

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem



UNDER THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION OF
MOST REVEREND RICHARD W. SMITH,
ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER

OCT. 22 to NOV. 2, 2026 \$7,798.00 CAD
(Double occupancy)



Join us for 12 days in the Holy Land, Oct. 22 - Nov. 2, 2026, with the Most Revered Richard W. Smith. Price includes airfare. For more information or land only price, please contact Lisa at Lisa@DJLtravel.ca or (604) 562-4567.

Trending this Week on Formed

Sunday Donations January 24 - 25, 2026

Sat. 5 pm \$595 from 27 envelopes = \$22.04 avg.
Sun. 9 am 1085 from 39 envelopes = \$27.82 avg.
Sun. 11 am \$1315 from 38 envelopes = \$34.61 avg.
Sun. 4 pm \$240 from 9 envelopes = \$26.67 avg.
Grand Total: \$3235 + \$340.35 loose = \$3575.35

January 31 - February 1, 2026

Sat. 5 pm \$799 from 26 envelopes = \$30.73 avg.
Sun. 9 am \$1985 from 42 envelopes = \$47.26 avg.
Sun. 11 am \$930 from 28 envelopes = \$33.21 avg.
Sun. 4 pm \$445 from 19 envelopes = \$23.42 avg.
Grand Total: \$4159 + \$415.25 loose = \$4574.25

In gratitude for your regular financial support!

sspeterpaul.ca

LEAVE A LEGACY

By remembering Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in your will, you leave a legacy in a place you love. Consider a bequest to the Parish Building Fund. This will enhance the Church's mandate to sanctify and teach as we enter into our 2nd 100 years of service. May our Lord reward you in this life and in the next.

2026 Sunday Offering Made Easy by Direct Deposit or Credit Card



Thank you for your interest in Sts. Peter & Paul Parish's Sunday Offering Plan.

This plan allows you to give your Sunday Offering on a monthly basis by direct deposit or credit card.

It is the most convenient way to make your Sunday Offering. Your commitment to give this way also ensures that your Sunday Offering reaches us even if you are away or not able to come to our Parish in person. Instead of giving weekly, your Sunday Offerings would be simplified to one monthly donation.

For more information, take the **PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATION BROCHURE**. 2026 PAD forms are now available from the website and vestibule.

FORMED New Formed Program

To aid our parishioners' want and need for Catholic Resource, we are pleased to announce that we have set up, with the Augustine Institute, the new Formed program. This resource is **free** for parishioners of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish. All you have to do is sign up online via your computer or smart devices with the app. Steps for parishioners to register for free on FORMED:

- Go to "www.formed.org"
- Type "Saints Peter & Paul Vancouver" to find and click on our Parish **Saints Peter & Paul 1425 W 39th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6M 1T2**
- Click "Next"
- Type first and last name as well as your email and click "Sign Up"



"Smile, Grandma! God's taking our picture!"

SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH



Archdiocese of Vancouver

Archbishop: Most Rev. Richard W. Smith D.D.

PASTOR: FATHER RONALD W. THOMPSON M. Div. M. Ed.
RECTORY/MAILING: 1425 West 39th Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6M 1T2
CHURCH LOCATION: 1430 West 38th Avenue
PARISH OFFICE PHONE: 604-261-3535
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm
EMAIL: parish.sspp@rcav.org
OFFICE MANAGER: Thomas Nguyen
OFFICE ACCOUNTANT: Theresa Inocentes
PARISH WEBSITE: <https://sspeterpaul.ca>



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEB. 8TH 2026



Welcome Visitors! New Parishioners!
We are pleased to have you pray with us at Saints Peter and Paul. We hope you enjoy your visit to our beautiful Church. Please introduce yourself after Mass to Father Ron and parishioners; we would like to meet you!



Fr. Ron Thompson Please Note:
All requests of the Pastor are kindly asked to be made by phone during office hours, not by email. Thank you.

ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Sunday Mass: Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm
Sunday Vespers & Benediction: 3:30 pm
Weekday Mass: Monday: 8:00 am, Tuesday: 4:00 pm, Wednesday - Friday: 8:00 am
Saturdays and Civic Holidays: 9:00 am
Also First Fridays: Adoration: 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm, with Benediction: 3:45 pm, 2nd Mass: 4:00 pm
East Side Adoration Chapel is Open: Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Confessions: Wednesday - Friday: 8:30 am, and Saturday: 9:30 am and 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Marriage: By Appointment -- Notify 8 Months in Advance

SUNDAY READINGS: 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's gospel complements the previous account of the beatitudes. "Happy are you!" declared Jesus to those to whom He announced persecution. Today He reveals who they are. They are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The images must be explored. The scriptures prescribed the use of salt, a covenant sign, on all the offerings made to God. (Lev 2:13, Num 18:19). Salt was also considered a fertilizer. For Israel, the light was a symbol of messianic revelation triumphing over the darkness of paganism.

