

*A Reflection from Fr. Joseph*



The apostle Paul is one of the greatest saints of the Christian tradition. Some of you might remember that before Paul became a Christian, he persecuted the early church. When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul made a 180-degree turn. Instead of persecuting the church, he now was called to proclaim its gospel. But Paul’s history of persecuting the church was not so easily forgotten. We see this in today’s first reading from the Book of Acts. Paul comes to Jerusalem and wants to join the Christian community there. But the Christians in Jerusalem remember his persecution and are afraid of him. They will not let him in. What good is it to be an apostle of the church, if the church does not trust you? Paul’s mission was clearly threatened by his past.

It is then that Barnabas steps in. Barnabas was a trusted member of the Jerusalem community. He stood up for Paul. The text says he “took charge” of Paul. The name Barnabas means “Son of Encouragement.” Barnabas took Paul to the apostles, explained to them his story, and encouraged them to accept him. They did, and the rest is history. However, it is likely that, if Barnabas had not interceded, Paul would not have become the great apostle he was meant to be.

So, why did Barnabas step in to support Paul? He saw in Paul a gift, the gift of preaching, the gift of believing, the gift of serving. Barnabas believed that, that gift came from God, and it was meant to be shared. Now, if Barnabas had been a jealous or competitive person, he would not have helped Paul. He would have been afraid that Paul’s gift would be greater than his own, that Paul’s career would outshine his own. But Barnabas was not jealous or competitive. His only concern was to see that the gifts that God had given would be effective. The gospel needed to be preached, and he knew that Paul could do it.

This experience of Barnabas leaves us with two questions: Who has been a Barnabas to us? and how can we be a Barnabas to others? Who are the people, in our lives, who have encouraged us in a serious way? A parent or a grandparent who told us that we were good. A teacher that convinced us we had talent. A friend or perhaps even a passing acquaintance who helped us land our first job or who introduced us to people who could get things done. The experience of Barnabas reminds us that none of us have become the people that we are, simply on our own. We have grown and we have become successful because of those who have encouraged and supported us. For this, we should always be thankful.

We should also ask, “How can I be a Barnabas to others?” Is there a talent we see in a child or a grandchild that is real and needs to be encouraged? Do we know of someone who is imprisoned by addiction or depression? What can we do to help set them free? Are there people at work struggling to get on their feet? Can we support their gifts and let them be recognized? Of course, to do any of these things we, like Barnabas, cannot be jealous or competitive. Our concern should only be that the gifts that God has given should not be wasted.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mon. Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>** - ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, memorial  
Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26

**Tue. Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>** - ST. MARIE DE L’INCARNATION, memorial  
Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a

**Wed. May 1<sup>st</sup>** - Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8

**Thurs. May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - ST. ATHANASIUS, memorial  
Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11



**Fri. May 3<sup>rd</sup>** - ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES, feast  
1 Cor. 15:1-8; John 14:6-14

**Sat. May 4<sup>th</sup>** - Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

**Sun. May 5<sup>th</sup>** - 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 10:25-25, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

**There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection next weekend, at all the Masses for The Pope’s Pastoral Works. This collection provides an opportunity for Catholics to make**

**a financial offering to assist the Holy Father.**

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Wed. May 1<sup>st</sup>** - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

**Fri. May 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

**Sat. May 4<sup>th</sup>** - 5:00 PM - C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay, S.Ojerinde, N. Marquez-Ambrosio..

**Sun. May 5<sup>th</sup>** - 9AM - J & S Yip, A & V Collins, A & A Chan, I.Petti.. 11 AM - Elisa, Klyde & Kyle Tan, S.Szomora, A & A Babas, W.Pham.. 5 PM - J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Plata, L.Villawarayan, M.Cabuhayan, J.Cayabyab, Z.Bambilla.



**CHILDREN’S LITURGY - Volunteers needed !**

Do you have a love for children and the Word of God? We are seeking volunteers for the Children’s Liturgy, which is held at the Sunday 11am Mass. Volunteers assist on a

rotating schedule which is flexible. To find out more contact Anita at 778-838-4559 or [anita.s.hua@gmail.com](mailto:anita.s.hua@gmail.com)

**FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT** will be held this Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the 9 am Mass until 7:15 pm Benediction, followed by Mass at 7:30 pm. We would appreciate having a minimum of 2 volunteers per hour during the day.



### C. W. L. NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Please join us next Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, after the 9 & 11 am Masses, at the entrance of the church for coffee and fellowship.

## SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION LITURGY

Will be held in our church next Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm. Please keep our students from the school, PREP and El Shaddai, who are preparing to receive their First Communion, in your prayers.



**Please Note:** No cameras or videos are to be used in the church during the ceremony.

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### Up-Coming Events

#### Stewardship Reflection

*"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."* - 1 John 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start! - Copyright © 2024 Archdiocese of St. Louis

### Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

*"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a*

*lifetime."*

- Pope

Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. [family.rcav.org/mam](http://family.rcav.org/mam)

### Applications Open: Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary

The Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary recognizes high school students making a difference in their parishes, schools, communities and homes. Two Grade 12 students will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each for their post-secondary schooling. **Application deadline, May 13<sup>th</sup>.** Learn more and apply at [rcav.org/youth-ministry](http://rcav.org/youth-ministry)

### MARCH FOR LIFE - Victoria, BC

Join thousands from across Canada who are passionate about promoting life from conception to its natural end. Participants will gather in prayer and listen to a number of speakers who actively advance life issues at the BC Legislature in Victoria, in an effort to lobby the pro-life movement across the province. On Thursday, May 9, from 9:00 am to 3:30 p.m. Pick-up and drop-off points are available at several locations throughout the Archdiocese. Learn more at [m4lvictoria.ca](http://m4lvictoria.ca)

### Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month for a new culture of life. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, we will begin with Mass, followed by the rosary and other prayers either at a church with Adoration or at a local hospital. All are welcome! The next Mass and vigil takes place on **May 4 at 8:30 am at St. Mary's Parish** in Vancouver.

### 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY OF VANCOUVER

Join us for a wonderful evening in the company of seminarians and friends! The gala will help raise funds necessary to continue the mission of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Vancouver. Friday, May 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver. Cost is \$130, includes your entry, door prize, access to the silent auction, and a buffet dinner. Learn more and buy tickets via [rmsvancouver.ca/events](http://rmsvancouver.ca/events)

### Hope on the Horizon: Catholic Street Missionaries Summer Outreach

Hope on the Horizon is an outreach program designed to introduce young adults aged 19-30 to the life of a street missionary, sharing a life of prayer and service with others

and bringing the love of Jesus to the homeless. For two weeks, participants will live a communal life, praying, learning, and reaching out to our homeless friends on the streets. In addition, there will be human, apostolic, spiritual and intellectual formation. We will also enjoy recreational activities together. From August 6 to 21 in Vancouver. Program fee is \$650, including food and accommodation. Candidates will receive mentorship on how to raise funds for the program fee. Sponsors will be issued a tax receipt. Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 30. Learn more and register at: [catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon](http://catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon)