

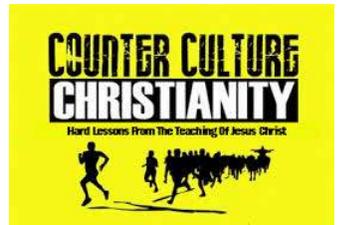
A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Two old friends were at a sidewalk café catching up on their lives over a drink. The one said to the other, “*Why is it that you have not yet been married?*” The other friend said, “*Well to tell you the truth, I have been looking my whole life long for the perfect woman. There were several times where I thought I had found her. Once, in Barcelona, I met a woman who was beautiful and intelligent. I thought certainly this is the woman that I should marry? Then I found out that she was vain and conceited and so that relationship came to an end. Then once, in Boston, I met a woman who seemed perfect to me, in every respect. Only later I found out that she was flighty and irresponsible. Then recently I met a woman in Montreal, who was intelligent and beautiful, generous, warm, and dedicated herself to others. I said to myself, this indeed is the perfect woman. This is the woman that I should marry.*” “Well,” said the friend, “*Why didn’t you marry her?*” The other man fingered his glass and replied in a quiet voice, “*Because she, was looking for the perfect man.*”

Our society is a consumer society. Dangerous things begin to happen when we allow consumerism to influence our relationships: the way we relate to others, the way we relate to God. You cannot choose a wife the same way as you would shop for a new car. You cannot analyse your relationship to God the way you would analyse an investment on the stock market. For all the differences in our culture: race, religion, education, economic status, Americans are united in the fact that they are consumers. We do not all have the same amount of money to spend, but it is our money and spending that gives us power.

Now, the point of this homily is not to attack consumerism. Consumerism is a part of our culture, whether we like it or not. But my point is to warn you that it is dangerous, for us, to allow consumerism to influence our relationships because we, as Canadians, who are fundamentally consumers, can begin to approach our relationships as a kind of commerce, and taking that step is asking for trouble. Therefore, I want to name three expectations of consumers and illustrate how none of these are helpful in directing our relationship to God or our relationships to others.

Consumers expect that life is going to be fair, beneficial and free. Consumers expect that life is going to be fair. We are always looking for a fair price for what we buy. Consumers expect life to be beneficial. We only buy things because we think they will be good for us. Consumers think that life should be free. Consumers expect to have the discretion of choosing one thing over another.



Consumers value fairness, benefit, freedom. But these categories are inadequate to the realities of human relationships and our relationship to God. Jesus calls us to look in a countercultural direction. He calls us to open ourselves to acceptance, to service, to commitment. His Gospel insists that it is only when we enlarge our attitudes in that direction that we can truly appreciate the breadth and mystery of life. It is only when we make room for countercultural values that we will have the clarity to see the Kingdom of God.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Feb. 18th** - Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13
- Tue. Feb. 19th** - Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21
- Wed. Feb. 20th** - Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22' Mark 8:22-26
- Thurs. Feb. 21st** -Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
- Fri. Feb. 22nd** - CHAIR OF ST. PETER, feast
1 Peter 5:1-4; Mat. 16:13-19
- Sat. Feb. 23rd** - ST. POLYCARP, memorial
Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13
- Sun. Feb. 24th** - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-25; 1 Cor. 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat. Feb. 16th 5 pm Mass for Edward & Urshula Car, R.I.P.
- Sun. Feb. 17th 9 am Mass for the int. of Natalia Ballarin
11 am Mass for parishioners
5 pm Mass for Marlies Luebkerman, R.I.P.
- Mon. Feb. 18th **9 am** Mass for Baptist Gnanapragasan, R.I.P.
- Tue. Feb. 19th 8 am Mass for Ludovico Barraca, R.I.P.
- Wed. Feb. 20th 9 am Mass for Minerva Larawan, R.I.P.
7:30 pm Novena Mass
- Thur. Feb. 21st 8:00 am Mass for Cristina Gauna, R.I.P.
- Fri. Feb. 22nd 8:00 am Mass for Felice Farina, R.I.P.
- Sat. Feb. 23rd 9:00 am Mass for All the Souls in Purgatory

ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Feb. 20th - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Feb. 23rd - 5:00 PM** - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanuza, J.Nguyen.
- Sun. Feb. 24th - 9:00 AM** -N.Chao, J & N Yuen, C.Vu, T.Johnson. **11:00 AM** - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pham, J.Roque.
- 5:00 PM** - K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, F & T Le, E.Nguyen, J.Plata.