We must live, then, as salt for the earth and light for the world. The prophet Isaiah points the way. If we pursue justice for the oppressed and care for those in need, we will be true to our mission to preserve, to nurture and to enlighten all humanity. Through our lives, Jesus Christ, the true light of the world, will shine on in the darkness, a darkness that will not overcome it (John 1:5).

PARISH MISSION



*No Greater Love:
The Eucharist as
Heaven On
Earth*



Rev. Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM Mission Preacher

Parish Mission Schedule

Mon. - Thurs. Feb. 9th - 12th:

8 am: Mass, followed by Confessions
6 pm - 6:45 pm: Confessions (Mon. - Wed.)
6:45 pm - 7 pm: Prayers (Mon. - Thurs.)
7 pm - 8 pm: Mission Hour (Mon. - Thurs.)
8:15: Confessions (Mon. - Wed.)
8:15 pm - Social (Thurs.)

Mission Hour Topics:

Unless You Eat My Flesh (Mon.)
Offering Acceptable Sacrifice (Tues.)
Returning Love For Love (Wed.)
The Life Changing Power of Adoration (Thurs.)

How to Read the Bible by Fr. Dwight Longenecker

In internet Christian discussions one of the most common Protestant protests is "But where is THAT in the Bible? Huh??"

To understand how to read the Bible it is worth first disposing of several different approaches to the Bible which (while not totally wrong) are faulty on their own. These are very typical ways of reading the Bible, and they are understandable, but when examined in more detail prove to be inadequate.

First up is reading the Bible searching for proof texts. There may be Bible verses that DO prove your point, and that's fine, but the Bible is not a collection of proof texts for teaching morality or making political or personal points. The problem with searching for proof texts is that, like statistics, you can pretty much find whatever you are looking for and if your side of the argument can find a proof text be assured that the other guy will probably also be able to find a proof text to make his point. Proof texts might be useful as part of a whole argument, but on their own they are weak.

The second approach is to use the Bible as a mine of inspirational and motivational quotes. This is much like the proof text approach, but sweeter. In this case we are taking verses out of context to boost our devotional and inspirational life. Like proof texting, this is not totally wrong—we all like verses like "Love hopes all things, believes all things. The greatest of these is love" and verses like "Love your neighbor as yourself." However, the Bible is not primarily a collection of bromides and spiritual booster shots. It is okay to glean these from the Bible, but that is not really the way to read the Bible.

The third approach is to read the Bible for thrilling stories, inspiring parables and great sermon illustrations. This approach is much like the first two—picking and choosing bits from the Bible that suit our purposes and make us feel good.

The problem with all three approaches is that they are rooted in an overly literal approach to the Scriptures. Yes, the Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit and are the Word of God, but God did not dictate a collection of proof texts or inspiring quotes and stories which are then expected to become a kind of cast iron, unchanging, literal, monolithic text.

This is essentially a product of the Protestant sola Scriptura understanding of Scripture: the assumption that the Bible (not the church) is the final authority. But of course that assumption begs the question, "Who interprets the Bible?" A quick glance of Protestant opinions reveal that you can use the Bible to support just about anything. Don't believe me? Let me remind you of the Anglican hospital chaplain who advised a woman of my acquaintance to have an abortion because Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and forbid them not."

And that brings us to the question, "How DO you read the Bible properly?"

The answer is to consider what the Bible is and what it is for. The Old Testament records the stumbling steps of mankind to be reconciled with the God from whom they are estranged—thus pointing toward and longing for the fulfillment of reconciliation in Christ. The New Testament is the record of that fulfillment and the first Christians' reflection on that fulfillment. In other words, it is a grand meta narrative of God's love for the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve and his grand grace working throughout human history to welcome home the prodigal race.

Everything else is subsidiary to that. That is the first and fundamental point.

With that in mind, individual doctrines and moral teachings come to us not so much from the Bible verse by verse, but from this whole meta narrative.

The second fundamental point is that this revelation of God to the human race is not a static thing. God's Word is living and active and sharper than a two edged sword. The Word of God is not open to private interpretation. Instead we need the living and dynamic interpretative authority of the Church to rightly read and discern and teach and interpret the Sacred Scriptures. The same Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures inspired the Church and continues to lead the Church into all truth. This continued inspiration does not bring about new Scriptures. The canon of Scripture is set. However, the Holy Spirit does continue to inspire Christians to live and learn and enact the truths of Scripture. The Holy Spirit continues to inspire theologians, Bible scholars, teachers and preachers to understand and expound the Scriptures for our day.

The debate then turns on the question of which Christians rightly discern and understand the Scriptures. You think it says this. I think it says that. You say PoTAYto and I say PoTAHto.

As a Catholic I believe that it is the teaching authority of the Catholic Church that has the last word. Only the Catholic Church exercises an authority that is universal geographically and chronologically. Only the Catholic Church retains the treasury of the teaching that extends back to the apostles and reaches to every culture and corner of the globe.

There are therefore two basic things to remember when reading the Bible. First—get the big picture.

