



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

7455 Tenth Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 2S1

Parish Website: <http://olmp.org> Archdiocese Website: <http://rcav.org>

Email: parish.olm@rcav.org Phone: (604) 522-5733 Fax: (604) 517-1618

Pastor: Father Hien Nguyen
Deacon: Kenneth Fung

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday:

08:30 am - 3:30 pm
(12 - 1 pm lunch break)

Our Lady of Mercy School

School Office: (604) 526-7121
Principal: Neva Grout
Email: office@ourladyofmercy.ca
website: www.ourladyofmercy.ca

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Classes for Children in Public School

PREP classes are scheduled every
Wednesday at 6:30 pm
For inquiries:
email Marivic at olmprep@gmail.com

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Do you have questions about
the Catholic faith?
Are you interested in developing a deeper
relationship with Jesus Christ?
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
(RCIA) is an incredible journey of
learning, personal fulfillment and
spiritual growth. Sessions are scheduled
every Thursday, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm
For inquiries:
call/text Valder at 604-861-9774

January 21, 2024
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Schedule

with Rosary Prayer and Novena to Holy Spirit start 30 minutes prior to Sunday Masses

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM

First Friday of the month: 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturday and Public Holidays: 9:00 AM

Confession: 30 minutes prior to Masses or upon request.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every first Friday of the month:

8:45 AM to 6:15 PM with Divine Mercy Novena/Chaplet at 3:00 PM,
Benediction at 6:30 PM and Mass at 7 PM.

Daily Rosary and Novena Prayer Schedules (after morning Mass)

- * Monday : Saint Joseph Novena
- * Tuesday : Saint Anthony of Padua Perpetual Novena
- * Wednesday : Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena (+ 6 PM)
- * Thursday : Perpetual Novena to Saint Therese of Lisieux
- * Friday : Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus (6 PM)
- * Saturday : Our Lady of Mercy Novena

Perpetual Adoration Chapel & Devotional Garden

Open every day. For more information, please call the parish office.

The Sacrament of Marriage

At least **six months** notice must be given to the Pastor

The Sacrament of Baptism Parish families who wish to have a child baptized should be registered in the parish. Please visit the Parish Office to register. Attendance of preparation class prior to the baptism is mandatory for parents and godparents. Class is held every last Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Children Baptisms are scheduled on second Sunday of every month after 11 AM Mass.

Email Fraud Warning

Our Lady of Mercy Parish has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to recent Phone SMS/text messages and Internet email phishing scam. Imposters, posing as priests and using cell phone numbers and/or email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been texting and emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards, and other forms of financial assistance.

Never respond to texts and/or emails requesting Google Play cards, iTunes cards, or any other form of personal financial assistance, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious, parish staff or bishop. If you have any doubt, please contact the sender by other means to verify any requests.

For Parish Ministries and Organisations inquiries, please contact the parish office.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024
 5:00 pm † Kathleen Wong - RIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024
 9:00 am † Luz Yamuta - RIP
 11:00 am **OLM Parishioners**

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024
 8:00 am Lorne Fletcher - Healing

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024
 8:00 am † Allan Michael De Leon - RIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024
 8:00 am Camilia Quigley - Special Intention

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
 8:00 am † Lourdes Andal - RIP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024
 8:00 am † Tammy Dean - RIP
 1:30 pm † Caterina Fontanin - RIP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024
 9:00 am Sonya Mannavarajan - Special Intention

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your prayers, please remember the sick:

Rosa Maria Santos, Sydney Shanti, Philip Rekawek, Nilcar Donato, Tomas Oca, Ngu Thi Phan, Quan, Mary and Mollen Tran, Ernesto Oloresisimo, Victoria Obleada, Laurette Lemieux, Georgette Leduc, Mila Balanay, Pamela Gardner, Lily Katherine Cregan, Virgilio Pino Jr, Alberto and Emilia Pagaduan, Patricia Vargas Casas, Christina, Van Nguyen, Gail Larson, Remedios Roa, Lorenzo Sia, Celestino Regacho, Purita Fabian, Editha de Leon, Anna Jung Wojciechowska, Barbara Obreska, Maria Marks, Sharon Vine.



Holy Communion:

Any one who is shut-in and wishes to receive the Holy Eucharist, please let us know. If you have a loved one who is sick and needs our prayers, and would like to put their name in the bulletin, kindly contact the office.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Mark 1:17

Jesus’ call to “follow me” is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are “ready” or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren’t always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKES BREAKFAST



Knights of Columbus invites you to their famous “Pancake Breakfast” fundraising. For \$7 you can have your pancake breakfast served with sausages, blueberries, strawberries, coffee, and juice. **January 21, after 9 am & 11 am Masses.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



Our next preparation class for baptism will be on **Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.** in the children’s room. Families who have registered their children for baptism on February 11 or later are invited to attend. Those who need to attend the class for baptism at other parish, please contact the office to register.

VOCATION LIVE-IN



There will be a Vocation Live-In on the weekend of **February 10-11, 2024** at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more information phone 604-826-8975 or

email rector.minors@sck.ca

BISHOP THOMAS J. LOBSINGER, OMI MEMORIAL BURSARY PROGRAM

The annual British Columbia and Yukon Bursary program known as the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program is underway. The 2024 program is now receiving applications. We are privileged to offer fourteen bursaries of \$1,000.00 each to Catholic students across the Province of British Columbia. These bursaries are made available on a one-time only basis to young practicing Catholic students who are in post secondary education at a recognized institute of higher learning within the Province of British Columbia. **Applications are accepted from January 1, 2024 until June 30, 2024** with the bursaries being awarded in the fall. The Terms of Reference may be found on our web site (kofcbc.org).

Deadline for requests for application is June 1, 2024.

PRO-LIFE MASS AND PRAYER VIGIL



Join us for a monthly Mass and vigil to pray for respect for all human life, from conception to its natural end. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, it takes place on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am (8:30 am in April). It begins with Mass, followed by the rosary and other prayers either at a church with Adoration or at a local hospital. All are welcome!

The next Mass and Vigil takes place on **Saturday, February 3 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Vancouver at 9:00 am.** Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

DECLARATION FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS: ON THE PASTORAL MEANING OF BLESSING

Dear OLM parishioners,

Since this declaration *Fiducia Supplicans* released on December 18, 2023 by the Secretary of the Doctrinal Section, some people are confused not knowing what it meant. I would like to put together some key points to help clarify the declaration and encourage you to read the document itself. You can find it on the Vatican website by follow this links: [Declaration Fiducia Supplicans On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings \(18 December 2023\) \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/doctrinal/declarations/2023/12/18-declaration-fiducia-supplicans-on-the-pastoral-meaning-of-blessings_18-december-2023_vatican.va)

Purpose / theme

The most important point here is that the document tries to make a distinction of pastoral blessing compares to a ritual and liturgical blessing. The real novelty of this *Declaration*, the one that requires a generous effort of reception and from which no one should declare themselves excluded, is not the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations. It is the invitation to distinguish between two different forms of blessings: “liturgical or ritualized” and “spontaneous or pastoral”. The Presentation clearly explains that «the value of this document [...] is that it offers a specific and innovative contribution to the pastoral meaning of blessings, permitting a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding of blessings, which is closely linked to a liturgical perspective». This «theological reflection, based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis, implies a real development from what has been said about blessings in the Magisterium and the official texts of the Church» (press release by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, January 4, 2024).

Doctrine

The document does not change or add any thing new to the teaching of the Church. As one can read from *Fiducia Supplicans*, in its Presentation section and its Body (# 4, 5, 11), the document reaffirms and clarifies the Church’s teaching on Marriage.

«This Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that can create confusion». One acts in these situations of couples in irregular situations «without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church’s perennial teaching on marriage» (*Presentation*).

«Therefore, rites and prayers that could create confusion between what constitutes marriage – which is the “exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children”–and what contradicts it are inadmissible. This conviction is grounded in the perennial Catholic doctrine of marriage; it is only in this context that sexual relations find their natural, proper, and fully human meaning. The Church’s doctrine on this point remains firm» (4).

«Such is also the meaning of the *Responsum* of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which states that the Church does not have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex» (5).

«For this reason, since the Church has always considered only those sexual relations that are lived out within marriage to be morally licit, the Church does not have the power to confer its liturgical blessing when that would somehow offer a form of moral legitimacy to a union that presumes to be a marriage or to an extra-marital sexual practice» (11).

Evidently, there is no room to distance ourselves doctrinally from this *Declaration* or to consider it heretical, contrary to the Tradition of the Church or blasphemous.

Pastoral applications

Here is an example from the press release by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

To be clearly distinguished from liturgical or ritualized blessings, “pastoral blessings” must above all be very short (see n. 38). These are blessings lasting a few seconds, without an approved ritual and without a book of blessings. If two people approach together to seek the blessing, one simply asks the Lord for peace, health and other good things for these two people who request it. At the same time, one asks that they may live the Gospel of Christ in full fidelity and so that the Holy Spirit can free these two people from everything that does not correspond to his divine will and from everything that requires purification.

This non-ritualized form of blessing, with the simplicity and brevity of its form, does not intend to justify anything that is not morally acceptable. Obviously, it is not a marriage, but equally it is not an “approval” or ratification of anything either. It is solely the response of a pastor towards two persons who ask for God’s help. Therefore, in this case, the pastor does not impose conditions and does not enquire about the intimate lives of these people.

Since some have raised the question of what these blessings might look like, let us look at a concrete example: let us imagine that among a large number making a pilgrimage a couple of divorced people, now in a new union, say to the priest: “Please give us a blessing, we cannot find work, he is very ill, we do not have a home and life is becoming very difficult: may God help us!”.

In this case, the priest can recite a simple prayer like this: “Lord, look at these children of yours, grant them health, work, peace and mutual help. Free them from everything that contradicts your Gospel and allow them to live according to your will. Amen”. Then it concludes with the sign of the cross on each of the two persons.

In order to avoid any doubt, the *Declaration* adds that, when the blessing is requested by a couple in an irregular situation, «even though it is expressed outside the rites prescribed by the liturgical books, this blessing should never be imparted in concurrence with the ceremonies of a civil union, and not even in connection with them. Nor can it be performed with any clothing, gestures, or words that are proper to a wedding. The same applies when the blessing is requested by a same-sex couple» (n. 39). It remains clear, therefore, that the blessing must not take place in a prominent place within a sacred building, or in front of an altar, as this also would create confusion.

Fr. Hien Nguyen

SPIRITUAL CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

Pope Francis has challenged everyone to think about their brothers and sisters in a new way as many are experiencing profound loneliness and isolation. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is offering the Spiritual Care Training Program as one way to answer this call.

The eight-week course teaches how to make yourself more available to seniors and others who can benefit from your genuine concern and presence in their lives. Some topics covered include aging, communication, boundaries and self-care. The training is offered online via Zoom every Thursday, from February 1 to March 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$30. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

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