

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

There was a man who wanted to be happy. He thought to himself, “If I were rich, I would be happy.” One day he heard of a distant country in which onions were unknown. “Aha,” he said to himself, “If I could be the one to introduce onions into this country, I would make a fortune.” So, he bought a large wagon and filled it full of onions. After a long and difficult journey, he arrived at a distant land. He went at once to the king and said, “Your Majesty I would like to introduce to you a new vegetable, a vegetable that will change your kingdom. Everything you cook with it will taste better.” The king was intrigued and ordered that dinner be prepared. When the king tasted the onions, their flavor exceeded his wildest imagination. He said to the man, “I will buy all of these onions from you, and I will pay you with their weight in gold.” So that day the man went home with his wagon filled with gold.



But then he thought to himself, “If I made this much money with onions, garlic is even more flavorful and more expensive. If I could introduce garlic to this distant country, I would come home with my wagon filled with diamonds!” So, he went to the king a second time. When the king tasted the garlic, he agreed that its flavor was even more wonderful than the onions. He told the man, “I will buy all the garlic that you have.” Then he met with his councilors to set the price. They all agreed that the flavor of the garlic made it more valuable than gold. So, they decided to pay with the most precious commodity of their kingdom. And that day the man went home with his wagon filled with onions.

If we try to find happiness by becoming rich, our plans will betray us. This is why Jesus shows us another way in today’s gospel. In the gospel Jesus says that he is the shepherd, and we are the sheep. Now what kind of a shepherd is Jesus? Five times in this gospel he tells us that he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Jesus is not focused on himself. He is focused on us. By his willingness to lay down his life, he tells us that we will not find happiness by acquiring power, fame, or gold. We will find happiness when we give of ourselves to others. Now, at first, this sounds contradictory, that we would find happiness not by focusing on ourselves but by serving others. But Jesus assures us it is true. It can be difficult to be patient with your brothers and sisters who tease you or your children who do not listen to you. But when we find that patience, we will be happy. It can be a challenge to treat someone, at school or at work, who annoys us with respect. But when we give that respect, we know we are doing what is right. It might require a great deal of strength to forgive someone who has hurt us or the people we love. But when we find that forgiveness, we will also find Jesus’ joy.

Every day we make decisions that either focus on ourselves or focus on others. Today’s gospel asks us to make those decisions carefully, because they will determine our happiness and what belongs to us. The alternatives are dramatic. Because at the end, we will either have a group of people who we love and love us in return, or we will have a wagon full of onions.

A 2nd collection will be taken up this weekend, at all the Masses, for the Work of Vocations This collection will support the next generation of priests in our Archdiocese by funding the education of our seminarians and ensuring that they receive the preparation necessary for them to be good shepherds.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Apr. 22nd** - Acts 11:1-8; John 10:1-10
- Tue. Apr. 23rd** -Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30
- Wed. Apr. 24th** - Acts 12:24-13:5a; John 12:44-50
- Thurs. Apr. 25th** - ST. MARK, feast
1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20
- Fri. Apr. 26th** - Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6
- Sat. Apr. 27th** - Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14
- Sun. Apr. 28th** - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Apr. 24th - 7 :30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Apr. 27th - 5:00 PM** - K.Madoginog, C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay, A.Kolobova.
- Sun. Apr. 28th - 9AM** - E.Garrovillas, A & A Chan, S.Lee. **11 AM** - M & R Nguyen, T,Nguyen, A & A Babas, W.Pham, W. Del Rosario. **5 PM** - C.Jaya, A.Velasquez, T.Ta, J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Cayabyab, Z.Bambilla.



SCHOOL NEWS

- **Class Photo Day:** will take place this Monday, April 22nd. Students must be in full uniform.
- **School Mass:** Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- **Noon Dismissal:** Friday, April 26th.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice. - Copyright © 2024 Archdiocese of St. Louis

Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime."
- Pope Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. family.rcav.org/mam

St. Thomas Aquinas: Truth as the Way to Love - Easter Retreat from April 26 to 28 at Westminster Abbey in Mission. Retreat master: Father David Bellusci, OP. Cost is \$175/person or \$340/couple. For more information and to register, please contact the office of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish at 604-261-3535 or email sspp@rcav.org

Applications Open: Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary

The Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary recognizes high school students making a difference in their parishes, schools, communities and homes. Two Grade 12 students will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each for their post-secondary schooling. **Application deadline, May 13th**. Learn more and apply at rcav.org/youth-ministry

MARCH FOR LIFE - Victoria, BC

Join thousands from across Canada who are passionate about promoting life from conception to its natural end. Participants will gather in prayer and listen to a number of speakers who actively advance life issues at the BC Legislature in Victoria, in an effort to lobby the pro-life movement across the province. On Thursday, May 9, from 9:00 am to 3:30 p.m. Pick-up and drop-off points are available at several locations throughout the Archdiocese. **Register by Wed., April 24**. Learn more at m4lvictoria.ca

Sweet Surrender: The Joy of Entering God's Will - Easter Retreat for Divorced and Separated

The word surrender doesn't usually evoke excited anticipation or desire in us. And yet, our faith tells us that surrendering our will to the Lord is the central path to life and fulfillment in Him. In this retreat, we'll explore what surrender really means and explore concrete, real-world ways to come into direct contact with our Lord and His will, while discovering the joy and peace that true surrender brings. Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Burnaby. Cost is \$20. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Easter Dinner & Dance for Young Adults (20s & 30s)

Join young adults from Holy Rosary Cathedral and St. Augustine's Parish for a night of dinner, dancing and Catholic community at the Easter 2024 Dinner & Dance! Saturday, April 27, at St. Augustine's Parish. We will start with Mass at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing until 11:00 p.m. Please come in semi-formal attire. Cost is \$38. No tickets at the door. Get your tickets via beholdvancouver.org/events.

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month for a new culture of life. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, we will begin 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 **May 4 at 8:30 am at St. Mary's Parish** in Vancouver.

9th Annual Gala Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Vancouver

Join us for a wonderful evening in the company of seminarians and friends! The gala will help raise funds necessary to continue the mission of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Vancouver. Friday, May 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver. Cost is \$130, includes your entry, door prize, access to the silent auction, and a buffet dinner. Learn more and buy tickets via rmsvancouver.ca/events

Praying the Stations of the Resurrection - the Way of Light

The Via Lucis - the Way of Light - is a devotion similar to the Via Crucis - the Way of the Cross. This lesser known devotion, also known as the Stations of the Resurrection, is approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship. The devotion celebrates the 50 days of Easter and key events of Christ's life aligning to the devotional life of the Church. In this positive vision, we journey from an experience of suffering to the hope of arriving at man's true end: liberation, joy and peace - essential paschal values.

We were given a few booklets and they are located at the entrance of the church. Please help yourselves.

Hope on the Horizon: Catholic Street Missionaries Summer Outreach

Hope on the Horizon is an outreach program designed to introduce young adults aged 19-30 to the life of a street missionary, sharing a life of prayer and service with others and bringing the love of Jesus to the homeless. For two weeks, participants will live a communal life, praying, learning, and reaching out to our homeless friends on the streets. In addition, there will be human, apostolic, spiritual and intellectual formation. We will also enjoy recreational activities together. From August 6 to 21 in Vancouver. Program fee is \$650, including food and accommodation. Candidates will receive mentorship on how to raise funds for the program fee. Sponsors will be issued a tax receipt. Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 30. Learn more and register at:

catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon