similar items. Please no used clothing. All items can be dropped off at the church hall on Friday, November 27, between 10 am and 12 noon. For further information, please contact Jutta Zeisler at (604)224-4081. See you all at the Fair!!

Archdiocesan News: For info about Archdiocesan events, please subscribe to the Friday Report. You can sign up at rcav.org/Friday-report/.



WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SAINT & WHY?

Calling young people under 17, (if you're older that's okay too!) tell us who your favourite saint is and why. We would like to share your idea of a great saint in the bulletin.

Two questions to answer: **Who is your favourite saint? Why?** (In 30-50 words). Also send us a head or shoulder shot of yourself with a happy smile, cute expression or dressed up as your favourite saint. Maybe that could be your Halloween costume this year! Email your photo and message to: communications.olph@rcav.org by Sunday Oct 25.

Stewardship Reflection

"And Jesus said to him, 'Go your way, your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way." (Mark 10:52)

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common.

- Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

JUBILEE CALENDAR

OCTOBER EVENTS

The Rosary & the Icon

The beautiful Rosary meditations of Sr. Maria Victoria Flores MPS reflecting on the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be prayed next week, Sat October 31 to close the month of the Rosary. Join us at 4:30pm before evening Mass at 5pm for this prayerful celebration.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

All Souls' Day Mass

This Memorial Mass is on Monday Nov 2 at 8am. You will have an opportunity to present a written petition for the departed loved one so that we may pray for him or her the entire month of November.

Mass & Lunch for the Bereaved

All those who have lost a loved one in the last year are invited to this Mass and lunch on Sat Nov 14 at 10:30am.

Christmas Tea & Crafts Fair

The CWL will hold its annual Tea and Crafts Fair on Sat Nov 28 from 10am-2pm. Details of how you can help are in the News & Notices section.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Door Is Open Outreach

About 18-20 volunteers are needed to prepare lunch for 400 homeless and hungry of the Eastside. The work involves purchasing items, preparing and serving the meal on Tues Dec 1 from 8am-2pm.

Fr Babu's Mass of Installation with Archbishop Michael Miller

Join us for this special Mass at 11am Sun Dec 6. A reception will follow.

Advent Meditations

Meditate on the coming of the Christ child with beautiful music and prayer led by the combined choirs of OLPH from 7-8pm on Sunday Dec 13.

OLPH FACEBOOK HIGHLIGHT



Beauty has many guises, finding expression through every bodily sense; but since sight has pride of place amongst the senses, visual beauty has pride of place as well. Because neither the eyes nor their object undergo any essential change during the process of seeing, St. Thomas Aquinas calls sight "the most spiritual, the most perfect, and the most universal of all the senses." As the most spiritual of the senses, sight is most like the intellectual action of knowing the nature of another.

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Our first hike was with 15 people of a wide variety of ages on a perfect sunny day. We met at the front of the church on Sunday afternoon, were led in prayer by Fr. Boland and made our way to Lighthouse Park after that.



Our next parish hike is on Sunday Nov 1. Meet at the church at 1pm!

Everybody enjoyed the views and the hiking was fairly easy. We ended with a group prayer at the end of the trail. I'd like to do another next Sunday Nov 1 to the Capilano Hatchery/Cleveland Dam which will have some uphill but will also be informative and I'm hoping interesting too. In the event of rain our backup is something closer to home, Pacific Spirit Park.

- Gerry Macken

PRAYER REQUEST

For the soul of Rita Ferris

Immortal God, holy Lord, Father and Protector of all You have created, we raise our hearts to You today for those who have passed out of this mortal life.