Understand the whole. Everything is connected. When it comes to marriage for example—the Bible's teaching is not contained in this proof text of that, but in the whole story from God's creation of Adam and Eve to the wedding stories in the Old Testament and the prophet's use of nuptial imagery and then to Our Lord's teaching on marriage and St Paul's affirmations. The big picture teaches a sound, reasonable and powerfully positive understanding of marriage.

The second fundamental point is to check what we read in the Bible with the teaching of the Catholic Church—not this theologian or that Bible teacher—not this Twitter personality or podcaster or even this priest or that bishop, but with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. There you will invariably find the interpretation that makes the Bible teaching clear.

Everything else is a matter of opinion.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, Feb. 8th - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am; 11:00 am; 4:00 pm - *Parishioners*

MONDAY, Feb. 9th - Ferial

8:00 am - *Daniel Lozada*

TUESDAY, Feb. 10th - St. Scholastica +543

*8:00 am - *Fr. D. Neilson+*

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11th - Ferial

8:00 am - *Fraser Ballantyne*

THURSDAY, Feb. 12th - Ferial

8:00 am - *Denis Kelly*

FRIDAY, Feb. 13th - Ferial

8:00 am - *Rosemarie Wertschek+*

SATURDAY, Feb. 14th - St Cyril +869 & St. Methodius +885

9:00 am - *Fr. Eugene Eason+*

5:00 pm - *Victor+ & Bibiana Barasi+*

(Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

This Week:

Sunday Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction:

Vespers at 3:30 pm and Mass at 4 pm. Join us for prayer.

Pre-Lenten Parish Mission:

"No Greater Love: The Eucharist as Heaven On Earth!"

Four-Night Parish Mission with Fr. Ricardo Pineda.

Mon. to Thurs. Feb. 9th–12th at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Prayers at 6:45 pm and Conference Talk at 7 pm.

Tues. Feb. 10th Mass:

Mass will be at **8 am**, no 4 pm Mass.

Ongoing:

Catechism Grade 1-7:

★ **"PREP" Classes begin Tues. Jan. 13th** ★
at 4:30-5:30 pm in the Church.

Registration forms (green) are available next to bulletin.

For more info, please contact Parish office,

Tues. - Fri. from 9 am - 3 pm.

★ **RCIA Classes and Talks on the Faith:** ★
(This takes place in the Church)

Tuesdays at 7-8 pm from Jan. 20th to Mar. 17th
(8 wks) Break Feb. 10th.

Feb. 17th Topic: Baptism & Confirmation.

All are welcome to learn more about the Faith and

for the non-Catholics who want to become one.

Contributions:

Envelope Boxes:

The 2026 envelopes are available at the East side of the back of the church. If you would like a box of envelopes, simply sign up in one of the red binders and they will be put out for you the next Sunday. If new, please fill out the New Parishioner Registration Form.

Thank you for your support!

Building Fund:

N.B. All donations made to building fund go towards building our own Parish Centre and are not taxed the usual 15% by the diocese.

Office Mail Slot Location:

N.B. Office mail slot is located at 1425 W 39th Ave.

Next Week:

The Door is Open:

Upcoming "The Door is Open" Sundays: **Feb. 15.**

In winter, outdoor clothing would be appreciated!

Thank you! (No food items please).

Upcoming Holidays:

Mon. Feb. 16th - Family Day Mass at 9 am.

Tues. Feb. 17th - Lunar New Year (Horse) Mass at 4 pm.

Palm Burning Ceremony:

On Tues. Feb. 17th at 4:30 pm.

Kindly place last year's palms for the ashes in the bins provided on the front porch or in the vestibule.

Everyone is welcome to join in the ceremony.

Ash Wednesday Masses:

Feb. 18th at 8 am, 4 pm, 7 pm.

Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday**. This applies to all persons 14 years of age & older. **Fasting** on **Ash Wednesday** applies to all Catholics who have completed their eighteenth year

to the beginning of the sixtieth year. A person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October Holy Land Pilgrimage Tour Info:

On Sat. Feb. 21st at 10 am in the Church.

See poster on the back for more information. -->

Lenten Stations of the Cross:

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning **Feb. 25th.**

Sacraments, Blessings, and Prayers:

The Sacrament of Baptism:

Parents and Godparents are to be married in the Catholic Church, and parents need to be registered parishioners for at least 2 months.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Couples planning marriage (here or elsewhere) must contact the Parish Priest at least 8 months before the wedding. Must attend the Marriage Preparation Course and the Catholic is to be registered here, at least 6 months and regularly attending Mass here.

Blessing of Cars, Homes, or Religious Articles:

Please see Father after any of the Sunday Masses.

Before/After Mass Devotions:

A 2nd vigil light stand has been gifted to us from St. Pius X Parish for the right side of the sanctuary.
"St. Joseph, pray for us."

East Side (Ramp) Door Adoration Chapel Open:

For private prayer from Tues. to Fri. 9 am to 3 pm.

This is a place for private prayer and reading, not vocal prayers. If needed, the parish office washroom is available during these hours: enter outside to the west side - to the office.