

Our Choices as God Might See Them -- Vinita Hampton Wright of Loyola Press

The Christian faith has always taken seriously the matter of discernment. What choice will I make? We must choose constantly, through our daily routines as well as major life situations. We want to make the right choice, the one that will please God, the one that will help us prosper and be content. We know that a wrong choice can sometimes have disastrous consequences. Thus, we endeavor to make our discernments in the context of prayer, wisdom, and good counsel.

I wonder how God sees our choices. In fact, I wonder if, in God's way of seeing, "right" and "wrong" are as important as we make them. We tend toward a narrow and punitive mindset when it comes to making decisions, thinking there is only one right way to do something, only one right choice—and we'd better make the right choice if we don't want to bring upon ourselves disaster and years of unhappiness and regret.

This mindset is somewhat understandable regarding a major life decision, when the consequences are far-reaching. But isn't our view unnecessarily narrow? Do we believe that if we miss that opportunity, we are doomed to the "wrong" choice? Are God's resources that skimpy—really? Is God's creativity that ineffective?

It seems that the God of abundant gifts provides many options of grace in a lifetime. And God our creator understands that the core of our abundance is found in our relationship to God. Marriage or no marriage, this career or that one, this home or that one—every set of options we face, whether this hour or years down the road, becomes the raw material for a life of holy relationship.

When God watches me make a decision, I imagine that divine attention is focused on the direction of my heart. Do I move toward greater faith, hope, and love, or toward greater fear, negativity, and selfishness? Do I grow a little more Godward in the routine decision I make this morning? Does the process of discernment stimulate me to more prayer and attention? Do I choose out of love—even if, technically speaking, I don't make the best choice?

God gazes upon us, every moment, with compassion, grace, and creativity. If I botch a decision today, divine creativity will still bring from that choice growth and forward motion—if I seek grace and creativity and if I am open to God's involvement.

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ST. MONICA PARISH

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June 16, 2019
Trinity Sunday

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Everything God does, *he does for us*. May we imitate the unitive love of our Triune God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading is a poetic reflection on the wisdom of God being present in all that God does. St. Paul tells the Romans that they *have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they will come to understand his teachings more fully when they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

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Today's Readings:

1st: Proverbs 8.22-31
Psalm: 8
2nd: Romans 5.1-5
Gospel: John 16.12-15



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

PARISH UPDATES

Blessing of St Paul Church – Archbishop Miller will bless their new house of God on Tuesday, June 18 at 7pm. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to their faith community. Saint Paul of Tarsus, pray for us!

Save a Date – Our Parish Ministry Fair will be on September 21 and 22. Please mark it on your calendar.

Project Advance 2019 – *Building our Future upon a Foundation of Faith* is theme. Our archdiocesan commitment is \$26,000. Our total parish goal maintains at \$75,000. Your participation in this annual appeal gives witness to our faith in action. We have met our commitment. Thank you!

We need our registered parishioners to pledge your gift for this year's appeal. May God bless you always!

New Hot Water Boilers (Our PA's response to 'Laudato Si') – The work is now done. You can see the *before and after* pictures in the foyer. Our 2019 rebates from Project Advance have been earmarked for this important and necessary upgrade. Thank you for your on-going support.

Update on Our Sponsored Refugees, the Khumpis family of four, please keep them in our prayers as they wait for their Canadian visas and exit permits from the Nepal government.

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Mass Wedding for Civilly Married Couples - Information Session

If you got married civilly and would now like to have your marriage recognized by the Church, it will be on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB will be celebrating a wedding Mass for a large number of civilly married couples. For more info., contact Deacon Greg Barcelon at 604-771-2975 or email filipinoministry@rcav.org

An Evening with Archbishop Miller

Save the Date! The eighth annual Archbishop's Dinner will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. This year, in partnership with Providence Health Care and with St. Mark's College, Archbishop Miller has designated the proceeds to help foster Catholic health-care ethics in the education of health-care providers and in the support of their day-to-day practice. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For more information or to reserve your table(s) please contact development@rcav.org.

A Prayer for Christian Fathers

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen. - *Author Unknown*

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I don't believe my mistakes and missteps make God upset with me or nervous about my future. Neither is God waiting for me to mess up so that I can be taught a lesson. God does wait and watch—to see if I will invite divine participation into my worst day, my most chaotic plan, my most botched decision.

My decisions do bear consequences, but God has never allowed consequences to limit what can be done with a life. Frankly, even if I were able to make excellent decisions for years on end, I would still be living in a world affected by a lot of bad decisions by other people, some of them very close to me.

God can work with our decisions, but God will not force our hearts to open and welcome divine love. For that, God will always watch and wait.

In June – We give special attention to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Blessed Virgin Mary. The Sacred Heart of Jesus embodies the extravagant love of Jesus has for us.

Stewardship Reflection

Today's psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!

Mass Intentions June 16 - 22, 2019

Mon, Jun 17 - Linda Zamora (TG)
Tue, Jun 18 - Ivy Yuen-Hay Wong (RIP)
Wed, Jun 19 - 9:00am, Arsenia & Anthony Capitulo (RIP)
7:00pm, Jose Antonio Jr (RIP)
Thu, Jun 20 - Kay Sullivan (RIP)
Fri, Jun 21 - Betty Lau (TG)
Sat, Jun 22 - 9:30am, Majed Jajjawi (INT)
5:00pm, Gregorio Marcelinol (RIP)