

Works of Mercy: Shelter the Homeless

UPDATE ON OLPH PARISH/SCHOOL & ST. MARK'S PARISH JOINT REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Dear Friends of OLPH Parish and School,

We have some great news to share. We have received notification from the Government of Canada that our application for the sponsorship of the Zakarian Family has been approved and sent internationally for processing.

The unfortunate thing is that the processing time is still unknown and the Government Website still indicates 24 months for processing. As we all continue to pray, I pray that God allows our case to unfold as He desires as this is not in our control.

We had a beautiful event this evening, at the Archdiocese's recommendation, we made contact with the Zakarian Family in Jordan. Thanks to Michael and Shereen we were able to communicate very easily and make them feel at home.

When we called they were overcome with joy and emotion. They had just recently learned that they would be sponsored and so receiving our call tonight was a true blessing and confirmation of this relatively "anonymous" sponsorship that they had just been made aware of. Michael told them of the Catholic sponsorship of our committee, parishes and schools. He let them know that we were all preparing for them and their arrival. Needless to say they were crying with joy and gratitude.

They have been told that in the next two weeks they will be called for an interview. We did not ask them too many questions at this time as their emotion, joy and our introductions were enough for the evening. However, we have exchanged contact information so that we can be in touch on a regular basis. They have promised to text me whenever something new happens with respect to the sponsorship.

Their daughter, Naroud speaks English and was texting me how happy and thankful they were. She said (direct quotes) "how can we ever thank you" and to this I replied "You already have. We love you and are waiting for you in Vancouver". She then said "Canada will be the city of my dreams...that I can't reach from here. I know this because nothing is impossible with GOD".

On this thought, I would like to leave you and thank you for all your dedication and support. I will keep you up to date with more news as soon as it is available.

Patricia Tewfik
Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator



INFO ON WELCOME CANADA WEBSITE: HOW CAN YOUR BUSINESS HELP REFUGEES? Give housing, items and services

Find out how to donate housing, items and services in your area by calling 2-1-1 or visit 211.ca. If the 2-1-1 service is not available in your province or territory, contact your provincial, territorial, or municipal government.

Here are some ways your business can contribute items and services:

- Offer accommodations at no cost or reduced cost
- Offer company space for storage or to host community events
- Donate, collect, or distribute items such as clothing, furniture, appliances, vehicles, food, mobile phones and books
- Provide services such as transportation, moving, internet, storage, snow removal
- Mobilize your staff to set aside volunteer time to offer their skills or expertise (for example, computer maintenance, accounting) to local community organizations

Hire newcomers

Connect with newcomers to hire or provide mentoring opportunities through your local service provider organization.

When you hire a newcomer, consider:

- Encouraging other employers in your community to do the same
- Providing training on language, digital skills, and soft skills
- Helping them build professional networks
- Supporting and recognizing organizations that employ newcomers

After you hire a newcomer, it is important to support them with continuous mentorship and training opportunities.

How your workplace can #WelcomeRefugees

- Organize a training event and/or social events to celebrate diversity and promote cultural exchange.
- Invite a refugee to learn more about your workplace.
- Mentor a newcomer, either informally or set up a mentoring program.
- Host a welcoming community event for newcomers by giving money, staff time and space.
- Diversify your corporate social activities by giving money to community organizations that help newcomers.
- Celebrate the diversity within your business and your community and host a multicultural food festival.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Council

Lauri Ann Fenlon
lauri.ann.fenlon@gmail.com

Finance Council

Steve Fleck
stevefleck@shaw.ca

Parish Education Committee

Renee Stafford
pec@olphbc.ca

COORDINATORS

Altar Guild

Bridget Bird 604-228-9180

Altar Servers

Kate Carr 604-730-5640

Catholic Women's League

Jutta Zeisler 604-224-4081

Children's Liturgy

Rosanna Falbo 604-253-1412

Craft Group

Doris Rankin 604-224-0876

Development & Peace

William Wingson 778-866-8504

Eucharistic Ministry

Pamela Brammall 604-228-9206

Food Bank

Robyn Sirmul
robysirmul@shaw.ca

Hospitality Ministry

Gerry Macken 604-222-1369

Library

Katherine Hill
kathswim2012@gmail.com

Liturgy of the Hours

Bridget Clark 604-228-8773

Madonna Group

Monica Cheung 604-739-8837

Ministry of the Word

Roger Poirier 604-224-0426

Music Ministry

Catherine Walsh
Catherine.organist@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

Mary Thompson 604-263-6008

PREP

Elizabeth Towers 604-440-8809

Project Advance

Dimitri Nikolitsas 604-809-8477

RCIA

Bertilla Watanabe 604-224-4344

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

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

IN RESIDENCE

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

CONTACT

Email: parish.olph@rcav.org
Website: www.olphchurch.ca
Parish Office: 604-224-4344
OLPH School: 604-228-8811
Jr. Kindergarten: 604-221-0002



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

March 13, 2016

5th Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners,

The weeks leading up to Passion Week and Easter are always a very busy time. Last week our RCIA group had a retreat in preparation for their full entry into the Church at Easter. Peter Meehan who was our guest speaker for a couple of sessions on Pope Francis' book on mercy, led our talk and drew us into a good discussion of the meaning of mercy.

