

The lie at the heart of human sinfulness is that we can gain control of our existence by some action of our own and that God does not want us to have this power. God creating human beings in God's own likeness is described in the first creation account in Genesis. But instead of accepting the friendship with God that was offered, human beings chose to enter into rivalry with God. The consequences of that disastrous choice plague our world still.

Do I harbor any distrust of God over control and power in my life? Can I pray the New Testament prayer "I believe; help my unbelief"?

—William A. Barry, SJ, in *Lenten Meditations: Growing in Friendship with God*

Friendship with Jesus has been central to my faith since my conversion. Perhaps because I was not raised Catholic, I haven't had some of the same struggles with the idea of Jesus' humanity described by those raised with more emphasis on God's kingship. Intimacy with God has always been central to me.

However, I have a different kind of struggle, which is to surrender control to God in those areas of my life that are out of my control. In my life as a mom, teacher, wife, administrator, and household manager, I am good at organization and balance. However, I find myself challenged when faced with events outside of my control. For example, in the aftermath of a broken friendship where my friend refused to re-engage, I found myself acting in ways that were demanding and impatient in the course of seeking reconciliation. Sometimes we have to accept loss, however difficult. Others' responses are never in our own control.

Central to friendship with God, as with any friendship, is mutual trust. As I said recently to a companion, "I trust in God; it's other people that can be hard to trust!" Yet trusting in God is also a matter of trusting that despite my own and others' human limits and sin, I am gently being invited to cooperate with the God who wants to "make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). I'm learning that I have not only to offer God my own creativity and responsibility, but to make that offer freely, without trying to control God or anyone else. Not easy!

How do we do it? The old adage says, "Let go and let God." We can offer ourselves freely to God and to others and then let go of the outcomes. For example, in service work, I cannot know whether the person whom I am serving will benefit. But I can trust that God will somehow weave my actions into a larger, meaningful pattern. Slowly I am discovering that Jesus' story and mine are intertwined, like threads in those old friendship bracelets that we used to weave back in college. The threads of both joy and suffering are like bright threads that contribute to the pattern of our stories with God.

This article is written by Marina McCoy for Loyola Press.



ST. MONICA PARISH

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334

Website: stmonicaparish.ca Email: parish.smon@rcav.org

March 17, 2019
2nd Sunday of Lent

Nothing in this world can compare to God's promises to humanity and his faithfulness to those promises.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The promises made to Abraham go beyond his wildest dreams – he will be the father of a great nation, as numerous as the stars in the night sky. Saint Paul challenges the Philippians to imitate him and to stand firm and faithful in the Lord. The transfiguration of Jesus gives us a glimpse of the glory of the risen Christ.

Today's Readings:

1st: Genesis 15.5-12, 17-18

Psalm: 27

2nd: Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Gospel: Luke 9.28b-36

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

& BENEDICTION

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

TRANSFIGURATION

PARISH UPDATES

Parish Mission – We welcome Fr Pierre LeBlond, OP who guides us in our Lenten renewal. The Retreat is on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:00pm. There will be no evening Mass and Novena on Wednesday.

Spring Break – There will be no PREP classes on Tuesday, March 19 and 26.

Holy Land Religious Items – Next weekend, a Christian vendor will be selling religious articles from the Holy Land to support the Christian minorities. Your support will be much appreciated.

Fridays in Lent – This is a day of abstinence from meat, but Catholics may substitute with acts of charity or piety.

Development and Peace -- Caritas Canada encourages us to reach out to forcibly displaced persons and to share their journey by supporting their Share Lent appeal and becoming aware of its ministry. For more info visit, www.devp.org

Parish Website – We have put our art glass windows on our parish website www.stmonicaparish.ca You can enjoy them in the tag, "About/St Monica". Check it out!

Retrouvaille Weekend – April 5 to 7 is the next opportunity for married couples whose marriage needs help and renewal. For more info: www.retrouvaillevancover.com

604-530-6710

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Marriage Anniversary Mass 2019

Celebrate your Milestone Anniversary with us! This Mother's Day, Archbishop Miller will be honouring couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th & 60th+ years of marriage. Register your anniversary with us today at rcav.org/marriage-anniversary. Mass will be on Sunday, May 12, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish, Richmond. Reception to follow in St. Paul Parish Centre. All are welcome to witness and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of others! Register today: <https://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary>

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration - Intensive Prayer

The Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade, a prayer warriors group of the Office of the Filipino Ministry (<https://rcav.org/Filipino-Ministry>) gathers month-to-month in different parishes for Intensive Prayer with Scriptural Rosaries during a 3-hour Eucharistic Adoration. This month's will be March 24, 2-5 p.m., at St. Helen's Church, Burnaby. Prayers are in English and all are invited to unite themselves in prayer and sacrifice for the sanctification of the ordained ministry and consecrated persons, for the renewal and strengthening of the Catholic Church in all levels, for our families, for healing of illnesses of victims of sexual abuses, for broken relationships, for justice and peace in the world, for intentions of families in our Archdiocese. Petitions and Thanksgiving boxes are provided and will be brought to the Blessed Sacrament before start of the Adoration.

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. Saturday, April 6, starting with Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Andrew Kim Parish, Surrey, followed by the Rosary at Surrey Memorial. For upcoming dates, visit <https://rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil>

First Friday/Saturday Vigil with Adoration and Benediction

We consecrate all to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in reparation for the "outrages, sacrilege, and indifference by which he is offended" and all sins committed against their hearts. Join us for adoration, benediction, Mass, Rosary, and Holy Hours of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and confession on Friday, starting with Mass at 7 p.m. We take a break and at 8:45 p.m. we continue the vigil until midnight. Friday, April 5, at Immaculate Conception Church, Delta.

Mass of Remembrance

Join us for our month Mass of Remembrance as we pray for our family members who have passed away this month. Masses are on March 31, 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. in our Evangelist Chapel, at Gardens of Gethsemani.

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.

Stewardship Reflection

Peter, James, and John wanted to build a "dwelling" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the kingdom.

Mass Intentions Mar 17 - 23, 2019

Mon, Mar 18 - Legion of Mary MoR (TG)
Tue, Mar 19 - Jose Zamora (RIP)
Wed, Mar 20 - 9am, Edna Borja (TG)
7pm, Hector Diangkinay (TG)
Thu, Mar 21 - Veronica Decena (TG)
Fri, Mar 22 - Fausta Jimenez &
Erasmio Alvarez (RIP)
Sat, Mar 23 - 9:30am, Elvie Calasan (TG)
5pm, Evelyn Victoria (TG)



WAY OF THE CROSS -
During Lent, we will
make the Way of the
Cross on FRIDAYS after
the morning Mass.