

## **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 17, 2017**

### **Stewardship Reflection:**

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s” - Romans 14:8*

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God daily, and ask him how he wants you to use the gifts he has given you.

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### **‘Middle’ School and ‘High School’ Gathering**

We are a little parish but because of that many good friendships were formed here at Immaculate among our children and families – especially at ‘our little blue school house’. As a way of honouring these foundational friendships and relationships we want to host a Friday evening gathering for all of our kids who are now in middle and high schools be they at St. Patrick’s, Vancouver College, Little Flower or any other public or private schools. The evening would be an opportunity to ‘celebrate’ the foundational friendships you have made here at Immaculate as well an opportunity to cherish the core values that continue to give a Catholic horizon to you as you move into larger and more complex life circles ...

Middle School Gathering ( Grade 7-9)

Friday, 6:30pm Date ? TBA

High School Gathering ( Grade 10-12)

Friday, 6:30pm Date ? TBA

We are hoping to have some IC staff and parents also come to celebrate with us!

## **Sunday Twilight Mass**

This past Sunday evening we began the celebration of our monthly Twilight Sunday Masses. Our Twilight Masses gather people from around the Archdiocese. The contemporary Gospel Music and informality of the Liturgy helps all who come to revitalize their Faith and experience Catholic community. We offer this Twilight Mass as our little way at Immaculate to evangelize the many within our families and city who are seeking deeper meaning in their lives and who are wandering in the hope of finding a faith community and a compass for their lives.

**Our next Twilight Mass is at 8pm on  
Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – All Are Welcome !**

## **Father’s and Son’s Morning**

As a parish perhaps it might be a good time to look at providing an opportunity for Dads & Sons to gather on Saturday mornings here at Immaculate to do small projects around our Parish and School Campus. It might be a way of ensuring that the kid’s service hours can also become a family time too ?

High school boys are always looking for service hour projects. In fact, some dads might like to work with a group of boys on such projects because some dads due to various work schedules may not be able to participate. It might be good to start with a simple mass at 8:30am on Saturday morning – a time when dads and sons pray together. Afterwards you can do a work project around the campus – raking leaves, cleaning drains, gardening, general clean up, power washing, minor repairs/painting etc. I think the parish could throw in some coffee and snacks ? There is real joy when dads and sons have time to hang out together. The project is secondary! Let’s see if we can get this ‘ministry’ for dads and sons up and running soon ?

**Volunteers needed for 2017-18 for Children's Liturgy** – This is a great opportunity to teach the curious minds of some of our youngest parishioners (3 to 7 year olds) and likely deepen your faith through the experience! Help assist or lead the Liturgy – the lesson plans and materials are already prepared and training through the parish is available on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Children's Liturgy is offered at selected 10am Sunday masses with a flexible schedule. If you are interested please contact Catherine Van Raamsdon (778)686-2568 or email [cvr@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:cvr@mail.ubc.ca).

### **Archdiocesan Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life**

Join Fr. Rodney Nootebos, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, along with other members of the Faithful throughout the Archdiocese, in a monthly Holy Hour of Prayer, intensely focused on asking the "Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers into the harvest." The first Holy Hour is at St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver on September 21 at 7:00pm. Visit [rcav.org](http://rcav.org) for full schedule of parishes, dates and times.

### **(P.R.E.P) Our Parish Religious Education Program offers faith formation for children who do not attend Catholic schools.**

These religious formation classes are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 4 – 5 pm. If your child is in Grade 2 they will be prepared to celebrate their First Holy Communion as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Those in Grade 7 will be prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is wonderful when children continue to come to these classes prior to Grade 2 and after Grade 2 because the sharing of Faith needs to take place within the context of a community gathered. The children enjoy and value coming together as a Catholic community to pray, read scripture, sing hymns and to nurture the gift of Faith within them. We encourage that mom and dad join us because Faith grows best when mom and dad are present, pray and share their faith too ... Please contact the parish office or Caroline Fung to register for this fall.

### **Come to a Men's Discernment Night**

Do you have questions about discerning God's call for you life ? Vocations in Progress for men is an opportunity to meet priests, ask questions, and learn about their life and spirituality. The informal event will include prayer, dinner, and discussion.

The first event of the year will be held on Sep 20 at St. Patrick's Parish. Add: 2881 Main St, Vancouver. *Event begins with dinner at 7pm.*

R.S.V.P to Fr. Rodney Nootebos:  
[vocations@rcav.org](mailto:vocations@rcav.org)  
(604)785-7088

For future meetings, please visit  
[vocationsvancouver.ca](http://vocationsvancouver.ca)

### **Have you thought about becoming a Roman Catholic - about being Baptized ?**

R.C.I.A. – 'The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' is a 'Faith Formation' opportunity for men and women wanting to become a catholic or to celebrate a Sacrament that for some reason you never received when you were younger – it might be Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation ? RCIA is an opportunity to ask your personal questions about Faith and what it is to be a Catholic ? It is an opportunity for 'Faith Formation'. If you've been thinking about becoming a Catholic why not come join us for RCIA here at Immaculate. We plan to start gathering every other Friday between 7:30-9pm in the front lounge at the Parish Center. In this small gathering we will learn to discern the movement of Grace within our life. If you are wondering about God, Faith and Prayer then come to RCIA this fall and 'Discover' what it is to let the gift of Faith shape and give meaning to your life ?

If you are reading this – God's Grace might very well be nudging you to come and hear the 'Good News' the Gospel holds for you! 'Come and See!' Friday, Sep 29 at 7:30pm

For more information contact  
Fr. Paul (604)224-5678 [smithfriar@yahoo.ca](mailto:smithfriar@yahoo.ca)  
Peace and all Good!