

*In Jesus, God saves us by becoming so vulnerable that we are able to kill him in a vile and humiliating way. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus assure us that God's offer of friendship will never be withdrawn, no matter what we do. If the cross did not result in a withdrawal of the offer, then nothing we do will lead to a change of God's heart. We can, however, refuse the offer. Friendship is a mutual relationship, and a person has to accept the offer; he or she cannot be coerced or tricked into it. And any human being's final refusal of God's friendship breaks God's heart. Still, God does not turn away from such a person in anger and rage. God lives eternally with a broken heart. That's how vulnerable God wants to be.*

*Loving God, I pray for the wisdom to never turn away from your friendship or take advantage of your love for me.*

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

As parents, we can relate to God's vulnerability as described in this meditation. There is a saying that having a child is like putting limbs on your heart and setting it free in the world. We have this intense love for our children—no matter what—that indeed makes us vulnerable.

In my family's experience, we have had many a talk with our teenaged daughter about the extent of our love for her. Afraid that in these delicate years ahead she might lose her way at some point, make some mistake she thinks is unforgivable, or something awful might happen that tears her away from us, we have tried to make it perfectly clear that we will ALWAYS love her, and that she is welcome home under absolutely any circumstances. We probably give her that speech more often than necessary, but we're doing all we can to drill it deep into her psyche. *You are always loved, you are always welcome, and nothing will ever change that.* There is a lot that can happen in this world—sometimes by one's own choices and sometimes by force—and nothing terrifies us more than losing our daughter. Indeed, if she ever turns her back on us we would be completely heartbroken, but we wouldn't give up on her. Ever.

*continued inside>*

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.



## ST. MONICA PARISH

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March 31, 2019  
4th Sunday of Lent

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No matter how we may have turned away from God, we have only to turn to him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God is always ready to take us back.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God stops the miraculous manna as soon as the Israelites are able to eat the produce of the Promised Land. St Paul tells the Corinthians that they are a new creation through reconciliation with God. The prodigal son shows God's willingness to welcome us back as soon as we turn to him.

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### Today's Readings:

1st:

Joshua 5.9a, 10-12

Psalm: 34

2nd:

2 Corinthians 5.17-21

Gospel:

Luke 15.1-3, 11-32



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 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6 pm

### BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

### HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

## PARISH UPDATES

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

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**PREP** – Classes resume on Tuesday, April 2. Hope you enjoyed your Spring break.

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**40 Days for Life Campaign (Mar 6 – Apr 14): St Monica's date is April 6:**

Canada is one of only 3 countries with no abortion laws. 25% of pregnancies today end in abortion. Let us end abortion together! You can bear witness to this atrocity by giving one hour to stand vigil on our parish date, *Sat., Apr. 6, 7am to 7pm in front of St Joseph's Residence, (W 32Ave & Willow St)*. Sign up in the vestibule.

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

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**Development and Peace – Share Lent:** Next Sunday's second collection is our opportunity to show solidarity with migrants who are forcibly displaced by war, oppression, and human trafficking. Your donation will be directed to Caritas Canada through D & P. Thank you for your support!

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**Retrouvaille Weekend** – April 5 to 7 is the next opportunity for married couples whose marriage needs help and renewal. For more info: Call 604-530-6710 or go to [www.retrouvaillevancover.com](http://www.retrouvaillevancover.com)

**Mexico Pilgrimage** – Fr. Robert is the spiritual guide to the Shrines of Mexico, just after Thanksgiving, Oct. 15 to 24. For more information, you can pick up the brochure from the parish office or ask Fr. Robert to send it to your email address. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

*Psalms 34*

## 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](http://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>

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### **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.

*-from back page*

Imagine that love we have as parents is merely a small reflection of the vulnerable, all-invested love that God has for us all. God's heart walks this earth by the billions. He carries a perfect love, even greater than that of a parent for a child, for each and every one of us. For me, that's unfathomable. Jesus tries to give us a sense of it in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but as we know, Jesus used parables to give people a glimpse of understanding into something far greater than they could possibly comprehend. Thus, that parable shows us that **the love of the forgiving father** is just the beginning.

Now here's the challenge. The all-invested, life-changing love that a parent has for a child is also just the beginning. We are called to be disciples on this earth, to serve others and to treat others as Jesus would. Does that not mean that the intense love between a parent and child should be the same love we offer every child of God?

Father of us all, teach us to love all of your children as we love our own, so that everyone of this earth may glimpse the unfathomable love you have for us. Amen.

**GOD'S VULNERABILITY** – Cara Callbeck of *Loyola Press, Chicago*

### **Stewardship Reflection**

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

### **Mass Intentions Mar 31 - Apr 6, 2019**

Mon, Apr 1 -	Maria Hortencia Dias (RIP)
Tue, Apr 2 -	Sandra Joseph (TG)
Wed, Apr 3 -	9am, Lucia Usman (RIP) 7pm, Linda Zamora (TG)
Thu, Apr 4 -	Willy Kimson & Wilfred Go (INT)
Fri, Apr 5 -	Alma & Aida Goco (TG)
Sat, Apr 6 -	9:30am, Gloria Laureta (RIP) 5pm, Kay Sullivan (RIP)



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