

*A Reflection from Fr. Joseph*

In today's gospel, the risen Jesus not only comes to his disciples and offers them peace, but he also commissions them to extend that peace to others. The text tells us that Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained." This is a powerful command to extend the forgiveness that comes from Christ's resurrection to others. And it might even be deeper than it first sounds. That depends on how we translate the second part of the verse.

I think most of us know that the New Testament was written in Greek, and therefore we are dependent upon the skill and the insight of translators to convey the message in English. Sometimes in Greek, a particular phrase can be translated in a number of different ways. This is the case with the second part of Jesus' command in today's gospel. Our translation reads, "Whose sins you retain are retained," but it is also possible to translate this verse, "Whoever you hold fast is held fast." The verb here "to hold fast" is the same verb that Matthew uses in his resurrection account when the women at the tomb "hold fast" to the feet of the risen Christ. So "holding fast" means to embrace another in love.

When we look at this command of Jesus from this perspective, he is asking us to forgive others and then to hold them fast. He is asking us to do this communally, as a Church. The primary sacrament of forgiveness for the early Church and for us is the sacrament of baptism. When we are baptized into Christ Jesus, the bond of sin that can enslave us is broken. After baptism it is the responsibility of the Church to "hold fast" those who are baptized. Jesus commands us to hold on to one another, and this is both a privilege and a challenge. When someone is baptized into Christ that person becomes part of us, part of the body of Christ. We do not know how a child who is baptized will grow up to be. We will not know how many goals he will achieve or mistakes he will make. But it is our role as parents, as friends, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to hold on to him, to protect him and to love him as a member of the body of Christ.

Christ's command then is to forgive one another and to hold on to one another. And his command is without condition. We are to hold on to one another when it is easy, and when it is difficult. At times it can be difficult. Then we are called to hold on to others even when they are selfish or inconsiderate, when they are sick or addicted, when they struggle over their sexual orientation, when they make decisions that are disastrous. Always and everywhere, we are called to hold on to those who belong to us in Christ, so that we can reflect the love of God that is without limit.

Jesus commands the disciples on the night of the Resurrection, and commands us, to forgive one another and to hold on to one another. This of course is a challenge, and we often fall short. But each time we succeed in holding fast to a brother or sister who is weak, difficult, or broken, we succeed in reflecting the love of God - the love that will never let us go.

**C. W. L. NEWS**

**- Friendship Day:** Please join us this Sunday, after the 9 & 11 am Masses, at the entrance of the church for coffee and fellowship.

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Wed. Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers

**Sat. Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 PM** - C & C Tang, J. Tuguinay, S. Ojerinde, N. Marquez-Ambrosio.

**Sun. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> - 9AM** - J & S Yip, A & V

Collins, A & A Chan, I. Petti. **11 AM** - Elisa,

Klyde & Kyle Tan, S. Szomora, A & A Babas, W. Pham. **5**

**PM** - J. Paja, D. Dang, J. Plata, L. Villawarayan, M. Cabuhayan, J. Cayabyab, Z. Bambilla.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mon. Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

Is. 7:10-14, 8:10d; Heb. 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

**Tue. Apr. 9<sup>th</sup> - Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15**

**Wed. Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> - Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21**

**Thurs. Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> - ST. STANISLAUS, memorial**

Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

**Fri. Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> - Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15**

**Sat. Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> - Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21**

**Sun. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

**SCHOOL NEWS**

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

**- Walkathon Pledge forms will be sent home on Monday.**



**The International Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima** will be visiting our Parish this coming Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

This 'once in a lifetime' experience is a great blessing for us, for our families and for our community. Let us take a moment to be with our Lady, as represented by Her image.

We will have 2 Masses on that day at 9 am and 7:30 pm. Please refer to the poster at the entrance of the church for full schedule.

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### Up-Coming Events

#### Stewardship Reflection

*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - Acts 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

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#### 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. Registrations received by Friday, April 19, will receive their certificate at the Mass. Learn more and register at [family.rcav.org/mam](http://family.rcav.org/mam)

#### 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. Learn more and apply at [rcav.org/youth-ministry](http://rcav.org/youth-ministry)

#### Official Enshrinement of San Pedro Calungsod

The Cebuano Society of Canada, in collaboration with the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, invites devotees and all faithful to witness the official enshrinement of St. Pedro Calungsod, Filipino patron saint of migrants and youth. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and Bishop Julito Cortes, D.D., of Dumaguete, Philippines, will preside over the Holy Mass. On Friday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. at St. Monica's Parish in Richmond.

#### A Compassionate Approach to Infertility

Navigate infertility with practical resources and faith filled support through this two-part webinar series:

##### Session 1: The Suffering of Infertility

Sister John Mary Sullivan, FSE, will speak on some of the deeper questions that may arise from the cross of infertility: Why is this happening to us? How are we a family without children? How can this not affect our marriage? Dr. Jonathan Yang, MD, CCFP, will give an informational presentation on: "What is normal, and when should I reach out for help?"

##### Session 2: Is There Hope?

Deacon Martin and Lora Cayer will share their testimony with a focus on how their relationship and faith has been affected by the long-term cross of infertility. Dr. Paul Yong, MD, PhD, FRCSC and Theresa Yong will give an informational presentation and share their personal experiences with treatments for infertility.

On April 10 & 17, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UPCOMING MARCH4LIFE IN VICTORIA, BC ON THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>.** We are very excited for the upcoming annual March4Life this year. It will be a full day, beginning with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Delta (3900 Arthur Drive, Delta) with Mass at 9:15 - Archbishop Miller presiding. From there, we will catch the 11:00 am ferry to Victoria, where we will participate in the March and return on the 5:00 pm ferry. We have an exciting lineup of speakers at this years event