

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 11th, 2018

Stewardship Reflection

The leper in today's Gospel reading knew that Jesus had the power to heal him. Still, he wondered if Jesus would choose to do so. Jesus' response was, "I do choose." To serve a brother or sister in need we too must choose to do so. Stewardship likewise requires that we make a choice.

In fact, making stewardship a part of our everyday life requires many choices. Begin by making a conscious decision, carried out in action, to be a follower of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost. The 'carried out in action' part is the challenge. Stewardship invites us to use our gifts for the glory of God in the service of others.

Is there an area in your life that the Holy Spirit is moving you to choose to be a better steward in?

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Parish and School Mass:

It was a beautiful thing to have our parish families, school families and school teachers and staff come together for Eucharist this past Sunday at 11:30am. It is rare at Immaculate that parishioners have to stand for lack of space – but this was the case at 11:30am Mass on Sunday. This particular gathering for Sunday Eucharist meets a real need in the Liturgical and Faith lives of our school families – I think it is a keeper!

A note of acknowledgement to all the children who wrote the prayers of intercession and exercised the Liturgical Ministries of Lector, Leaders of Song and Usher – well done!

Also, a thank you to all of the moms and dads who changed schedules and plans to bring your children to church – they were beaming with joy as were our teachers and principal who also changed their Sunday plans so that we could gather together as God's family!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Feb 12:	BC Family Day
Tuesday, Feb 13:	Pancake (Shrove/Fat)
Wednesday, Feb 14:	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, Feb 18:	First Sunday of Lent
Monday, Feb 19:	Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation: 7-9pm
Wednesday, Feb 21:	Parish Lenten Prayer 11:30am-12:30pm *Every Wed during Lent
Friday, March 30:	Good Friday
Sunday, April 1:	Easter Sunday

The love of a
FAMILY
is life's greatest blessing

Prayer for Family Day

Blessed are you, God of all goodness, You have called us in your Son Jesus to be your family – and to be your Church.

Bless our families on this Family Day weekend. May the table in each of our homes always be an altar where upon we bless and eat bread together in love and goodness.

May your loving spirit fills the heart of our families so that we may let your light shine through us to one another.

We ask this blessing through Christ who experienced joy, love and security within the holy family of Mary and Joseph.



Lunar Thanksgiving Mass

Chinese Ministry invites all to the year-end Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller, followed by lunch on Monday, Feb. 12 at 11 am at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Vancouver.



Immaculate Conception School

Please note Registration for Kindergarten to Grade 7 is now in process at our parish school. If you have missed the Open House please kindly contact the school office as soon as possible to pick up an application package. We are still accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. If you are a new family in the Parish come and see our Principal since we may still have openings. For enquiry please phone the school at (604)224-5012.



Ash Wednesday Liturgies – Wednesday, Feb 14th

- ◆ **9:00 am - Morning Mass with the distribution of Ashes (School Mass)**
- ◆ **4:00 pm - Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Ashes
(not a mass)**
- ◆ **7:00 pm - Parish Mass with the distribution of Ashes**

❖ Lenten Prayer ❖

You are invited to come and spend some time in prayer **every Wednesday during Lent beginning February 21st**. The church will be opened from 11:30am to 12:30pm for quiet reflection. At noon, we will gather to pray the Angelus and to lift up to our loving God our prayer intentions and those placed in the Prayer Jar. Join us as we gather as a faith community.

Our Children Reaching Out to Children in Haiti and Vietnam:

This Lent we are inviting our Parish Children to reach out in partnership with our sister schools in Haiti and Vietnam.

Our sister schools in Haiti and Vietnam are poor in things – not spirit! Our Almsgiving practice this lent can help them with a particular need ... and fill us with a spirit of solidarity and joy! In Haiti our sister school continues to suffer from the impact of earthquakes and hurricanes. Our sister school in Vietnam also struggles to acquire simple items to help with children play – Fr. Paul Bui – our former pastor – personally visits there when he goes home to Vietnam and tells us of their real needs. May our Lenten gesture of Almsgiving be our way to reach out in grace and goodness to our brothers and sisters in Haiti and Vietnam.

During Lent, at the Offertory the children will be invited to bring up a ‘silver’ offering (a Toonie or less). At the end of Lent we will buy soccer balls for our sister schools in Vietnam and Haiti.

What we take for granted in our Vancouver schools – soccer balls and the like – these are hard to come by items in our sister schools in Haiti and Vietnam. Every child should have access to things like soccer balls because play leads to friendships, community building, sportsmanship and if nothing else – a child at play must make God smile! May our Almsgiving this Lent help to make all of us smile knowing that we are doing something beautiful for our children, children around the world and for God’s son – Jesus.