



Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

July 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We have been having parables from the Gospel of Matthew which are meant to attack our imagination and find deeper meaning from these parables.

This Sunday we are called to look for hidden treasure. The man in the parable is willing to sacrifice his whole life to have that hidden treasure.

In the first reading, King Solomon begged God to give him understanding. "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil." What are we going to ask God in our prayer? When we pray Our Father, we pray "Thy Kingdom Come."

Brothers and sisters, I suggest, like Solomon, we ask God for understanding and wisdom, so that we may be wise enough to discern what is good for each one of us in pursuit of God's Kingdom." Seek He first, His Kingdom, and all the rest will be given to us, not in small measure but abundantly.

In the month of August, our candidates will receive First Eucharist and Confirmation. Please pray for the Candidates and their families.

As we want to give everybody the opportunity to attend the Sunday service, because of your understanding as you are called to give up attendance at one Sunday Mass, we are managing to give a smile with grateful hearts to those on the waiting list.

I would like to recognize and thank all of you, volunteers and coordinators, who are involved in various parish ministries, as well as our volunteers manning the church gate, the greeters and the attendance checkers. To Terry, who does not just do the Sacristan work, may God bless him for all his varied services to the church. Our Masses are enriched by our Cantors and Organist. God bless your voices and talents. Communication plays a major role in any organization, thank you Leah, our Parish Secretary, for making sure that my messages gets out to our parishioners through our parish bulletin and emails, for keeping our website and social media accounts updated, and other extra works you do in keeping our parishioners and Covid-19 volunteers informed and guided.

Dr. Bridget and Keith, are trying to bring life to the garden on Pendrell St. side of church, anyone who wishes to participate by donating plants or flower pots, will be appreciated. Lolit and her friend Doris, have joined hands to care for the rose garden. Thank you all for your labor of love.

Enjoy the summer, take care and keep safe. Remember to follow provincial and diocesan guidelines in combatting Covid-19.

God bless you all.

Prayers and blessings,

Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD
Pastor

An Ancient Psalmist Calls Us to Gratitude

If you are looking for some consolation from the Bible during these disquieting times, you might try the Book of Psalms. Historically, the psalms are so closely linked to King David that many believe some of them were written by him. They provide prayers for every aspect of the life of the Israelites, and today they reveal a spiritual wisdom that can draw the Christian steward into a deeper intimacy with God, especially through the fundamental notion of gratitude.

Psalm 50 provides an insightful look at gratitude. The psalmist felt so strongly about the call to thankfulness to the Lord that he even chose to speak with the Lord's voice, assuring the people that God did not need their burnt offerings: "I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine. The cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine." No, God tells the people, everything is already God's, so your cattle and birds and young bulls need not be offered to their Creator.

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So what does God want from us? The psalmist urges us to "offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving."

Keeping in mind that all we have is from God, and remains God's, Christian stewards awake each morning to say with humility, "Thank you." The ancient psalmist's words make sense to a modern Christian, because the God who gave us free will does not possess our thankfulness until we freely give it. And we're asked for more than a perfunctory show of gratitude. The God who already possesses cattle on a thousand hills and every bird of the mountain is calling us to a deep sense of conversion, a sense that we stand before the God who has gifted us with everything we possess.

Go to your Bible this month. Take some quiet time to pray some of the psalms. And remember to be thankful for what he has done for us.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of July 18/19, 2020

A profound stewardship prayer is offered by the young King Solomon in today's first reading. He asks the Lord to give him an understanding heart, compassion towards God's people and the insight to distinguish right from wrong. An understanding heart, or wisdom, is a gift from God. It is a gift that enables us to make good decisions and prudent choices. Cultivating and sharing this gift is essential, especially when poor decisions and lack of compassion have consequences that affect the lives of others. During these disquieting times, are we asking God for an understanding heart? Are we exercising good stewardship over the gift of wisdom? Are we sharing our compassionate hearts with others?

Stewardship Reflection - July 26, 2020 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."
(Romans 8:28)*

Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God's plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

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Mass Intentions				
Day				Intention
Saturday	Jul	25	9am	Sp. Int. of Nikolas Rokanas
			4pm	+Shamus Mulhern+
			6pm	Sp. Int. of Janie Manrique
Sunday	Jul	26	9am	+Mary & Alvinoi Delcol+
			11am	+Remedios G. Legazpi+
			12:30pm	Sp. Int. of Parishioners
Monday	Jul	27	8am	Sp. Int. of Romeo Salvani Jr.
Tuesday	Jul	28	8am	Sp. Int. of Celine Salvani
Wednesday	Jul	29	8am	Sp. Int. of London Faith Salvani
Thursday	Jul	30	8am	Sp. Int. of Devin Grace Salvani
Friday	Jul	31	8am	Sp. Int. of Thea Hope Salvani

PROJECT ADVANCE 2020

In light of the CoVid pandemic, the goals of this year's Project Advance have been altered to reach out to those most in need of our help. Although the official launch-date of the appeal has been delayed until September, a number of parishioners have already made their annual donations, either online or by mail. The Archbishop has been heartened by the generous response of parishes throughout the Archdiocese, including our own parish of Guardian Angels which has already raised \$8,360 toward the appeal. Thank you to those parishioners who have already given, and reassurances to those who are not able to donate until later in the year. I am confident that our parish will eventually succeed in reaching our goal.

All of us have been affected by Covid 19, but we are united in our concern for one another and in our continued gratefulness for blessings received.

Deirdre Santesso, Parish Coordinator of Project Advance

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ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Email Fraud Warning

The Archdiocese has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to a recent Internet email phishing scam. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards, and other forms of financial assistance.

ARISE! Grade 8 Summer Retreat

Are you ready to get to know Jesus as your friend? Are you ready to deepen your relationship with him? Let us show you how much Jesus loves you and how you can live your daily lives in a relationship with him! The purpose of the Summer Retreat for Grade 8 Youth is to lead young people into a deeper understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ – through identifying practical ways and ideas on growing in holiness and into regular (daily) practices that will strengthen and deepen the relationship with God – through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Presented as a virtual (online) retreat, we will pray, share stories, talks, and spend time sharing and growing in faith together in small groups. This is a great opportunity to grow together in faith, fun, and fellowship! Join us on Friday, August 7 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, August 8 from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (with a mid-day break). Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events/3001

The Marriage Course

We are excited to begin this new opportunity to discover how to love each other better and to grow and thrive as a couple which in turn builds a more joyful family.

We would like to invite you and your spouse to participate in The Marriage Course, a 7-week program produced by Alpha International, for couples "seeking practical support to strengthen their relationship, keep the spark alive and stay connected." Join us on Zoom Webinar every Thursday from August 13 until September 24 from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events/2801

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Please join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month at a different parish for a new culture of life. Rosary and prayers to follow Mass. Join us online Saturday, Aug. 1 at 9:00 am. Live-streamed from St. Helen's Parish, Burnaby. Visit beholdvancouver.org/events for the live stream link and more info.