



ST. PIUS X PARISH

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ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

Archbishop Most Rev J. Michael Miller, CSB



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 17, 2024

SUNDAY MASSES:	SATURDAY	5:00PM
	SUNDAY	9:00AM & 11:00AM
DAILY MASS:	MONDAY	9:00AM
	TUESDAY — FRIDAY	8:00AM
CONFESSIONS:	SATURDAY, HOLIDAYS	9:00AM
	SATURDAY	4:00PM OR BY APPOINTMENT
ADORATION:	EVERY FRIDAY FOLLOWING MORNING MASS	
	AND ENDING WITH BENEDICTION AT 2:30PM	

LENT CONFESSIONS on the North Shore

Tuesday, March 19	St. Pius X	10:30 am
Wednesday, March 20	St. Pius X	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 21	Holy Trinity	7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 26	St. Stephen's	10:30 am
Tuesday, March 26	Christ the Redeemer	7:00 pm

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, March 28 <i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	7:00 pm
Good Friday, March 29 <i>Celebration of the Passion of the Lord</i>	3:00 pm
Holy Saturday, March 30 <i>Solemn Easter Vigil</i>	9:00 pm
Easter Sunday, March 31 <i>The Resurrection of the Lord</i>	9:00 am & 11:00 am



Obedience and Suffering

As we listen to the Scripture readings today, we hear a clear message from our God: I will save you! God assures us that it is he who does the work of salvation. It is always so necessary for us to hear this again and again. Today we hear that it is God who will make the new covenant with his people. We hear the words of Jesus that he will draw everyone to himself. And, in the Letter to the Hebrews, we hear that Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. All of these readings can go right over our heads! We need to listen attentively to hear what it is that God is saying to us.

The prophet Jeremiah did not have an easy life. He was a prophet who had to proclaim God's word, even though it brought many difficulties into his personal life. Yet Jeremiah trusted God entirely. He proclaimed the new covenant in which people would know God in their hearts and not just from another person.

Do we simply need to go into our own hearts, then, to know the Lord? There is some truth in that. But the prophets did not proclaim a religion of individualism. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the prophets authenticate the Word of God. Not every word that is claimed as inspired is accepted as such. In the new covenant, it is the Church that authenticates the Word of God for us with authority. Now that is a huge leap, but one that Catholics take over and over again. We believe that there is authority within the Church and that this authority is exercised by human beings.

It is important to hear that God will pardon sins and no longer remember them. Sometimes an immense amount of energy is spent in trying to entice God to forgive us, which is never necessary. God loves to forgive. That is how Jesus reveals God to us.

The Letter to the Hebrews takes us to the theme of obedience and suffering, a theme that permeates the season of Lent. Obedience is first and foremost obedience to God himself: listening to his Word, pondering his Word, meditating on that Word, especially when it says things that we would rather not hear. All of this is obedience. And it leads us into suffering. The prophets suffered over and over because of their obedience to the Word of God. Even today many people suffer because they strive to proclaim the word of peace in a time of war. At other times, it may be necessary to proclaim words that sound like war when there is an apathy of peace. Suffering results either way.

The Gospel picks up this theme when Jesus tells us that whoever tries to love his life in this world will lose it, and that those who hate their lives in this world will save them. These are often words that we do not want to hear. Instead, so many of our present values want us to act as though this is the only life, that there is no life other than the one we know now. Indeed, many people believe that there is nothing after this present life.

We Christians, however, believe in the Word of Jesus Christ. We accept that there is a life to come, that the Good Thief was in paradise with Christ that same day when he died, and that there is a resurrection into the eternal life of the world to come. This belief in the afterlife helps us to understand that this life really is a time for striving to live for the values that will last forever. We don't even have to consider the controversies about hell and purgatory. If there is another life after this one, how should we live this life in relation to that which will come? So much of Jesus's teaching is simply an answer to this fundamental question.

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, let us listen attentively to God's Word. Let us believe that God loves us and forgives us, even as God invites us to live with values that will last forever. Let us accept that any life with such strong values will bring suffering because of deep obedience to God. May we become so obedient that we are willing to suffer with Christ for the salvation of our world.

Adapted from a reflection from the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, New Mexico

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated in the church every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: *"I will be their God and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:33*

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbours, and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

SECOND COLLECTION:

Next Weekend for the Parish Building Fund.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Christ the Redeemer Parish in West Vancouver is looking to hire a new Administrative Assistant. A flyer in the church vestibule contains the job description and contact information. Application deadline is March 18, 2024.

NORTH SHORE ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS:

Please join fellow parishioners from the North Shore on Good Friday, March 29th at 10am for Stations of the Cross, processing from St. Edmund's Parish to Victoria Park, and completing with prayers at St. Edmund's.

WAY OF THE CROSS 2024:

Walk the trails of Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver while meditating on the Passion of Christ. It is a beautiful way to pray and worship together in a public space on Good Friday, March 29. Participants will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the fountain next to Bloedel Conservatory's parking area. For more information, go to beholdvancouver.org/events.

MEN'S SHELTER MINISTRY: Note the change

Pick up of sandwiches and/or baked goods to deliver to those in need for the Catholic Men's Shelter will be next **Thursday, March 28th**, 1:30-2pm at the church exit gates. Thank you for your generous donations.

DAYS OF MERCY:

Lent is a time to draw closer to God, to reflect on our lives, and to seek forgiveness and healing through the Sacrament of Confession.

Many parishes are extending their arms wider, offering additional times for Confession, so that everyone has the chance to experience God's mercy during Lent. These special times are in addition to the regular Confession schedules of each parish.

Whether it's been a while since your last Confession or you frequent the sacrament regularly, know that Jesus is waiting for you with open arms. As Pope Francis has said: "God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

Rediscover the joy and peace that come from reconciliation with God and with one another.

CATHOLIC WOMEN UNITE



52 Reasons to Join the CWL

#9 Connection: Our Catholic Women's League Council is parish-based yet connected to Canada's largest women's organization. How connected are you? You will meet women from your region, diocese, province, and country by becoming involved in your parish Catholic Women's League Council. Your place is among us! Join or renew your CWL membership - \$42/year.

North Shore Parish CWL Bursary – \$1,200:

One bursary is offered annually to a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, nephew, or niece of a North Shore Parish CWL member or member herself. Eligibility depends on the member being in good standing one year prior to the bursary being awarded. Students must be going into first year post-secondary studies. For application forms and criteria information sheets, please contact Carol Landy at glandy@telus.net or 604-929-6235. Deadline: April 30.

General Meeting: March 21 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. Following the meeting at 7:30 pm, our Parish's Men's Shelter Ministry is having guest speakers give a presentation.

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"In all the events of life, you must recognize the divine will. Adore and bless it, especially in things which are the hardest for you." St. Padre Pio



PRINCIPAL : MISS CHARLAINE FRANCIS
OFFICE: 604-929-0345
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KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 7

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INSTAGRAM: SPXGUARDIANS

OUR SCHOOL IS A VIBRANT FAITH AND LEARNING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO DEVELOPING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF EACH CHILD USING CHRIST AS OUR CENTRE. WE ARE BLESSED WITH CARING AND DEDICATED EDUCATORS COMMITTED TO INSPIRING LIFE LONG LEARNERS IN ALL AREAS. WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE MANY ENRICHING LEARNING EXPERIENCES WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY
10AM-1:30PM
604-929-1404
PARISH.SPX@RCAV.ORG

REGISTRATIONS AND DONATION ENVELOPES:
REGISTRATION TO THE PARISH AND REQUEST FOR DONATION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE OR YOU MAY CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.

REQUESTS FOR MASSES:
FOR THE LIVING AND DECEASED.
PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.
SUGGESTED MASS STIPEND IS \$10.
MASS CARDS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM THE PARISH OFFICE.
FOR A COST OF \$3.00

MARRIAGES:
TO BEGIN THE SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE, PLEASE CONTACT FR. JEFF AT LEAST 9 MONTHS IN ADVANCE.

BAPTISM:
PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW AT LEAST ONE MONTH PRIOR.

VISITATION OF THE SICK:
Please call the parish office when a parishioner or family member is hospitalized or housebound to arrange visitation, Holy Communion and Anointing.

BERKLEY CARE CENTRE:
Every 1st Wednesday at 1:30pm.
Mass or Prayers with Communion.

ST PIUS X PARISH

PARISH GROUPS AND CONTACT INFORMATION & TO VOLUNTEER:

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

BARBARA JOHNSTON
236-999-1286

LECTORS

CECILIA McLAREN
604-729-4543

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

DAVID BOYER 604-929-6430
DAVID HOLSWORTH 604-929-5180

GREETERS

WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE USHERS/GREETERS

AT ALL THE MASSES

PLEASE CALL PARISH OFFICE

TO VOLUNTEER

604-929-1404

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To volunteer for Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament please contact Lisa Miiller
adoration.spx@gmail.com

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***Come and pray the Rosary
every Saturday morning
before Mass
at 8:30am***

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ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

FOLLOW US – See what's happening!
Check out our Bulletin Board
in the Church vestibule.

