

*A Reflection from Fr. Joseph*

I read somewhere that the United Church of Christ has sponsored a rather extensive campaign to promote the gospel. The title of the campaign is “God is still speaking.” The statement asserts that God has a message and a meaning for our lives today. Another part of this campaign is a red banner on which there is nothing except one large comma. Now, of course the banner is meant to provoke our interest to ask, “What’s the comma?” The comma refers to a quotation from Gracie Allen. In one of her diaries she writes, “Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

Often in our lives when we experience pain or trouble, we conclude that misery will last forever. We place a period and say, “That’s it. I’m finished.” The comma is a sign of hope, an indication that we will not remain where we are forever. God can move us forward. God can do something new.

Now new things are certainly happening in today’s gospel in the synagogue at Capernaum. Jesus enters with a new teaching and a new authority. The man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit needs something new. The evil spirit that possesses him has robbed him of his freedom and of his joy. The man has probably concluded, “I’m done. This spirit will continue to enslave me for the rest of my life.” But then Jesus speaks, and the spirit cries out. The man begins to understand that what he thought was the end was only a pause. Jesus drives out the demon, and the man enters into a new life.

When you and I feel that we have come to the end of our rope, that nothing new can happen, today’s gospel encourages us to hope that God can move us forward. When we find ourselves alienated from our friends, because we said something that was wrong, did something that was cruel, or tried to slip by with a lie, we can find our relationships in shambles. Today’s gospel encourages us to believe that estrangement does not have to be final, that apologies work, and that humility has traction. God can heal what is broken.

When we are dismayed because of the bad decisions made by our children or our grandchildren, we say, “Things could have been so well if they had used money responsibly, if they married somebody else, if they avoided alcohol and drugs. But now they are finished. They have no future.” This gospel asks us to believe that God can still surprise us. God can still move the people we love beyond their mistakes.

When we are devastated because we have lost someone that we love in death, and the hole in our heart is so huge that we are certain we will never recover, this gospel encourages us to believe that God can still save us, still move us to a new place.

Never put a period where God has placed a comma. Our lives may have ground to a halt. But where we find ourselves is not the end. We believe in a God who can do new things and is committed to save us. Jesus can drive the demon out. Our God can move us past the painful pause and lead our lives to a blessed conclusion.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mon. Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** - 2 Sam 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13a; Mark 5:1-20

**Tue. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>** - 2 Sam 18:9-10,14b,24-26a,30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43

**Wed. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>** - ST. JOHN BOSCO, memorial

2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6

**Thurs. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** - 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13

**Fri. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** - THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Malachi 3:1-4; or Heb. 2:10-11, 13b-18; Luke 2:22-40

**Sat. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34

**Sun. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Wed. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>** - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

**Sat. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 5:00 PM - C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay, N.Marquez-Ambrosio, S.Ojerinde.

**Sun. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** - 9AM - J & S Yip, A & V Collins, A & A Chan, I.Petti. 11AM - Elisa, Klyde & Kyle Tan, S.Szomora, A & A Babas, W.Pham. 5PM - J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Plata, L.Villawarayan, M.Cabuhayan, J.Cayayab, Z.Bambilla.

**PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2024**

Have you picked up your new sets of parish envelopes? They are arranged alphabetically. If you have recently requested a set, you will also find them there. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2024, is asked to call the parish office.

**FEAST OF STO. NINO  
THIS SUNDAY, JAN. 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 5 PM**



**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR 5PM MASS,  
FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION. A  
RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN THE  
SCHOOL GYMNASIUM. ALL ARE  
WELCOME TO ATTEND!**



**FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT** - will be held this coming Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:15 pm. followed by Mass at 7:30 pm. We would appreciate having a minimum of 2 volunteers per hour during the day.

## SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Please join us this Wednesday at 9 am.
- **No School:** Monday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **St. Jude School Accepting new Applications**

We are now accepting new applications for the 2024-25 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 604-434-1633 for application form.

- **School tours:** Our Gr. 7 Student Ambassadors are available to provide tours of our school to prospective families. If you know of someone who might be interested in attending St. Jude School, please tell them to sign up for a tour. Any interested family can email registrar@stjude.ca to schedule a tour.

- **Gr. 7 Fundraiser:** Our gr. 7 students will be selling Nachos at the entrance of the church this weekend after all the Masses.



## C.W.L. NEWS

**Friendship Day:** Please join us next Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

# ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

## Up-Coming Events

### Stewardship Reflection

*“Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties.” - 1 Corinthians 7:32*

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word “pray” instead of the word “worry” in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.

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## Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Join us for our monthly Mass and vigil to pray for respect for all human life, from conception to its natural end. Saturday, Feb. 3 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Vancouver at 9:00 am.

## World Day of the Sick

As the church marks the World Day of the Sick on Feb. 11, the Catholic Health Association of BC encourages everyone to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers.

The theme of this year's observance is *“It is not good that man should be alone—Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships.”* Archbishop Miller, CSB, will celebrate Mass for World Day of the Sick on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish (555 Slocan St. Vancouver). Reception to follow. All are welcome! Pray with us on this day. To learn more, visit [chabc.rcav.org/wds2024](http://chabc.rcav.org/wds2024)

## Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

We are excited to partner with [Family Life Canada](http://FamilyLifeCanada.com) to offer weekend getaways to married couples in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. The next getaway is on the weekend of Feb. 16-18, 2024 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria. For info: [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

## 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 8 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 every Thursday, from Feb. 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](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

## The Great Divorce: A Book Study for Young Adults

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis is the story of the journey of a man taking a bus ride from Hell to Heaven. Along the way, he follows several people who, upon arriving in Heaven, meet people and situations from their past lives.

Young adults aged 19-35 are welcome to a book study with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese. The next meeting is on Friday, Feb. 9 at 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm at the Vanspec Centre (2811 Venables St.). Register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

## Seminary of Christ the King

There will be a Vocation Live-In Feb 10 -11 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 info. phone 604-826-8975 or email [rector.minors@sck.ca](mailto:rector.minors@sck.ca)

