

Reconciliation and Healing – Lenten Reflections

by Andy Alexander, SJ, Maureen McCann Waldron

Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing grace our Lord offers us. Like all religious experience, Lent takes preparation.

Preparing

Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting on the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light. It might begin with a simple question: Where might God be offering me forgiveness and healing?

If my answer is, “I don’t know,” then I have some reflecting to do. I can examine my life-what I have done and what I have failed to do-and see what graces are offered me there.

Coming to genuine sorrow for our sins is difficult. We might think that anything that makes us feel bad about ourselves is something to be avoided at all costs. If we avoid guilty feelings, we ask God to rouse in us a sense of embarrassment, leading to deep sorrow, about any way that we may not have been faithful, honest, loving, selfless, or generous. We can look at our responsibilities as neighbors, employees, members of a parish or congregation, parents, spouses, sons, or daughters.

We might be intimidated by the size of the problem that comes to mind when we ask where God might be offering us forgiveness and healing. It might be a pattern of bad behavior toward our spouses and family. It might be our vices. I might say, “I feel sorry for how I treat my spouse or my children.” We may feel remorse for all the good intentions that never make their way into action.

It is important not to stop there. No problem we have sums up all of who we are before God and others. The issues that come to mind might yield clues about some larger patterns. For example, I see that I tend to be loose with the truth at times. What does this reveal about me? I may discover that the real pattern of sin has to do with a deeper dishonesty or lack of integrity: hiding from God, leading a double life, not being who I really am called to be, trying to manage my life on my own terms, manipulating others for my own needs and desires. When the light of God’s love shines into this level of self-awareness, I am touched by a powerful experience of reconciliation. Even here, in a place I might be most embarrassed and feel most naked, God is loving me and offering me wholeness and joy.



ST. MONICA PARISH

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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

March 24, 2019

3rd Sunday of Lent

When we stray and wither or produce bad fruit, we have the chance to repent and try again. Jesus calls us to repent so that we might bear good fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In book Exodus, God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, announcing his presence as the God of his father, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Saint Paul speaks to the Corinthians about the Old Testament ancestors, many with whom God was not pleased. In the Gospel, Jesus calls his listeners to repentance and tells them a parable of the fig tree that produces no fruit.

Today’s Readings:

1st: Exodus 3.1-8a, 13-15

Psalm: 103

2nd: 1 Corinthians 10.1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13.1-9

PARISH UPDATES

Lenten Penitential Service – Thursday, April 11 at 7pm is our Parish's Confessions. Mark your calendar!

Holy Land Religious Items – This weekend a Christian vendor is 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

KUDOS – The family of Pacita Santos thank you who, in any way, reached out to Pacita and assisted in the celebration of her new life with God. Most of Pacita's family members live in the United States and none in Richmond.

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>

Building a Healthy Family Culture

The CFC-YCP Program will be hosting their first event for 2019 centered around creating your family traditions through Building a Family Culture. Saturday, March 30, 2-5 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Richmond. Register at <https://rcav.org/event/building-a-healthy-family-culture>. For more information, contact Miguel at migjojav@gmail.com.

Chinese Ching Ming Festival Mass/ Open House

Come celebrate the Ching Ming Festival with a Mass in the Evangelist Chapel at the Gardens of Gethsemani, Surrey. Friday, April 5 at 12 p.m. and Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. Following the Mass, there will be some light refreshments and Open House. For questions, contact Terry at 604-531-2141.

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

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

Mass Intentions Mar 24 - 30, 2019

Mon, Mar 25 - Pete Capitulo (TG)
Tue, Mar 26 - Caoile Family (TG)
Wed, Mar 27 - 9am, Nenita Chan Laureta (RIP)
7pm, Nenita Asanza Laureta (RIP)
Thu, Mar 28 - Cresencia Daclag (RIP)
Fri, Mar 29 - Rufina Alba (RIP)
Sat, Mar 30 - 9:30am, Rosa Agregado (RIP)
5pm, Jose Quitzon (RIP)
Lucia Siglos (RIP)



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