

## FOUNDER OF THE REDEMPTORISTS



**ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI**  
**FEAST DAY: AUGUST 1**

Alphonsus Maria de Liguori was born in 1696 near Naples, Italy, the son of a captain in the Royal Navy and a very devoted mother from a noble family in the city. His parents provided him with an exceptional education in philosophy, literature, and the arts. He was 16 when he was awarded doctorates of civil and canon law. When he was 18, like many nobles, he joined the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy with whom he cared for the sick at the hospital for "incurables," washing afflicted bodies, feeding the helpless, changing bedclothes and devoting himself to works of mercy and compassion.

Following his father's will he became a lawyer and before he was 20, he was regarded as one of the most gifted lawyers working in the kingdom of Naples. This work, however, despite its success, did not satisfy him at the deepest levels of his heart and soul. After losing what was the most important court case he had ever taken on, Alphonsus left the legal profession to enter the priesthood, much to the disappointment of his father. He was ordained in 1726.

Christ's claim on the heart of Alphonsus was absolute and irresistible. As a young priest he worked himself to the point of exhaustion. Caring for the poor, wherever his journey took him, was the hallmark of his calling.

In 1732, Alphonsus realized he could no longer be comfortable in his role of popular preacher living apart from the poor. So, leaving his family and his dearest friends, he set out to dedicate himself completely to the service of the poor and most abandoned. He sought others who were called as he was, and adopted a style of ministry to "mission among the people" — and so began the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, commonly known as the Redemptorists.

St. Alphonsus was a brilliant, articulate, pragmatic preacher. He knew how to reach ordinary people who had limited education and very real needs. They followed this gifted preacher from church to church and town to town to hear him preach the message of hope in Christ for all people.

Three great images, basic to the Christian faith, formed the heart of Alphonsus' preaching and teaching — Jesus an infant in the crib, Jesus crucified on the Cross, and Jesus vibrantly alive and filled with love for all in the Eucharist. To this he added the image of Mary, the Mother of the Redeemer. When other theologians were opposed to devotion to Mary, Alphonsus invoked her: "Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope."

Alphonsus appreciated how the poor and working class people expressed their realities through song. A gifted musician and composer, he wrote many popular hymns and taught them to the people in parish missions. His compositions continue to be sung around the world and have never lost their charm and popularity. Redemptorists today still follow the cue of their founder. Their message, announcing the abundance of God's love, is enriched by the spiritual songs they sing in their community and with the people of God.

Alphonsus wrote for the people. Many turned to his spiritual writing, for he wrote in a way that was understandable to anyone with a basic education. On winter evenings in his time, the people in the villages often gathered around a fire in someone's home. Someone read stories about the Gospels or the lives of the saints, things that nourished their faith and helped them to pray. Alphonsus' works were frequent choices. Alphonsus' art was influenced by what he saw around him. When he was 23, he painted his own "Christ on the Cross." His painting depicted the death of Love itself. Around that same time he also painted a picture of the Madonna as a woman of peaceful, gentle features — a woman who won his heart. Surrounded by 12 stars she is the portrait of divine beauty in human form. His art, like his music, was a way to lead the men and women of his day, rich and poor, to know the surpassing riches of the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and his mother Mary.

In his writings for other religious, Alphonsus emphasized practical approaches to reach those who were neglected or alienated from the Church. On a scientific level, he gave new life and direction to moral theology. It was Alphonsus who preached the redeeming love of God. He believed that law and the threat of punishment were not foremost in God's plan. In God the Creator, love and freedom coincide. The individual was called to love God out of an overwhelming sense of gratitude for what God had done for him in Christ. It was not fear but love that was to characterize the Christian way of life.

[www.redemptorists.net](http://www.redemptorists.net)

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### Parish Council

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#### Social Justice/St. Vincent de Paul

Mark Thompson 604-263-6008

#### Weddings

Fr Babu Mathew  
604-224-4344



## 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.

### CONTACT

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## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

November 8, 2015

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

With All Saints Day falling on a Sunday, it was wonderful that so many people were at Mass to celebrate this beautiful Feast day. I hope you all remembered to say a little prayer to your own patron saint. If you didn't, it's never too late, the Saints are in heaven for eternity, I am sure they would like to hear from you anytime!

This Jubilee Year is especially important for the Redemptorists. That's why we are featuring stories on the lives of Redemptorist saints on the back page of the bulletin. St. Alphonsus Liguori despite his tireless works of service was plagued by fears that he had not done enough to serve the Lord. To bring him some solace, his Redemptorist brothers would pray the Litany of Our Lady and the rosary, and read to him from his own writings about the glory of Mary and how, as heaven's queen, she welcomed all her true and faithful servants at the hour of their death.

Our own Redemptorists must have received this jubilant welcome when they passed away. They will be among those remembered at the Mass for Deceased Bishops, Clergy and Consecrated men and women of the Archdiocese of Vancouver to be celebrated at noon, Thursday Nov. 12 at Holy Rosary Cathedral with Archbishop Miller. It would certainly be a privilege to celebrate the Eucharist to commemorate the lives of these holy men and women.

Many of us will also be remembering loved ones who lost their lives in the war this Remembrance Day. In Canada alone we have 37,000 men and women for whom we should be grateful. The plaque with names of parishioners who perished in the war will be placed in the sanctuary when we gather for Mass at 9am on Wednesday. Let us not forget their tremendous sacrifice.



Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.*

*Praise the Lord, O my soul. – Psalm 145*

## NEWS & NOTICES

**Family Mass from December 6:** The 9am Mass on the first Sunday of each month will be a special Family Mass with children leading the Mass readings and music. If you would like your children to help with reading and singing, and if you can help with refreshments after Mass, please contact Heather hleachsage@gmail.com. The 11am Children's liturgy which is a fun, faith instruction program for kids will continue to take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.

**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.

**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!

**Morning of Recollection:** "Blessed are the poor." Come and join Madonna House for a time of prayer and reflection. St. John the Apostle Parish, 5457 Trafalgar St. Vancouver on Saturday, November 14 from 9:30am – noon. Call 604-267-1757 or e-mail madonnao2@shaw.ca.

**Lecture at St. Mark's:** Award-winning author and papal biographer Dr. Robert Ventresca discusses Pope Pius XII's enigmatic relationship with Judaism and the Jewish people before, during and after the Holocaust at St. Mark's Chapel 5935 Iona Dr, Van (UBC) on November 5. Admission \$10 or \$50 for a book signed by the author.

**Live-In Retreat:** This is for women interested in discerning a call to the religious life. It's from Friday November 6, 7:00pm to Sunday November 8, 3:00pm. Call Sister Denice at 604-985-4872 or email dbillesberger@shaw.ca

**Archdiocesan News:** For info about Archdiocesan events, please subscribe to the Friday Report.

### OCTOBER COLLECTIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Regular Envelopes for the month of October	\$33,023.42
Syrian Refugees	\$1,781.35
Evangelization of Nations (World Mission Sunday)	\$1,783.00
Offering for the Needy	\$1,990.00
Food Bank	\$678.80

## Stewardship Reflection

*"I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." (Mark 12:43-44)*

Jesus gets right to the point – we are all called to give money to support the mission of the Church, regardless of our circumstance. No gift is too small or insignificant! Giving money to support the mission of our local parish is a matter of our faith, just like praying and participating in parish ministries. When you make a financial offering, is it from your "first fruits" or from what is "left over"?

- Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

## JUBILEE CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER EVENTS

#### Mass & Lunch for the Bereaved

All those who have lost loved ones are invited to this Mass and lunch on Sat Nov 14 at 10:30am. If you will be attending the lunch, please put your name on the sign-up sheet by 10am Monday Nov 9.



#### Christmas Tea & Crafts Fair

The CWL will hold its annual Tea and Crafts Fair on Sat Nov 28 from 11am-3pm. Details of how you can help are in the News & Notices section.

### DECEMBER EVENTS

#### Door Is Open Outreach

Thank you for signing up to help at the Door Is Open. We have enough volunteers for this outreach event. The next one is on Tuesday Feb 2. Look out for the sign-up in January.

#### 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.

#### Christmas Carol Cruise

The Christmas carol cruise is on Friday Dec 11. Make sure you reserve your spot early. Details are available on the sign-up form at the church entrance.

#### 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.



*Young people share their knowledge of the Saints!*

*As part of our November celebration of saints and holy souls, we asked young people to tell us: Who is your favourite saint and why? Here are a few of the responses we received. Thank you for sharing your research and beautifully written thoughts with us!*



#### FRANZISKA ZEISLER

My favourite saint is St. Martin of Tours. He was a Roman soldier who went out one cold winter's night and cut his cloak in half to share it with a poor beggar. That night the beggar appeared in his dream, telling him that he was God. He became a Catholic and was named Bishop of Tours. His Feast Day is November 11 and in Germany, children celebrate it with a Lantern Festival.

## WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SAINT? WHY?



#### CLAUDIA MOK

My favourite saint is Saint Clare. She was a beautiful Italian noblewoman who became the Foundress of an order of nuns now called "Poor Clares." When she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach, her heart burned with a great desire to imitate Francis and to live a poor humble life for Jesus. So one evening, she ran away from home, and in a little chapel outside Assisi, gave herself to God. St. Francis cut off her hair and gave her a rough brown robe to wear. Her parents tried in every way to make her return home, but Clare would not. Saint Clare and her fellow nuns wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Yet she was very happy, because God was close to her all the time. She carried the Blessed Sacrament to the walls of the convent to ward off attackers. She dropped to her knees and prayed and the attack was stopped. St. Clare was born in 1194 and her feast day is Aug 11.



#### NATHANIEL KELLER

My favourite saint is St. Nicholas because he helped the poor. He was born in Patara in the third century. Patara is now part of Turkey. Nicholas' parents died when he was young and they left him a lot of money because they were very wealthy. Nicholas used this money to help people who were in need but he did it secretly because he didn't want any attention. Eventually Nicholas became a bishop. He continued to help people and also showed people how to love God and care for each other. After Nicholas died, everyone told stories about the kind things he did especially for the children. He is an example of how we should live and that is why Nicholas became a saint. This is the story of the real Santa Claus, St. Nicholas. He is a special friend to the children. Saint Nicholas day is on December 6.



#### MATTHEW KELLER

St. Francis of Assisi is by far my favourite saint. Born to a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy, Francis wanted to become a knight or a noble. He then found that God was calling him to follow his word. He gave up his wealth to become a humble, compassionate man. He shows his compassion when kissing a leper, a person with a cruel disease. These people were thought to have acquired this disease through sin thus being treated unjustly. I relate to him because of our shared love for animals. He is the patron saint of animals and it is said that he can talk to them. He started an order of monks called the Franciscans. He was canonized just two years after his death. St. Francis of Assisi is a very inspirational saint.