

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 17, 2017

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.

Mimi LaBossiere, Ann Vinet, Don Appel, Lew and Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Gerard Born, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Rita Rocan, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, Amanda Paller.

Last Sunday Offering

\$1,227.00 Envelopes
\$ 115.00 Loose
\$1,495.00 Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Project Advance: We sincerely thank the **37 families** in our Parish who have already **donated \$20,240. There are 50.7% of our Parish families that have not yet participated.** There is still time to donate! Please place an envelope marked “*Project Advance*” into the offertory basket. The donations exceeding the Diocesan commitment of \$5,000 will be put into the *Building Fund Account* to cover future building maintenance costs.

Moving! New phone number? New address? New member of the Parish?

Please notify Father Gordon @ 778.928.1641 or visit the Office to update your personal information. Thank you so much.

Reflection on Sunday’s Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

What is God asking of us in today’s Scripture readings as well as in the words of the Holy Mass? God is asking us to be *loving and forgiving* people. He asks that we practice mercy. Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus gives us the greatest commandment when He reminds us that we are to love God with our whole heart and our neighbour as ourself.

How do we become loving people? One condition of love is *forgiveness*. Love is achieved by first sincerely forgiving others as well as ourselves. Forgiveness is something we have to learn how to do. It doesn’t always just come naturally. Just look around and we will see all sorts of people, including ourselves, in need of forgiveness.

Think of a world in which all of us practiced forgiveness. Our families would be happy places. Siblings and friends would enjoy each other. Grudges would be replaced by invitations to hang out. It all sounds good, but where do we begin? We can begin by listening to God each and every day so we can hear what it is He is asking of us. Just maybe the answer will be to “forgive others as I forgive you.”

Today’s Gospel is dealing with a subject which concerns us all, that of forgiveness. None of us can go through life without getting hurt. So how should we cope with these hurts? It isn’t easy but they can provide us with an opportunity to grow, or they can become a stumbling block to our human and spiritual development.

The message of today’s Gospel is clear. To be forgiven ourselves, we must extend forgiveness to others. In the Lord’s Prayer that Jesus taught us, we pray, “Father forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We understand this to mean that the measure we use to forgive others will be the measure used by our Lord to forgive our own offenses. In the First Reading from the Book of Sirach, the writer says, “Forgive your neighbour the wrong that is done, and *then* your sins will be pardoned when you pray.”

Forgiveness is not an indication of weakness. Rather, it shows strength, courage and power. It enables us to stop reacting and to take control of ourselves. In fact, forgiveness does more good for us than for the one we are forgiving because it sets us free. Forgiveness is a precious gift we give ourselves.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we celebrate today is the first sacrament of forgiveness. In the Mass, we acknowledge our debts and through our prayer we receive our Lord’s own gift of forgiveness. In the Holy Eucharist, we come to know we are forgiven so we can go out into the world and be generous in loving and forgiving others.

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Anthony of Padua Giant Garage Sale 7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz, BC (604 796-9181) Saturday, September 23, 2017 – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Garage Sale – So many items – all at a great price! Bake Sale – Fresh Apple Pies and much more Concession Booth – Breakfast – Lunch – Coffee available! Raffle Draw at 12 Noon Tickets are \$2 each with great prizes Half Side of Beef, 3 night’s accommodation for 4 at Rosewood Inn in Victoria, Quilt (\$300), 1 Night Accommodation at Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa for 2, Recumbent Bike (\$150) <i>Don’t miss out on this wonderful chance to get a great deal!</i></p>

Steward Reflection: September 27, 2017

“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 wants you to use the gifts he has given you. *Copyright ©2017, by Archdiocese of St. Louis*

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

283. *What is the meaning of transubstantiation?* Transubstantiation means the change of the whole substance of bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and of the whole substance of wine into the substance of His Blood. This change is brought about in the Eucharistic prayer through the efficacy of the word of Christ and by the action of the Holy Spirit. However, the outward characteristics of bread and wine, that is the “Eucharistic species”, remain unaltered.

284. Does the breaking of the bread divide Christ? The breaking of the bread does not divide Christ. He is present whole and entire in each of the Eucharistic species and in each of their parts.