

## Time for silent prayer before Mass – Pope Francis

“When we go to Mass maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chit-chat with those next to us. It is not a moment for chit-chat,” Pope Francis said at his general audience on November 15, 2017.

“It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus,” adding that “silence is so important.”

Prayer is, “first and foremost dialogue, personal relationship with God,” he said. And in prayer, just like in any dialogue, it needs moments of silence “together with Jesus.” This is because it is only in the “mysterious silence of God” that his Word can resound in our heart.

Pope Francis explained that to pray is not difficult, and is something that Jesus himself taught us to by example, when in the Gospels he withdraws to a secluded place to pray. He teaches us again when he tells his disciples that the first word in knowing how to pray is “Father.” Then, we must take on the attitude of a small child before his or her parents. One full of trust and confidence, knowing that God “remembers you and takes care of you.”

The second attitude we should take is one of childlike surprise and wonder. The child “always asks a thousand questions because he wants to discover with the Lord, in prayer, wonder,” said Pope Francis.

When it comes to prayer, we are often busy with many different activities or projects and say we don’t have time. “We lose sight of what is fundamental: our life of the heart, our spiritual life, our life of prayer with the Lord.” However, Jesus surprises us in truth by loving us and calling us even in our weakness. Just as Christ called his disciples, he also calls us to him at each Mass.

“This is therefore the greatest grace: to be able to experience the Mass, the Eucharist. It is privileged moment to be with Jesus, and through him with God and his brothers.”

*Hopefully we’ll take Pope Francis’ words to heart and treasure the silent moments before the beginning of Mass for personal prayer, recollection and encourage others to do the same by our example.*

Dying Healed Workshop - Learn more about palliative and hospice care, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. Is there value to human suffering and what is human dignity? There are so many people who are alone, vulnerable, sick, and who feel despair and hopelessness. When we learn to care for others by visiting them, we can help them restore their dignity, just by our mere quiet presence. The Dying Healed program is set up by LifeCanada and distributed and organized locally by Vancouver’s Life Community. March 20, 21, 22 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Vancouver. To register, visit <http://rcav.org/event/dying-healed-workshop-3/>



## ST. MONICA PARISH

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PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

### MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

### NOVENA TO

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENEDICTION

### BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

### BAPTISMS

4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

### HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

March 4, 2018

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

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Today’s Gospel displays Jesus’ zeal for his Father’s house, as he drives the money changers and animal sellers out of the Temple. The Jews demand a sign to prove his authority. Jesus performed many signs, but it was his death and resurrection that God’s glory was fully revealed and made manifest. Do we have the faith to see what is revealed right in front of us, in this Eucharist?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God presents the Ten Commandments to Moses. St. Paul declares to the Corinthians that in Christ, dwells the power and wisdom of God for Jews and Gentiles.

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### Today’s Readings:

1st: Exodus 20.1-17

Psalm: 19

2nd: 1Corinthians 1.18, 22-25

Gospel: John 2.13-25

## PARISH UPDATES

**Lenten Penitential Service – Tuesday, March 20th, 7pm** is our parish’s Lenten Confession. At least 3 priests will be available. Please take advantage of this graceful time for your spiritual life.

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**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** is our next meeting. Representatives of our parish groups, please make this bi-monthly meeting a priority.

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**Louis Antonio Cardinal Tagle Visit** – Archbishop Miller extends his invitation to all, especially Filipino parishioners, to the **Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral at 12:30pm** and the ticketed event at **6:00pm at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Monday, March 19th**. You need to purchase your ticket through Ticketmaster.ca, check the special poster for more information.

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**Windows Sponsorship** – A few more inscriptions have been mounted on the “Tree of Gratitude.” A special recognition includes our Project Advance donors. The pledge form is available at the Parish Office when you decide to sponsor a leaf plaque. Thank YOU!

**Lenten Meditations**—Every Friday during Lent (until March 23), at 7 p.m., preceded with Holy Mass and closed with eucharistic exposition and benediction at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Burnaby. Organized by Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Burnaby, and Indonesian Catholic Society in BC.

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre on Saturday and Sunday, **April 28 - 29, 2018**. This enrichment is for all married couples and for couples civilly married for more than 5 years, now preparing for marriage in the Church. Registration is online on RCAV website: <http://rcav.org/worldwide-marriage-encounter-non-residential-weekend/> Spaces are limited.

### **Men's Spiritual Exercises Retreat**

The Spiritual Exercises are a silent retreat based on the well-proven method of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Priests of Miles Christi, devoted to the preaching of these Ignatian retreats, frequently offer them in a weekend format. Throughout the centuries, the Spiritual Exercises have shown to be an excellent means of sanctification, highly praised by Popes and saints. This is open to any men. **March 16-18** at Westminster Abbey, Mission. <http://rcav.org/event/mens-spiritual-exercises-retreat>

**A Lifeline for Marriages: Work on your relationship during a weekend at Barnabas Landing Retreat Centre, Keats Island Retrouvaille** helps married couples get back to a loving relationship, providing the tools you need to get your marriage back on track. For confidential information or to register for the program at the beautiful Barnabas Landing on Keats Island on the weekend of **April 13 - 15, 2018**, call Marc and Candice at 604-530-6710, email us [vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org](mailto:vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org) or visit our website [www.retrouvaillevanouver.com](http://www.retrouvaillevanouver.com). For more information about the venue, please visit [www.barnabasfm.org](http://www.barnabasfm.org).

## ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

### **Reformation and Communion**

Last year we marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Christian Churches in Richmond will host free seminars on Tuesdays, Jan. 23, Feb. 6, **March 6**, May 1, and June 5 at 7 p.m. There will be a special musical event on **April 10 at 7 p.m. at South Arm United Church**. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Christoph Reiners at 604-270-0085 for more information.

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**Development & Peace: Share Lent on March 18**—At the start our Lenten journey, when we are called upon to fast, pray and give alms, D&P – Caritas Canada is encouraging all our parishes to join us in Pope Francis’s call for Peace on Earth through dialogue. The Theme “Together for Peace” reminds us of the vital role we all play in supporting, both in solidarity with our voices and in action with our donations, our local partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East who are working tirelessly through dialogue to bridge gaps to create lasting peace in their different warring communities. We at D&P–Caritas Canada work in all these areas to be instruments of peace.

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**Reminder: Next week-end, March 11, 2018, Daylight Saving Time begins. Please do not forget to turn your clock one hour forward.**

**Our new website, [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) is now live. Also, visit and like us on Facebook: ‘Smon Monica’.**

### **Stewardship Reflection**

#### **Third Sunday of Lent**

“You shall not covet” is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. May this understanding that all is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

*Stewardship by the book – Sharon Hueckel*

### **Mass Intentions**

#### **March 4-10, 2018**

Sun, Mar 4—  
Mon, Mar 5— Maria & Alberto Garcia (RIP)  
Tue, Mar 6— Franchezka & Carlo Bartolome (TG)  
Wed, Mar 7 — 9am, Carina Arevalo (RIP) 7pm, Jose Ibea Martinez (RIP)  
Thu, Mar 8— Jose Catibog Jr (RIP)  
Fri, Mar 9— Simon Ip (TG)  
Sat, Mar 10— 9:30am, Christina McManus (RIP) 5pm, Norberto Anloague Sr (RIP)

### **WAY OF THE CROSS**

During Lent, we will make the Way of the Cross on FRIDAYS after the morning Mass.

