

Spirituality: Mystery and Imagination

Indeed, the past is present in us now. All of us in our identity are constituted by all the experiences we have ever had. Most of us forget many of these experiences, so they are not available to us. But it is different with the risen Jesus. As Son of God, filled uniquely with the Holy Spirit, the risen Jesus remembers every jot and tittle of his experience. Nothing escapes his memory.

That means Jesus' experiences are present to us. For example, contemplating the baptism of Jesus at the Jordan is a matter of listening attentively as the risen Jesus shares that experience with you. Jesus' experience begins with the details of the Gospel account and continues as the description is filled out and personalized for you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. These Gospel scenes and events are salvific right now; rather than one-dimensional historical events, they are available as lively mysteries in your relationship with the risen Jesus.

You must learn to take these Gospel accounts very seriously, as encounters with the risen Jesus, as up-to-date as the moment when you enter the prayer. Ignatius recommends the *use of imagination* as a way into the mystery. Not everyone's imagination is pictorial, but imagination is the capacity we all have that helps us to relive an experience with a special personal vividness. In these contemplations the Holy Spirit is eager to engage you with the various mysteries of the risen Jesus by stirring your unique practice of imagination. The contemplation desired here is much more than a superficial replaying of a past historical event. Rather, the Holy Spirit effects an engagement of your whole person with the mystery in an encounter with the risen Jesus. Growing personal composition of yourself with the mystery, a deepening personal entry into the mystery, gathers over time into the interior, intimate knowledge for which you are praying. In the way the mystery is happening right now, and you, as more than an objective spectator, are participating firsthand.

—Excerpted from *Stretched for Greater Glory* by George A. Aschenbrenner, SJ



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July 12, 2020

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Word of God is fruitful, powerful, and meant to bring us to full union with God in heaven.

The first reading and Gospel show the potency of the word of God. In fertile hearts, the Word can multiply exponentially, and it can bring about God's will in our lives in order that we might be brought to God. Can there be any greater gift?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah describes the word of God as fruitful, not returning to the Lord until his will is accomplished. Saint Paul writes to the Romans, addressing human suffering and looking beyond it to the promise of heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and explains its meaning.

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Today's Readings:

1st: Isaiah 55.10-11

Psalm: 65

2nd: Romans 8.18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13.1-23

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

Our Church is opened for Masses – Praise God!

Public Masses signed up. It is necessary to be registered for a Mass participation. This is for the safety of EVERYONE! You want to call the parish office or contact by email. Please be gentle and patient with each other.

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First Holy Communion

Our second group had their reception of the Lord on July 11. They are filled with joy. Please pray for our new communicants and their families. Thank you!

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Into the Deep: The Incarnational Nature of the Church with special guest Archbishop Miller

COVID-19 deprived many of the faithful of ready access to the Sacraments. In this context, Archbishop Miller will examine the importance of receiving the Eucharist and gathering physically as a community in our parishes, what the pandemic can teach us about the importance of the sacramental life and the reality of the Incarnational nature of the Church, and why we should invite people to return to the parish family. Join us on Zoom Friday, July 24 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Register at beholdvancouver.org/ev...

The Pope's Prayer Intention for July 2020

Our Families: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

- Pope John XXIII

A Stewardship Moment

In today's second reading, Saint Paul gives us reason to hope for a wondrous future beyond our imagination. He preaches this hope amidst the suffering of the early Christian communities. "Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us" (Romans 8:18). Good stewards realize that by remaining faithful to the Gospel with persistence, fervor and endurance, our hope in the promises of Christ Jesus will be rewarded. Reflect this week on concrete ways you can remain faithful to the Gospel during these challenging times.

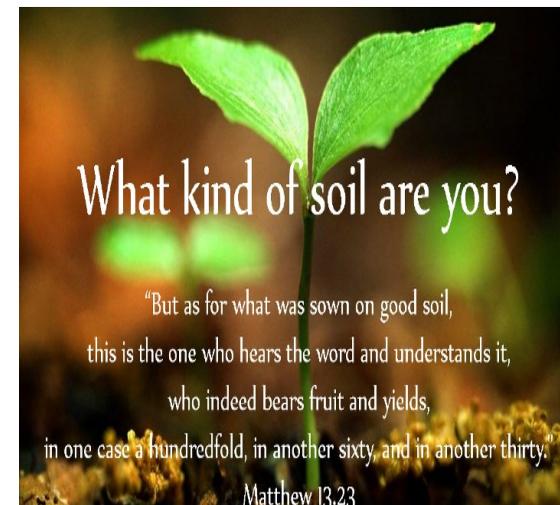
Project Advance 2020

Many of our parishioners who have received your pledge card from the Archdiocese has responded generously toward our commitment of \$13,000. Our total goal is \$40,000 plus expenses for the refurbished new floorings in the Parish Centre and classrooms. Thank you for your faithful stewardship. May the Lord bless you always! Registered households who have not received the pledge card will be receiving Fr. Robert's letter for PA2020 and a pledge form in the mail to assist you in your participation. PLEASE respond when you are ready.

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Estate & Memorial Planning Webinar

This free presentation provides general information for preparing or updating your will and learning about the beauty of the funeral rite and formulating pre-need arrangements. You'll be pointed to complementary guides, tools and practical resources. The event is sponsored and presented by the Gardens of Gethsemani cemetery, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Join us on Thursday, July 23, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Register online for free at beholdvancouver.org/ev...



Mass Intentions July 12 - 18, 2020

Mon, Jul 13 - 9am, Rick de Guzman (+)
Tue, Jul 14 - 9am, Stella Gomes (+)
Wed, Jul 15 - Illuminado Marcelino (+)
Thu, Jul 16 - 9am, Beth Capitulo (INT)
Fri, Jul 17 - 9am, Bert Rondario (+)
Sat, Jul 18 - Federico Imperio (+)