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes for 2019 from the entrance of the church? If you have recently requested envelopes, you will find them at the entrance of the church. Anyone wishing a set, please call the parish office.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Interested? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program. The program is suitable for all those interested in learning more about our faith and for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office



BC - FAMILY DAY

Please note that our Mass this Monday, Feb. 18th will be celebrated at 9 am and our office will be closed.

SCHOOL NEWS

- No School: This coming Monday, Feb. 18th our school will be closed for Family Day.

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!

- St. Jude School String Orchestra Winter Concert

Come to our 4th annual winter orchestra concert on Monday, Feb. 25th at 7:00pm in the gym. The junior and senior orchestras, and some small groups, will play pieces in a variety of styles. The performance will run about 30-40 minutes, followed by a reception. All are welcome.

- New Family Application Forms

If you know of a family that is considering St. Jude School as a place for their child's education, please share the application form with them or direct them to the school website or office. Click [here](#) to see the application form.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

“Blessed are you when people hate you ... exclude and insult you, and denounce your name ... on account of the Son of Man.” (Lk 6:22)

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time, the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

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Come Away With me – Women's Retreat

You are warmly invited to Come Away for a while for an opportunity to deepen your prayer life and discern where God is leading you. Are you seeking for a way to experience God's love and compassion? Come and discover how your relationship with God can be deepened by learning how to trust in God's word through prayer, discernment, music, and friendship. Speaker: Anne Wicks – Spiritual Companion, Retreat Facilitator and Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Hieu Nguyen. Join us on Friday, Feb. 15, 7 pm to Sunday, Feb. 17, 4 pm at Westminster Abbey, Mission. To register or for more information call Joanne McGowan at 604-946-2932 or email: mcgowanj@dccnet.com or Linda Dixon at 604-946-7268 gldsd@eastlink.ca <https://rcav.org/event/come-away-with-me-womens-retreat>

How to Survive in Marriage while Raising Children

This session will discuss some of the challenges parents have in keeping their marriages strong and healthy. Practical suggestions will be given to help parents improve their connection with each other in the midst of the turmoil of every day life. The importance of conversation and collaborative decision-making will be discussed along with creative ways to keep a marriage great! Presented by Denis Boyd, M.A., Registered Psychologist. Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Vancouver.

<https://rcav.org/event/how-to-survive-in-marriage>

The Art of Keeping Kids Catholic

Learn how to listen to what matters to children for their involvement. Learn how to involve family in service and church activities. Learn ways to involve loved ones in a fun and social way to prioritize faith in their daily lives. Join us for an evening presentation and mini-workshop to help equip us with the skills for engaging and keeping children in the faith on Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church, Vancouver. Dolores Madaisky, B.A. in Psychology, M.A. in Family Studies, is passionate about improving parenting through the development of communication skills. She has done many workshops for schools and for the Archdiocese. To register, please visit <https://rcav.org/event/the-art-of-keeping-kids-catholic>

40 days for Life Campaign begins

Join us for the annual 40 days for Life Campaign and pray for an end to abortion. Campaign begins Wednesday, Mar. 6th Location: In front of the priests' residences, 4885 St. John Paul II Way, Van. For more info contact Alba Stevenson, Campaign Coordinator at 604-299-4123.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

“I stretch out my hands toward you, my soul to you like a parched land.” – Psalm 143:6

Has your soul felt dry and without life since your abortion experience? Our loving Father is ready to send the abundant rains of His mercy to quench the dryness in your soul and restore new life in you. Your Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat team has been there and wants nothing more than to walk with you as you stretch out your hands to God for His mercy. You are not alone. Join us on our next Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat. Next Retreat is May 2019. For confidential information and to register contact 604-525-0999.

Wanted: Used Car for Redemptoris Mater

The Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary Redemptoris Mater is in need of a used car. If you know of someone who would be willing to donate a used car, please have them contact Fr. Gilbert Nunez at gnunez@rcav.org or call the seminary at 604-709-8509

