

February 23rd, 2020
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship Reflection

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... (Matthew 5:44)
 Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from “me” and moves it towards God and others.

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**The Sacrament of Reconciliation
 at Immaculate**



Wednesday, March 4th: 7pm - 8pm
Saturday, March 7th: 10am - 11am

Liturgical Memo:



Ash Wednesday – Feb 26
 Palm Sunday – April 5

Good Friday – April 10
 Easter Sunday – April 12

A Reflection on Giving

There are those who give but only on condition that they receive something in return and receive it immediately. There are those who give on condition that they receive something in return later on and with a handsome profit. And there are those who give without expecting anything in return now or ever: They scatter the seeds of the heart without looking for any harvest. They are imitating the generosity of God, who bestows his love on good people and bad, and grants mercy to saints and sinners.



Actions of Love for Lent ~ ‘Children Reaching Out to Children’

This Lent the children in our Parish will have opportunity to reach out in solidarity with the children in the Holy Land. It is the birth place of Jesus. In the Holy Land there are thousands of children who are very poor. During the Sunday collection the children will be invited to bring up ‘coins’ as an offering to help the poor children in the Holy Land. As guardians of the Holy Land – the Franciscans care for many families whose children are in desperate need. The money we collect will be sent directly to the Franciscans so that they may directly help children who are in need. The children’s offering is a ‘coin’ offering so that it may come from them. On Sunday – children from our parish will speak to the children at the masses of the needs of the children in the Holy Land.

✦ At Easter dads and moms – or perhaps some of our Parish organizations – you might like ‘to be in solidarity’ with our children and choose to ‘match’ the gift raised by our parish children. If so, let us know and it will speak deeply to the hearts of our children that desire to reach out in generosity to children on the other side of the world in need.



✦ **Acts of Love for Lent:** Lent is a time to ‘Fast’ from the stuff that dulls the most authentic human yearnings within us so as to awaken our desire to engage in ‘acts of love’ that renew the joy of God within us and our relationships. Mindful of this we will have baskets at the entrance of the Church with proposed ‘Acts of Love’ that we could all easily practice at home, among friends and in our workplaces. Each week simply reach into these ‘Acts of Love’ baskets and make it part of

your ‘Lenten Practice’. There will be specific baskets containing specific and appropriate ‘Lenten Practices’ for children, high school students, singles, spouses, seniors and at our workplaces.

Let us pray that this Lenten venture may awaken all of our minds to the deep truth that for most of us, it is the simple ‘Acts of Love’ that when offered and received redeem us and restore our hope and joy.

"My God! My God!" Lenten Retreat A prayerful invitation to enter Lent through the lenses of scripture, prayer, music, imagination and art. Retreat includes quiet time for individual prayer as well as opportunity for small group faith sharing. Sat, March 7 at St. Mark's Parish in Vancouver. Register online at eventbrite.ca

R.C.I.A.
Our next gathering:
Friday, Feb 28 at 7:30pm



Twilight Mass
Sunday, March 1st
at 8:00pm

◆ For more information about the news & events of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, please visit www.rcav.org

☞ Lent - 40 Days of Grace ☞

The symbol of 'Ashes' on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are made from the earth and that we shall return to the earth. Lent exhorts us to spend our lives on everything that is good, true and blessed.



Ash Wednesday Liturgies: February 26th

9:00am Morning Mass with the distribution of Ashes (School Mass)

11:00am Parish Morning Mass

4:00pm Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Ashes (not a Mass)

7:00pm Parish Mass with the distribution of Ashes



✦ **'Angelus' and 'Holy Hour'** Beginning Mar 4th, we will hold a 'Holy Hour' which will begin with the praying of the 'Angelus' every Wednesday at 11:30am during Lent. During a Holy Hour one is invited to sit in prayer and stillness in the presence of Jesus present on the Altar in the Blessed Sacrament. This prayer will be led by our Parish's Pastoral care and Prayer Ministers.



✦ **'Stations of the Cross' at 8:00pm** During Lent there will be an opportunity to focus on 'one' of the 'Stations of the Cross' in the Church at 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings. We will focus on a particular Station of the Cross. It will be a pastoral reflection.

The way of the Cross is an ancient prayer of the Church – a prayer of pilgrimage created by the Franciscans. It is a way for us – especially during Lent – to journey into God's mercy. A mercy that redeems us and makes us whole. The reflection will be 10 minutes. It will conclude with an invitation to spend time in silence with Jesus – Jesus present on the Altar in the Blessed Sacrament.

✦ *Fr. Paul and parishioners will lead the pastoral reflections on the Stations of the Cross.*

✦ *On Wednesday, March 18, we invite our high school students to lead and participate in the Stations of the Cross for that night.*

✦ **Sunday Witness During Lent** Parishioners have been asked to speak to us for a few minutes at the end of Sunday Mass about their Faith. Each presenter will speak of their Faith Experience through the lens that will hopefully reveal to us how God is strengthening and healing their heart, soul and life. We hope that their witness may help us to open up our life to God's blessing, healing and grace as we journey in Faith through Lent to Easter.



Small School ~ Big Community

If you are a new Parishioner and are looking for a school for your child we are currently accepting applications from K-7 at Immaculate for this September. A Catholic education is a wonderful foundation to build a life upon. Contact the school office 604-224-5012 for details.

♦ *Please note 2019 tax receipts have been sent to you in the mail this past week. As a Parish family we thank you for your faith-filled generosity!*

You can now **E-Transfer** or use your **Credit Card** to make donations to the Parish! You can E-Transfer your donations to the Parish to our Parish Accounting email: **IC_Accounting@shaw.ca** (Please note: no Password is required for E-Transfer). For those who would like to donate using credit cards, please contact Kathy at the Parish office (604)224-5678 for details. We thank you for your support!

