



## Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

September 14, 2020

**Dear Parishioners,**

We pray number of times “Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass us.” Today’s first reading from the Book of Sirach 28.2, exhorts “Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.” This reading further recommends Sirach 28: 8-9, “Avoid strife and your sins will be fewer, for a quarrelsome man kindles disputes, commits sin of disrupting friendship.” This Sunday’s responsorial Psalm invites us to have the heart and mind of God (Psalm 103.8), “The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

Jesus in the Gospel responds to Peter’s generous offer to forgive – “seventy times seven” with a parable of unforgiving servant. The person who received a debt relief, would not forgive his fellow servant who owed a fraction of what he owed him. This altitude of lack of generosity resulted as the Gospel tells (Mt.18:34) “Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.” Then Jesus concludes the parable with a warning to the listeners (Mt. 18:35) “So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Last weekend our Parish Project Advance Coordinator, Deirdre Santesso, gave us the overview of Project Advance and response of parishes in the Archdiocese, as well as our Parish. Certainly, we are not responding as we should. Therefore, I personally appeal to our parishioners to be generous, since “God loves a cheerful giver.” You can donate online, write a cheque, or pay in cash – marking clearly your donations towards Project Advance. Thank you, donors and all those who have made plan to donate.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross is celebrated and on Tuesday the 15th, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is commemorated. On both days Masses will be at 8 am.

Last Tuesday, Sept. 8, we started the RCIA Program. I thank Tom Weaver and invite parishioners to do your part in inviting people to join this program.

As you know, Coronavirus cases are on the increase in B.C., please take a good care of yourselves. Please follow Provincial Health and Archdiocesan guidelines.

Be safe and be caring for one another.

Prayers and blessings,

**Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD - Pastor**

Source: International Catholic Stewardship Council - September 2020 • e-Bulletin

## ENCOUNTER!

Meeting Jesus on Higher Ground.

Is it possible to grow spiritually in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? The simple answer is yes. But, our rhythms of prayer, what we're praying for, how we lift up our neighbors and how we live the Gospel will need to be transformed. Come and experience the practical ways we can deepen our relationship with Jesus during these disquieting times by joining us for the 2020 Virtual Stewardship Conference hosted by the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC).

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The Sermon on the Mount calls everyone in the Church to be open to meeting Jesus on "higher ground" and to learn how to be better stewards of his Gospel.

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The theme of this year's ICSC virtual conference is "ENCOUNTER! Meeting Jesus on Higher Ground." This year's conference image is the colorful, inspirational painting of the Sermon on the Mount by Fra Angelico. In a time when the world seems to have turned upside down because of the pandemic, perhaps it is an appropriate time to experience a new encounter with the Lord through the Gospel of Matthew. Reading and reflecting more prayerfully on the apostle's account of the Sermon on the Mount can lead us, as Saint Augustine maintained, to a more perfect Christian life.

There is nothing like the teachings in Jesus' Sermon anywhere else in the New Testament. In the Sermon, Jesus walks up the mountain, takes his listeners to "higher ground" and turns the values of his day upside down. He urges his listeners to realize that God is a God of perfect love and that love should be the center of all thoughts and actions. Indeed, the love of

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Christ and each other is fundamental to the good steward's understanding of what it means to put the Eucharist into action.

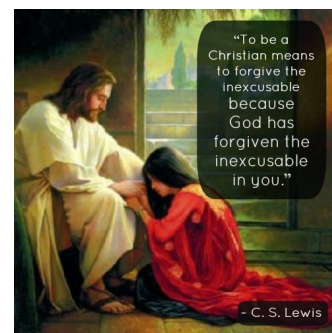
We know Jesus' teachings in the Sermon make hard demands on us. Few of us can fulfill these demands of love unless we allow the risen Lord to fulfill them within our hearts. But a fundamental stewardship question is this: can we allow Jesus to enter? Saint Paul maintained that it is very difficult to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus when dealing with others (see Phil. 2:5-7). But disciples know that working at opening their hearts to the Lord and praying for an ongoing conversion of their attitudes is necessary in order that we may allow the Lord to enter and transform us.

The Sermon on the Mount calls everyone in the Church to be open to meeting Jesus on "higher ground" and to learn how to be better stewards of his Gospel. It is worth our time to read the Sermon prayerfully and to experience a meaningful encounter with Jesus while doing so. Join us for ICSC's 58th annual conference and seize the opportunity to engage others who are seeking the same encounter and can help us be better stewards and followers of Christ Jesus.

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### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 12/13, 2020

Today's Gospel reading continues Jesus' instructions on being good stewards of others – the direction that if we love Jesus Christ, we must forgive an individual 77 times. The reading compels us to consider one of the most difficult practices of Christian discipleship. Forgiveness is the way of Jesus, the way of the cross. Vengeance, bitterness and hatred seem so much easier and certainly more desirable. Forgiveness is a hard road to travel, but it is the only road that leads to life in Christ. Consider this week who you need to forgive.



**Stewardship Reflection - September 13, 2020**  
**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"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 is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

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### Mass Intentions

	Day		Intention
Saturday	Sep 12	4pm	+Minnie MacGregor+
		6pm	+Rodolfo Tayag+
Sunday	Sep 13	9am	+Joseph & Nando Lorello+
		11am	+Katherine & Lionel Lowe+
		12:30pm	For the Parishioners
Monday	Sep 14	8am	+Ken Miller+
Tuesday	Sep 15	8am	Sp. Int. of Anna Goritsas & Robert Federchuk
Wednesday	Sep 16	8am	Sp. Int. of Cecilia Mulcahey
Thursday	Sep 17	8am	Sp. Int. of Concepcion Padin
Friday	Sep 18	8am	+Jose M. Oloriz+



**The Knights of Columbus (KoC)** is a Catholic service organization that has had an active affiliation to our Guardian Angels Parish and they do a lot more than pancake breakfasts. KoC Council 14723 are currently welcoming new members who are practicing Catholics and interested in making our community stronger.

For information regarding the Knights call John Jane at 604-558-2749, Barry Wingo at 604-767-6496 or visit [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). If you just happen to have shoe-boxes full of old postage stamps, consider donating to our Parish council of KoC. The stamps would be put up for auction and all proceeds will go to the KoC Vocation Fund. There is a stamp box in the vestibule at the back of the church or pass them along to Guardian Angels Sacristy steward Terry O'Neil.

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sep 13:** 2nd Collection in support of the Holy Land

**Sep 14: Feast:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Sep 15: Memorial:** Our Lady of Sorrows

**Sep 16: Memorial:** Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

### TEMPORARY Cancellation of the 9 am Saturday morning Mass:

As there is not much people coming to the 9 am Saturday Mass compared to the 4 pm & 6 pm Anticipated Mass, *we are TEMPORARILY cancelling the 9 am Saturday Mass until further notice.*

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in our attempt to normalize operations in our Parish amidst this uncertain time.

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



Sessions are for persons inquiring about the Christian faith or wanting to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Sessions are held Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., beginning September 8.

### BAPTISM PREP CLASS



For those preparing their child to get baptized in the Catholic church, we are conducting Baptism Prep Class upon request. Please call or email the parish office for details.

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. 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 \$11,025 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. 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.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.



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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.

### **[Into the Deep: Annulment and the Marriage Tribunal](#)**

Join us on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom as Dr. Robitaille explains the process of annulment and the role of the Marriage Tribunal. She will also answer questions such as, "What happens when a marriage breaks down?" and, "Is an annulment just a 'Catholic Divorce'?" Register online at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

### **[World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass](#)**

On Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, at 3:30 pm, the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB. The Mass will be live-streamed at [holynosarycathedral.org/live-stream](http://holynosarycathedral.org/live-stream) for all who would like to join in prayerful celebration and solidarity with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

### **[Duc In Altum: A Year for Your Future Info Session](#)**

Young adults (ages 20-25) are invited to attend an info session about Duc In Altum: A Year for Your Future. Have you ever asked yourself: What am I doing with my life? How do I find out what God wants me to be and do? How do I discern? How do I decide and follow through? Duc In Altum will give you space for discernment in a group environment, personalized accompaniment, and help you identify avenues for personal growth and service of life!

Do you think this program is for you? Join us for an information session on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 pm or Saturday, Sept. 26 at 8:00 pm on Zoom. Email [ducinaltumvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:ducinaltumvancouver@gmail.com) for the link or DM @srhaejin on Instagram.

### **[Dialogue on Aging's Fall Virtual Public Presentation Series](#)**

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm for Dialogue on Aging's first Fall Virtual Public Presentation Session! This session will include mini-presentations from our exhibitors (to be announced), our feature presentation - "Maximizing Your Brain's Health in Uncertain Times" by Dr. Alex Henri-Bhargava, and opportunities for dialogue and Q&A with faculty. Dialogue on Aging is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and the Vancouver Foundation. For more information/resources, please visit [publicpresentations.providencehealthcare.org](http://publicpresentations.providencehealthcare.org)