

A Priest passing through his church in the middle of the day, Decided to pause by the altar to see who come to pray. Just then the back door opened, and a man came down the aisle, The Priest frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was torn and shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed, The man knelt down and bowed his head, then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed at precisely noon, the Priest saw this man, Each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch box in his lap. Well, the Priest's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear,

He decided to stop and ask the man, 'What are you doing here?' The old man said he was a factory worker and lunch was half an hour Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power. I stay only a moment because the factory's far away; As I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

**'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'**

The Priest was feeling foolish, told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to pray there anytime. 'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said as he hurried to the door. Then the Priest knelt there at the altar, which he'd never done before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, as he met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed down his cheeks, he repeated old Ben's prayer:

**'I JUST CAME by TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'**

Past noon one day, the Priest noticed that old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them, brought changes in the ward. His smiles and joy contagious. Changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Ben could be so glad, When no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The Priest stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends had come to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn. Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up and with a winsome smile; 'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, he's been here all the while.' Everyday at noon He comes here, a dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down and takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

**'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, BEN, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN . I THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS AND I LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY, AND SO BEN, THIS IS JESUS, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY .'**



**ST. MONICA PARISH**  
**Archdiocesan Shrine of St Pedro Calungsod**  
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Website: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) Email: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

PASTOR: **Rev. Mark Bautista**  
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday – Friday  
**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

**MASS SCHEDULES**  
WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**  
SATURDAYS: **9:00 am & 5:00 pm**  
SUNDAYS: **9:00 am, 11:00 am**  
**& 4:00 pm (YVR)**

**CONFESSION SCHEDULES**  
SATURDAYS: **9:45 am—10:30 am**  
20 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM every Saturday @ 11am**  
**WEDDING** – Please call the Parish Office  
at least 6 months in advance.  
**FUNERAL, HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**  
Please call the Parish Office.

WEDNESDAY:  
**Perpetual Help Novena after 9am Mass**  
FRIDAY:  
**Holy Hour after 9am Mass**  
1st SATURDAY:  
**Rosary for Vocation after 9am Mass**

**VISION STATEMENT:**

St. Monica Parish – a community of faith committed to the call of Christ to holiness.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

We, the parishioners of St. Monica, sharing our spiritual and cultural values commit to:

- ◆ Inspire people to love the Eucharist.
- ◆ Promote devotion to Our Lady of Consolation, St. Monica and St. Pedro Calungsod.
- ◆ Evangelize people through a life of love and service.
- ◆ Renew, strengthen and uphold the sanctity of life, marriage and family.
- ◆ Support and enhance the life of the youth and elderly.
- ◆ Pursue Catholic Social Teaching.
- ◆ Encourage ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.
- ◆ Foster camaraderie in the community through fellowship.

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of June 15/16, 2024

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the beginning of God's kingdom to a mustard seed. This tiny seed, which fits in the palm of a hand, can grow to fifteen feet with sprawling branches! Like the mustard seed, the Christian community had a tiny, seemingly insignificant beginning. The church, which began with about 120 followers, added three thousand people on Pentecost Day following the descent of the Holy Spirit. Since then, the number of Christ's disciples has grown incalculably and continues to grow throughout the world. Good stewards go about God's business of "planting seeds" among all those whom they encounter. What will we do this week to add to God's kingdom?

### Second Collection: Pro-Life Sunday

On Pro-Life Sunday, we reflect on the sanctity of human life from its beginning at conception to its natural end. This weekend's second collection will help further the pro-life cause by supporting crisis pregnancy centres, anti-euthanasia groups, university pro-life groups, post-abortion ministry and others. Tax-deductible donations can be made in person at the parish or online at [rcav.org/second-collection](http://rcav.org/second-collection).

### In gratitude for my Father

Dear God, the Father of us all, I thank you for my father. Along with my mother, through the marvel of your creation, my father gave me the gift of life itself. He was such a good teacher and mentor, such a wonderful example of how to live a life of faith. Please take care of him now and be generous with him as you prepare him for the rewards of eternal life you have prepared for him.

### CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

All are invited to a Pot-Luck Dinner & Karaoke Night in celebration of CANADA Day on Sunday, June 30 (6pm) at the Hall. Please bring your favorite dish and singing talent.

Pray for our Priests....



Behind each priest  
there is a demon  
fighting for his fall.  
If we have the  
language  
to criticize them,  
we must have  
twice as much  
to pray for them.

St. Terese of Avila

### Project Advance as of 10 June 2024: Building our Parish Community

Your support of Project Advance will help grow our parish and expand the reach of Christ's love to those who need it most. Parish Projects for 2024: (1) Installation of acoustic panels in the church & hall, (2) Installation of laser projectors in the parish hall, (3) Painting & repair of the church roof. Tax-deductible donations can be made in person at the parish or online. Learn more and donate at [projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca).

PARISH GOAL: \$75,000.00

Donations: \$ 14,635.00 (20%)

Participation: 57 out of 374 families (15%)

### Stewardship of Christian Marriage

Traditionally, June is the month for weddings. Like so much about marriage these days, that's changing as other months gain in popularity. Nevertheless, it's nice to pause during the beautiful month of June and celebrate the blessings and gifts of Christian marriage.

Sure, it's easy to point to the challenges to marriage today: the discouraging divorce rate, the incredible busyness of family life, the high percentage of children born out of wedlock, the large numbers who live together without the commitment of matrimony, the economic challenges facing families.

But despite the trials of marriage, it's good to remember that for the Christian steward, nothing beats a great marriage as a vehicle for love and grace and growth. What makes marriage wonderful?

A good Christian marriage, a wise pundit once said, should be like a fire around which others gather to warm themselves. Partners in a sacramental marriage feed and nurture each other's spirituality, and as a team reach out to a world in need of their example. A Christian marriage is an oasis in a world of impermanence. It's a home and a refuge, a place where spouses and their children grow in faith and wisdom and grace. A good marriage is a place where two people can feel comfortable with each other through the shifting sands of time. It's a safe abode where aging is accepted and nurtured. It's the porch light that awaits your arrival back home, the smile that greets you at the end of a weary day. A good Christian marriage is the workshop of forgiveness, the laboratory of fidelity.

St. Benedict, trusting that God was always ready to forgive, said "Always, we begin again." That could be the motto of marriage. I'm here to stay. We start again now. We begin again, and again and again, through difficult times and happy ones, through sickness and health, prosperity and poverty.

The Church, understanding the challenges faced by those who embrace this sacrament, offers many days of reflection, retreats, and Marriage Encounters to help strengthen marriage and keep it sustainable. The good steward knows that there must be a stewardship of marriage. The commitment must be nurtured. Take time during June to do something special with your spouse. Devote time and energy exclusively to the relationship, whether it's a weekend retreat, a romantic getaway, or a special, relaxed evening out. During June, begin again.