A deeper understanding of the meaning of God's mercy is particularly important for those who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. For those of us who are familiar with Reconciliation, perhaps we should pray that God will help us set aside whatever self-imposed barriers preventing us from receiving His mercy. We need not be intimidated by making that visit to the Confessional. It is Jesus who waits for us with a listening ear, welcoming arms and an open heart.

Pope Francis says, "The transformation of the heart that leads us to confess our sins is a "gift from God". We cannot do it alone. The power to confess our sins is a gift from God, it is a gift, it is "his work". Being touched with tenderness by his hand and moulded by his grace allows us to draw near to the priest without fear for our sins, but with the certainty that we will be accepted by him in the name of God... After confession we are reborn."

We have also been offering everyone an opportunity to meet Jesus at Reconciliation at our Friday Evenings of Lent together with Adoration. What a powerful combination – pouring out hearts to Jesus, receiving his forgiveness and then sharing in His very presence during Adoration.

If you have not heard me say this enough, I will say it again – come to the Parish Mission starting this evening (Sunday) through Wednesday. Fr. Eugene O'Reilly is a wonderful speaker and musician. Please set aside this time to enrich the hearts and minds of the whole family and bring a friend. A free-will offering will be taken up each day to cover Fr. Eugene's travel expenses from Toronto. As part of the Mission, Tuesday evening will offer an opportunity for Confession. Another opportunity is next Sunday at 2pm at our Penitential Service.

Let us pray to our Blessed Mother Mary to help us confront our sins and weaknesses, and place them in the hands of her son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Share Lent Sunday: Today is Solidarity Sunday. A second collection will be taken up for Share Lent collection. Thank you for your generous contribution.

Children's Liturgy Schedule: We will not have Children's Liturgy during Spring Break (March 7-18, 2016) as many children are away, and on Easter Sunday as parents may wish to celebrate Mass on this special feast day with the children. For this month, Children's Liturgy will only be offered on Palm Sunday, March 20.

Family Mass: There will be no Family Mass in March because of Spring Break. The next Family Mass is on Sunday April 3 at 9am.

Parish Tax Receipts: Thank you for your generous contributions in 2015. Tax receipts from the church are available for pick-up from the Parish Office anytime Mon-Fri 9am-4pm.

Lenten Prayer Series: The churches around our parish will gather for a series of Lenten Vigils at noon on Wednesdays for half an hour followed by soup and bread during Lent. The last session in the series is here at our parish on March 16. All are welcome!

40 Days for Life Spring 2016 Campaign: Our community will take part in 40 Days for Life, a ground-breaking, coordinated international mobilization. We pray that, with God's help, this will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city — and beyond. Visit 40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/vancouver-2/.

Year of Mercy Stories: This Year of Mercy, the Archdiocese of Vancouver is sharing stories of mercy:

- Have you experienced the Mercy of God in a particular way?
- Have you observed someone extending the Mercy of God to others in a particular way?
- Do you have a story of mercy to tell?

Please share your story in 500 words or less or in point-form, by emailing it to communications@rcav.org

Vocation Live-In: On the weekend of April 8-10, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. For more information, call 604-826-8715.

Spring Retreat: There is a Spring Retreat April 1-3, 2016 sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services at Westminster Abbey in Mission, BC. The Retreat Master is Fr. Bill Comerford C.Ss.R. and the Theme is "Mary, Mother of Merciful Love". For information and to register Call Lennie David at 604-597-8227.

Mass of Remembrance: Join us Sunday, March 20, for Mass of Remembrance for family members who have passed away during the month and are buried at Gardens of Gethsemani, Surrey. Mass is at 2:30pm in the Evangelist Chapel.

FEBRUARY 2016: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Total Sunday Offerings	\$31,829.91
Donations to the Needy	\$2,077.50
BC Catholic	\$1,613.00
St. Joseph's Society	\$2,324.00
Food Bank	\$595.80

Stewardship Reflection

For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ... (Philippians 3:8)

The first commandment says that we shall not put other gods before the Lord. Detaching ourselves from material possessions and considering them 'rubbish' does just that. It strengthens our relationship with Jesus and allows us to live more freely and joyfully.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

JUBILEE CALENDAR

MARCH EVENTS

Parish Mission: In the Desert with Jesus led by Fr. Eugene O'Reilly
Sunday Mar 13 at 6pm (No Mass)
Mon - Wed Mar 14-16 at 7pm.

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children after the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Sunday.

APRIL/MAY EVENTS

Door Is Open Helpers Needed

The next Door is Open is on Tuesday Apr 5. Volunteers, please indicate if you are seeking/giving rides. A sign-up sheet is at the church entrance.

International Festival

We encourage you to share the food and music of your culture after the 11am Masses on these dates leading up to the BBQ on Pentecost Sunday. Sign-up sheets are at the entrance.
Sunday April 3 – South East Asia
Sunday April 10 – Latin America
Sunday April 17 – South Asia
Sunday April 24 – Europe
Sunday May 8 – East Asia

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday March 20

-Palm Sunday Blessings of Palms and Procession at all Masses
-Reconciliation Service 2pm

Wednesday March 23

-Chrism Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral 5pm

Holy Thursday March 24

-Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm
-Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament till 10pm

Good Friday March 25

-Noon Prayer followed by soup & bread in the hall: 12 noon
-Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3pm
-Stations of the Cross: 7pm

Holy Saturday March 26

-9am Morning Prayer
-Confessions: 4-5pm
*-Easter Vigil 9pm
*Please note change of time.

Easter Sunday March 27
Usual Mass Times



Robert Douglas and Patrick Wong

PREPARING FOR EASTER WITH A RETREAT

Last Saturday morning the candidates of RCIA and the RCIA team pondered the writings of Pope Francis on mercy. Following two very informative and inspirational talks by Dr. Peter Meehan, we broke up into discussion groups to share our views on the thought-provoking questions that Dr. Meehan had prepared.

As Easter approaches, all parishioners are asked to continue praying for those receiving the sacrament. Among those being baptized are: Esther, Alan and Elizabeth Fung, Nelson Lui, Lisa Tran and Delwin Yung. Those being confirmed and eucharized are the Cowleys - Greg, Eydie, Brendan and Jacqueline, Robert Douglas, Patrick Wong, Lianne Vroom and Amy Zeng.

Sue Ellen Griffin, RCIA Team Member:

It was a pleasure for me to experience the willing engagement and sharing of ideas among the candidates. They may be novices to the Catholic Faith but they are no strangers to the universal message of love of God and our neighbor, and that this love must manifest itself in all aspects of our daily lives.



Sue Ellen Griffin, RCIA Team member

RCIA: Evangelization Report



Brendan and Eydie Cowley with Dimitri

Dimitri Nikolitsas, RCIA Coordinator:

The retreat on Saturday was a wonderful opportunity to dial out of our daily habits. Our gracious team members made sure that we were nurtured in all our humanity: our bodies nurtured with a great lunch; our minds with the engaging series of talks by Dr. Peter Meehan on mercy; and spiritually by reflecting about our experiences of mercy with one another. It was beautiful to see our candidates and catechumens realize the overwhelming love and mercy Jesus has for them no matter their past. As we make our final preparations for Easter, please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates that they too may share in the joy of Christ risen.



Guest Speaker Peter Meehan

Dr. Peter Meehan, President of Corpus Christi College and St. Mark's College, spoke on Pope Francis' theology of mercy on three occasions over the last few weeks; first addressing our Friday Evenings of Lent gathering and then speaking to our RCIA retreatants last Saturday.

FRIDAY EVENINGS OF LENT

Experience a transformation of the heart this Lent.

6pm: Adoration & Reconciliation

7pm: Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Talk/Discussion on Pope Francis' book *The Name of God is Mercy*. Reading the book is encouraged but not essential. Our final session is this coming Friday with guest speaker and discussion leader Br. John Gale. See you then!

POPE FRANCIS
THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY

THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY: Excerpts

Extracts made available by the publisher, Piemme.

"The corrupt man does not know humility, he does not consider himself in need of help, he leads a double life. We must not accept the state of corruption as if it were just another sin. Even though corruption is often identified with sin, in fact they are two distinct realities, albeit interconnected."

"Sin, especially if repeated, can lead to corruption, not quantitatively — in the sense that a certain number of sins makes a person corrupt — but rather qualitatively: habits are formed that limit one's capacity for love and create a false sense of self-sufficiency."

"The corrupt man tires of asking for forgiveness and ends up believing that he doesn't need to ask for it any more. We don't become corrupt people overnight. It is a long, slippery slope that cannot be identified simply as a series of sins. One may be a great sinner and never fall into corruption if hearts feel their own weakness. That small opening allows the strength of God to enter."

"When a sinner recognizes himself as such, he admits in some way that what he was attached to, or clings to, is false. The corrupt man hides what he considers his true treasure, but which really makes him a slave and masks his vice with good manners, always managing to keep up appearances."