

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Johnny opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. Johnny’s mother was not so pleased. She turned to her mom and said: “I’m surprised at you mom; don’t you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?” Her mom smiled and then replied, “I remember.”

When someone hates you, you have two choices: you can hate them back or you can refuse to hate. When someone hurts you, you can respond in two ways: you can hurt them back or you can refuse to hurt. In today’s Gospel Jesus makes it clear that if we wish to be his disciples, we must refuse to hate, refuse to hurt. This is why he teaches that we are to love our enemies, and why he enshrines that teaching in the golden rule: **“Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”** Since we would not want others to hate us or hurt us, we should not adopt hateful or hurtful attitudes towards them.

Now this teaching to love our enemies, to follow the golden rule is the most difficult of all Jesus’ teachings. We all struggle against it. We have many objections. It does not make sense. It is impossible to follow. The people who hurt and hate us do not deserve our love and forgiveness. We cannot help but ask, “Why does Jesus want us to do something that is so difficult? Why is He so insistent that we love our enemies?”

It is clear that many people do not follow His teaching. They may feel that the golden rule is foolish or impractical. Therefore, they decide to return hate with hate, to return hurt with hurt. Their golden rule is: “Do to others as they have done to you.”

If this is the direction people have taken, then there are questions to be asked: “How is this approach working for you? Are you satisfied with its results? The results of this approach are easy to find. Look at the newspapers. Watch the media. Look at the situation in the Middle East: “You hurt us, we’ll hurt you.” Look at the retribution that characterizes the gang violence in our cities and around the world. Violence grows into an escalating cycle of destruction and hatred.

If this method of retaliation is not working, if it is a failure, then the method Jesus taught us which is not to hate, not to hurt, but to respond with forgiveness and love is a good method. Now Jesus’ approach is still difficult, but it is the only way to break the cycle of violence and hatred that is destroying our world and ruining our lives. Jesus’ teaching is not easy, but it is the only teaching that works. Maybe it is time to love our enemy, to forgive the one who hurts us, to do to others as we would have them do to us.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Feb. 25th** - Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
- Tue. Feb. 26th** - Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
- Wed. Feb. 27th** - Sirach 4:11-19 Mark 9:38-40
- Thurs. Feb. 28th** - Sirach 5:1-8; Mark 9:41-50
- Fri. Mar. 1st** - Sirach 6:5-17; Mark 10:1-12
- Sat. Mar. 2nd** - Sirach 17:1-4, 6-8, 10-15; Mark 10:13-16
- Sun. Mar. 3rd** - EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Cor. 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45



TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for your church contributions as well as your Project Advance contributions were mailed this week.



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Feb. 27th - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Fri. Mar. 1st - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Mar. 2nd - 5:00 PM** - Anna, Henry & Lynn Cao, C.Lee, L.Soliman.
- Sun. Mar. 3rd - 9:00 AM** - E.Garrovilas, S & S Lee, K.Tuguinay.
- 11:00 AM** - A & E Biason, T.Laygo, P.Que. **5:00 PM** - A. Belnas, A & J Arias, Emily, Jaden & Kaitlyn Chan, E.Jarvis, I.Picariello.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat. Feb. 23rd 5 pm Mass for Corazon Raymundo, R.I.P.
- Sun. Feb. 24th 9 am Mass for Chai Noan Ang, R.I.P.
11 am Mass for parishioners
5 pm Mass for Theopilly Gnanapragasam, R.I.P.
- Mon. Feb. 25th 8 am Mass for the int. of Pang May Wan
- Tue. Feb. 26th 8 am Mass for Esther Baldasso, R.I.P.
- Wed. Feb. 27th 9 am Mass for Gus Huggan, R.I.P.
7:30 pm Novena Mass
- Thur. Feb. 28th 8:00 am Mass for Tina Pao, R.I.P.
- Fri. Mar. 1st 8:00 am Mass for Emerita Manansala Santos, R.I.P.
7:30 pm Mass for the int. of Lou Laserna
- Sat. Mar. 2nd 9:00 am Mass Adelino Medeiros, R.I.P.

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



FIRST FRIDAY, 24 HOUR, EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT, will be held this coming Friday, Feb. 1st, following the 8 am Mass, until Saturday, 8:30 am

A minimum of 2 volunteers per hour is required. Please write your name at the hour you can attend, on the sheet provided on the table in the vestibule.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

- Friendship Day: Next Sunday after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church. Please join us!



SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- St. Jude School String Orchestra Winter Concert
Come to our 4th annual winter orchestra concert this Monday, Feb. 25th at 7:00 pm 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

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back." (Luke 6:35)

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness.

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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>

Fiat: Women's Discernment Retreat

Join our Fiat Women's Discernment Group (for single catholic women ages 18-35) for a weekend vocation discernment retreat March 1-3 at Westminster Abbey. Retreat includes Mass, talks, and discussions about discerning a vocation, adoration, Divine Office, and opportunities for confession and individual conferences with sisters. Cost: \$130, including \$30 deposit due at registration. Register today at <https://secure.rcav.org/flat-weekend-retreat/> Please feel free to email womensvocations@rcav.org or contact the vocations office at 604-683-0281 with any questions.

Pro-life Mass & Vigil

Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on Saturday, March 2. Mass is at 9:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's Parish, followed by the Rosary at Lions Gate Hospital.

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.

Freedom 2019

Freedom, the annual reconciliation event for youth sponsored by the Ministries and Outreach Office will take place on Friday, March 8, at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Coquitlam, from 7-10:30 p.m. Participants will experience first-hand the healing power of Christ through music, prayer, testimonies and teachings, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Adoration. You won't want to miss this special event; come see why Freedom is often imitated, but never duplicated!

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.

Birthright Vancouver

Would you like to help women in crisis pregnancy situations? Birthright Vancouver is currently looking for volunteers who can commit three hours a week on a weekday morning or afternoon to this mission. Training provided. If interested, contact 604-687-7223 or birthrightvancouver@gmail.com

