

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 3, 2019

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday – 9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Don Appel, Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Lloyd, Jackie Belair

Last Sunday Offering

\$ Envelopes Number of envelopes:
\$ Loose
\$ Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

World Day of the Sick Monday February 11th, 2019: In 1992, Pope John Paul II instituted World Day of the Sick, setting aside the 11th of February, the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, for its annual celebration. On this day, the sick are encouraged to reflect on the Catholic meaning of suffering and to recall God's health-giving presence. We are also reminded that God often heals and restores life in unexpected ways.

**The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated in our Parish on
Saturday – February 9 – at the 9:00 Mass
The Sacrament of Anointing will be administered after the Homily.**

The Church believes and confesses that among the Seven Sacraments there is this one especially intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness or who are dying. ***The Anointing of the sick is that Sacrament by which the sick person or dying person, through anointing with oil and the prayer of the priest, receive grace for the salvation of their souls and possible bodily healing.*** In other words, the Anointing of the Sick gives grace that allows him or her to accept suffering or die a good death.

The Sacrament ***can be administered more than once*** given one has sufficient reason. The Sacrament can be administered to mental and spiritual illness, physical illness, those who struggle with advanced age and those about to undergo surgery or treatment or to a person who is dying. We are reminded that God often heals and restores life in unexpected ways.

Importantly, a person that is about to undergo an operation or very ill or dying should request the Anointing of the Sick from a priest. On such occasions many Catholics

combine the Anointing of the Sick with a Confession.

It is a Sacrament in which the priest first lays his hands on the person's head and then anoints the person's forehead with blessed oil, and says this beautiful prayer: "***Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.***" Then the priest anoints the hands, saying, "***May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.***"

Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, will be celebrating a ***Mass of Anointing of the Sick on the World Day of Prayer for the Sick*** at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 555 S. Slocan Street, Vancouver, V5K 3X5, on Monday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m. The Sacrament of Anointing will be administered after the Homily. All the sick and their caregivers are invited to attend. Following Mass, simple refreshments will be offered in the school gym. Plenty of parking is available.

Our Lady of Lourdes – February 11th

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the *Dogma of the Immaculate Conception* in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in a cave at Massabielle, near Lourdes in France. This began a *series of 18 visions*. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: *I am the Immaculate Conception.*"

Bernadette did not know what "*I am the Immaculate Conception*" mean. She was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "*O Mary conceived without sin.*"

At first there was initial skepticism. Although others accompanied Bernadette to the grotto, no one else could see or hear the visions. During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the Our Lady of Lourdes for the Diocese. The Episcopal Commission, an official inquiry, stated, ". . . that this appearance bears every mark of truth and that the belief of the faithful is well grounded." The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide on February 11, 1907.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of His mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *The Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

One day a little girl comes to her father and says, "Daddy, can a person go their whole life without sinning?" The father answers, "*No, honey, I'm sorry, but that's just not possible.*" She continues, "What about a year, Daddy? Can a person go a whole year without sinning?" "*No, I don't think that's possible either.*" "What about a day, can a person go a day without sinning once?" "*It's very unlikely, no, I don't think they can.*" "What about one moment, Daddy, can a person go one moment without sinning?" "*Yes, that is possible.*" "Then, Daddy, I want to live my life, *moment by moment.*" Isn't that how we too should live our lives, *moment by moment* making decisions not to sin?