

1st Reading: Isaiah 50.5-9
2nd Reading: James 2.14-18
Gospel: Mark 8.27-35

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

BULLETIN



Lift High the Cross

Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed.

On Saturday, we celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. So why do we celebrate the cross? Jesus Christ died on that cross. He knew he would. He rebuked St. Peter for suggesting that he shouldn't. He was aware that he would suffer the most exquisite, intense pain imaginable. But it was his mission and purpose. There was no alternative plan. It was pre-ordained that the way of the cross would be the way to salvation.

How can that be? Perhaps you have noticed that life seems to be a lot about suffering. The Buddha declares that **"Life is suffering!"** as the first tenet of Buddhism. If you are the least bit perceptive, you will notice that suffering is all around us and that everyone is suffering in some way. Suffering is part of our nature, especially since, or because of, the fall of our first parents.

Jesus came to help us use our suffering for the salvation of our souls. He is the first to use his suffering for the benefit of others, for the redemption of sin. He had to die a dramatic and painful death so that he would rise from the dead and show that he has defeated death, that death has no power over him.

We, the baptized, are part of his body, we are The Body of Christ. Through our baptism, when we go under the water, we are buried with Christ and when we rise out of the water, we rise with Christ.

When he is resurrected from the dead, all who are part of his body are raised from the dead.

And since his suffering is redemptive, meaning he has redeemed our souls, i.e. paid a price to get us out of the clutches of Evil, our suffering is also redemptive and can be used to redeem others. **We can offer it** for the souls in purgatory, or your own sins or my sins. Suffering can and should be used and have meaning. And that is the meaning of the cross.

We can take refuge in the cross and comfort in the knowledge that salvation is through the cross. The cross was a fearsome instrument of torture and death, but Jesus transformed it into an instrument of salvation, 'salve' which means 'healing'. That transformation occurs when we allow every one of our sufferings, the injustices we endure, the crosses we bear, hardships, and most undesirable aspects of our lives to share in the redemptive power of Christ.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"

(Matthew 16: 24-25)

Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

Peace, Father Larry



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WELCOME


We welcome all visitors. If you are new to the Parish, please fill out the registration form available at the entrance to the Church. And please introduce yourself to our pastor, Father Larry.

Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish | Paroisse Notre-Dame de Lourdes

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Parish Religious Education Program – PREP

PREP assists parents in providing religious education for children in Grades K-7 who are not attending Catholic schools. The children learn the basics of the faith and are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.



Calling all parents of public schoolchildren from Gr.1-7 to register now for PREP classes held **every Wednesday evening from 6:30–7:30**. Registration forms are available at both church entrances or at the parish office. **Any question please email or call the parish office.** PREP year 2024–2025 starts on September 11th. at the Upper St. Anne's Hall, located at the farthest end of the church parking lot.



Life Compass Society Walk, Bike or Run4Life

Sponsor Father Larry as he and others go on the Walk, Bike or Run4Life fundraising event for the Life Compass Society. Life Compass is a non-profit, pro-life society that seeks to promote the dignity of every human life through accurate and timely information. You may have seen their ads on buses and at Skytrain stations. The Walk, Bike or Run4Life event takes place on **Saturday, September 21**. It is a 5 km route along the PoCo Trail and begins at Lions Park, with registration opening at 9 am. To sponsor Father Larry, please fill out the Sponsor Sheet at the church entrance. You are also welcome to join the Walk, Bike or Run4Life yourself and collect your own sponsors. This a great event to do with your family and friends – and get your own sponsors. Let's support this worthwhile effort!

Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care

Come for an interactive day of prayer, videos and discussion based on Horizons of Hope, a toolkit that seeks to empower and educate parishioners on questions surrounding palliative care, dying, death, suffering, and bereavement from a Catholic perspective. This is an opportunity for caregivers, those who are sick, and family members to find support and help each other live well until our earthly life is over.

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish in Langley. Cost is \$20, including lunch. Registration deadline: Tuesday, September 17. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

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WEEKDAY MASS

Mon. to Sat.: Rosary at 7:55am and Mass at 8:30am
Thursday Mass will be followed by Adoration.

SUNDAY MASS

English: Sat.: 5:00pm and Sun.: 9:00am
English/French: Sun.: 11:00AM

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Masses: 8:30am and 7:00pm
Adoration: 9:00am – 10:00am and 5:45pm – 6:45pm

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

No morning Confession or Mass

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tues. to Fri. at 8:00am until 8:25am
Sat.: 4:00 – 4:45 pm. Or by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION

Anyone who is not able to attend Mass and wishes to receive the Eucharist, please contact the parish office.

BAPTISM

By appointment only.

MARRIAGE

All couples planning to be married in this Parish should contact the pastor at least 6 months in advance. Non-parishioners must obtain written permission from your parish.

FUNERAL

Contact Parish Priest before making arrangements.

SACRAMENTALS

For blessing of cars, religious articles and house blessings, please contact Parish Office.

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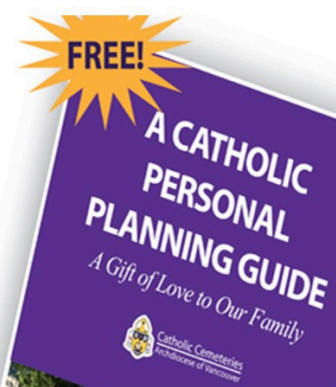


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