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DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Our Lady of Good Counsel: 604-640-7543

BIRTHRIGHT:

MONDAY—FRIDAY,
110-207 West Hastings St. 604-687-7223

RACHEL'S VINEYARD: 604-525-0999



Letter of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to the People of God

Dear sisters, dear brothers,

As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to “journey together” under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ.

The session in which we have been gathered in Rome since 30 September is an important phase of this process. In many ways it has been an unprecedented experience. For the first time, at Pope Francis’ invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others. Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today. We have thus also experienced the importance of fostering mutual exchanges between the Latin tradition and the traditions of Eastern Christianity. The participation of fraternal delegates from other Churches and Ecclesial Communities deeply enriched our discussions.

Our assembly took place in the context of a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts, infusing our work with a particular gravity, especially since some of us come from countries where war rages. We prayed for the victims of deadly violence, without forgetting all those who have been forced by misery and corruption to take the dangerous road of migration. We assured our solidarity and commitment alongside the women and men all over the world who are working to build justice and peace.

At the invitation of the Holy Father, we made significant room for silence to foster mutual listening and a desire for communion in the Spirit among us. During the opening ecumenical vigil, we experienced how the thirst for unity increases in the silent contemplation

of the crucified Christ. In fact, the cross is the only cathedra of the One who, having given himself for the salvation of the world, entrusted His disciples to His Father, so that “they may all be one” (John 17:21). Firmly united in the hope brought by His Resurrection, we entrusted to Him our common home where the cries of the earth and the poor are becoming increasingly urgent: “*Laudate Deum!*” (“Praise God!”), as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of our work.

Day by day, we felt the pressing call to pastoral and missionary conversion. For the Church’s vocation is to proclaim the Gospel not by focusing on itself, but by placing itself at the service of the infinite love with which God loved the world (cf. John 3:16). When homeless people near St. Peter’s Square were asked about their expectations regarding the Church on the occasion of this synod, they replied: “Love!”. This love must always remain the ardent heart of the Church, a Trinitarian and Eucharistic love, as the Pope recalled on October 15, midway through our assembly, invoking the message of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. It is “trust” that gives us the audacity and inner freedom that we experienced, not hesitating to freely and humbly express our convergences, differences, desires and questions.

And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word “synod”. This is not about ideology, but about an experience rooted in the apostolic tradition. As the Pope reminded us at the beginning of this process, “communion and mission can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless we cultivate an ecclesial praxis that expresses *the concreteness of synodality* (...) encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all” (October 9, 2021). There are multiple challenges and numerous questions: the synthesis report of the first session will specify the points of agreement we have reached, highlight the open questions, and indicate how our work will proceed.

To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest. This requires a path of conversion on its part, which is also a path of praise: “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children” (Luke 10:21)! It means listening to those who have been denied the right to speak in society or who feel excluded, even by the Church; listening to people who are victims of racism in all its forms – in particular in some regions to indigenous peoples whose cultures have been scorned. Above all, the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body, and to commit herself concretely and structurally to ensuring that this does not happen again.

The Church also needs to listen to the laity, women and men, all called to holiness by virtue of their baptismal vocation: to the testimony of catechists, who in many situations are the first proclaimers of the Gospel; to the simplicity and vivacity of children, the enthusiasm of youth, to their questions, and their pleas; to the dreams, the wisdom and the memory of elderly people. The Church needs to listen to families, to their educational concerns, to the Christian witness they offer in today's world. She needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures.

To progress further in synodal discernment, the Church particularly needs to gather even more the words and experience of the ordained ministers: priests, the primary collaborators of the bishops, whose sacramental ministry is indispensable for the life of the whole body; deacons, who, through their ministry, signify the care of the entire Church for the most vulnerable. She also needs to let herself be questioned by the prophetic voice of consecrated life, the watchful sentinel of the Spirit's call. She also needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth, and in whom the Spirit, who "offers everyone the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery" (*Gaudium et Spes* 22, 5), is also present and operative.

"The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of *synodality* which God expects of the Church of the third millennium" (Pope Francis, October 17, 2015). We do not need to be afraid to respond to this call. Mary, the first on the journey, accompanies our pilgrimage. In joy and in sorrow, she shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope!

Vatican City, October 25, 2023