

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the [Beatitudes](#). Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behavior of his followers with the behavior of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behavior desired with the behavior of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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February 24, 2019
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel reminds us that being a Christian is not easy. Jesus challenges us to act with love and do what seems humanly impossible: love our enemies and forgive those who hurt us. Only with the help of the Spirit of Jesus can we truly do what he commands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David does not allow anyone to harm Saul when they have the opportunity to do so. In Corinthians, St. Paul describes Jesus as the second Adam, the spiritual man. Jesus, in the Gospel, explains to his disciples the deeper meaning of love.

Today's Readings:

1st: 1 Samuel 26.2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-25

Psalm: 103

2nd: 1 Corinthians 15.45-49

Gospel: Luke 6.27-38

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENECTION

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

PARISH UPDATES

2018 Tax-Receipts – Please collect your receipts from the Parish and Archdiocese’s Project Advance. Volunteers ensure you have the correct records. May God bless you for your generosity!

Pennies for Heavens – Our Knights of Columbus Council’s Vocation program welcomes your support for its fundraising appeal from Feb. 24 thru Mar. 3 by putting your loose change or any bill denomination in the wheelbarrow provided. The collected funds support our young boys for a weekend retreat at Westminster Abbey in Mission and for the girls to attend a day trip at the Poor Clares’ monastery. It helps them to experience and discern the way of religious life.

Marriage Encounter – Next weekend at all the Masses, representatives from the ME team will be inviting potential married couples to participate in a weekend of marriage renewal.

Ash Wednesday – Lent begins on March 6, with the signing of the cross with the ashes. Please bring back your palms from last year and deposit them in the box provided. Thank you.

Save a date – Our Lenten Mission will be introduced at all the weekend Masses on March 16 & 17. The Mission itself is on March 18, 19 & 20 at 7:00pm. Fr. Pierre LeBlond, OP will be the presenter. Mark your calendar!

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

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, visit <https://rcav.org/event/the-art-of-keeping-kids-catholic>

**The Lord is merciful and gracious.
Psalm 103**

Pastoral Council Meeting –

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 pm is our next scheduled meeting. Please mark your calendar to attend.

All are invited -

World Day of Prayer 2019 Ecumenical Service Worship on Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1pm. South Arm United Church at No. 3 Road & Steveston Highway. St. Monica Parish is one of the participating churches.

Restore the Beauty: Women’s Conference

This conference is for every woman desiring to experience restoration in her life, the lives of those around her, the Church and the world. This two day event includes inspiring talks, prayerful moments of encounter with God and Mass with Archbishop Michael Miller. Throughout the weekend you’ll experience hope and encouragement, while gaining practical tools to help you restore the beauty in your world, no matter your circumstances. We are excited for our amazing speaking team: Sister Miriam James, Fr. Josh Johnson, Michelle Benzinger, and Heather Khym. Event will be May 3 & May 4. **Registration opens Feb. 25.**

www.liferestoration.ca/womensconference

Theology of the Body

Discover human nature as the “Gift of Self” in our relationship with God and one another through Theology of the Body. Using the teachings of Christ on marriage, St. John Paul II reveals our true human nature in the image and likeness of God as a “communion of persons in the sincere gift of self,” giving us the authentic meaning of our humanity now and in eternal life. Sessions begin this Spring: April 1- June 24 at St. John the Apostle Parish, Vancouver, and March 26-June 18 at St. Anthony Parish, West Vancouver. Register at rcav.org/tob.

Stewardship Reflection

Today’s Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards — “Give and it will be given to you. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” What an encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted to our care!

See Luke 6:38

Mass Intentions Feb 24 - Mar 2, 2019

Mon, Feb 25 - Jason D’Silva (RIP)
Tue, Feb 26 - Jose Ibea Martinez (RIP)
Wed, Feb 27 - 9am, Mrs. Lau (TG)
7pm, Ms. Ammini (RIP)
Thu, Feb 28 - Zeny & Mike Trainor (TG)
Fri, Mar 1 - Aida & Alma Goco (TG)
Sat, Mar 2 - 9:30am, Agnes Chan (RIP)
5pm, Charlemagne Anuling (TG)

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.