



**EASTERTIDE
RETREAT @
WESTMINSTER ABBEY**

TOPIC : THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM
FRIDAY, 24 APRIL @ 7:30PM TO
SUNDAY, APRIL 26 @ 1:30PM

FOR MORE INFO and
REGISTRATON
CALL (604) 261-3535
parishssp@rcav.org

Rev. Fr. Emmerich Vogt, OP
Retreat Master

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 \$7,649.00 CAD
(Double occupancy)



Join us for 12 days in the Holy Land, Oct. 22 - Nov. 2, 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.

40 Days for Life
Pray to End Abortion: vancouver40days@gmail.com
www.40daysforlife.com/en/vancouverbc

Trending this Week on Formed



Sunday Donations
February 14 - 15, 2026
Sat. 5 pm \$515 from 28 envelopes = \$18.39 avg.
Sun. 9 am \$830 from 34 envelopes = \$24.41 avg.
Sun. 11 am \$1150 from 35 envelopes = \$32.86 avg.
Sun. 4 pm \$690 from 19 envelopes = \$36.32 avg.
Grand Total: \$3185 + \$488.15 loose = \$3673.15

February 21 - 22, 2026
Sat. 5 pm \$595 from 30 envelopes = \$19.83 avg.
Sun. 9 am \$1395 from 42 envelopes = \$33.21 avg.
Sun. 11 am \$930.40 from 23 envelopes = \$40.45 avg.
Sun. 4 pm \$565 from 20 envelopes = \$28.25 avg.
Grand Total: \$3485.40 + \$327 loose = \$3812.40

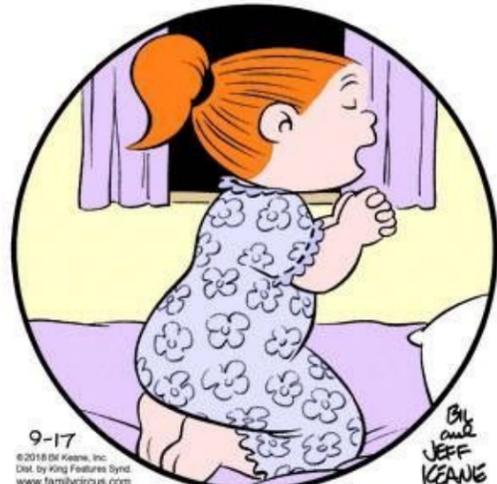
In gratitude for your regular financial support!

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"



9-17
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"And please keep it hot for Grandma. It really helps her arthritis."

SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH



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>



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT MAR. 1ST 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: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

At this second station on our Lenten journey we meet Jesus transfigured on the mountain. This story serves as an icon for our contemplation, an opening through which we can see a divine and mysterious world simultaneously near and far.

In Matthew's gospel, it is scarcely a week since Jesus predicted to His disciples His passion and their part in it. The three disciples who witness Jesus' glory on the mountain are thus strengthened to witness His agony in the garden. Suddenly they see Jesus as He will become. Upon this human face which is threatened with the shadow of death, the dazzling light of Easter is already seen. Moses and Elijah surround Him. These two great witnesses of the old covenant attest by their presence the imminence of the last days, the appearance of the great awaited prophet. The Father is also present in the cloud, and just as Jesus' baptism, His voice reveals for an instant the secret of Jesus of Nazareth: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him. Receive, in Him and in yourself, the narrow way of glory and suffering, of power and weakness, of death and resurrection!"

It is time to come down onto the plain to continue the journey behind the servant. Soon the clouds of Golgotha will absorb the shining of this transfigured face. There will no longer be anything to see, apparently nothing more for which to hope. But the light which once shone was not misleading, the vision was not an illusion. The dawning of Easter will show that life can conquer death.

St. Leo the Great on the True Meaning of Lent

(Con't...) The Lord Himself instructs us in this when He says: 'Forgive, and you shall be forgiven; give, and it shall be given to you.' Nothing is more effective in obtaining God's favour than mercy, nothing more powerful in securing pardon.

And because the fasting which God has chosen consists not only in abstinence, but in justice and peace, let us strive to observe all the commandments of charity. Let us correct what is wrong, maintain what is right, forgive what offends, and love what God loves.

These exercises, dearly beloved, are not for a few, but for all. No one is excluded from the obligation to repent, for all need mercy. Let no one excuse himself by pleading weakness, for the remedy of repentance is given to all. God demands not what is beyond our strength, but what is within our will.

Therefore, let us enter upon the observance of Lent with joy, not sadness; with hope, not fear. Let us take up the weapons of righteousness, armed with faith, protected by charity, strengthened by patience. Then the fast which we undertake will be acceptable to God, profitable to ourselves, and fruitful for the whole Church.

Thus, cleansed by holy discipline, instructed by spiritual exercises, and enriched by works of mercy, we may come with pure hearts to the celebration of the Paschal mystery, and rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Brother Lawrence and the Book that Shaped the Pope by Naoise Grenham

What does a pope read? While an image of the Vicar of Christ curled up in an armchair, leafing through the pages of a well-worn text, perhaps with a pen in hand and a cup of tea by his side, might seem unusual, there is a venerable tradition of past and present popes enjoying and enjoining the reading of certain spiritual classics. Pope St John Paul II extolled the virtues of the Polish epic writer Henryk Sienkiewicz's Quo Vadis; Pope Benedict XVI expressed great fondness for the Confessions of St Augustine of Hippo; Pope Francis exhibited ample admiration for the reflective writings of the German priest-philosopher Romano Guardini.

More recently, Pope Leo XIV identified The Practice of the Presence of God, by the 17th-century French Carmelite friar Brother Lawrence, as the book that has most significantly influenced his spiritual life, aside from the writings of the eponymous father of his order, St Augustine. What can we learn from this?

Little is known of the simple yet profound life of Brother Lawrence: born Nicholas Herman to a French peasant family during the devastating Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), he found employment as a soldier, was briefly taken prisoner by German troops, and went on to serve as a footman to the treasurer of the King of France. Having experienced a profound personal conversion at the age of 18, Nicholas Herman decided to enter a Discalced Carmelite monastery, located at what is now St Joseph-des-Carmes in Paris. There, Nicholas took the name "Lawrence of the Resurrection", and served the Parisian Carmelite friary in the kitchen as a cook. Despite his low position and self-effacing style, Brother Lawrence drew a spiritual following for his wisdom, so much so that some of his conversations, writings and maxims were posthumously collected and promoted by the Archdiocese of Paris.

First published in English in 1895, **The Practice of the Presence of God** is, properly speaking, a short compilation of documented conversations, letters and spiritual maxims from Brother Lawrence himself, as well as a brief hagiographical reflection on his life and character composed by a contemporary. Less than a hundred pages in length in a standard edition, the writings are both highly spiritual and deeply practical. Enduring advice is sought and provided on an array of topics, from the distraction of wandering thoughts in prayer to the challenge of practising fortitude in the face of suffering.

The consistent theme is the great joy that is available to us through a deep intimacy with God throughout our daily lives, principally to be found through a humble life of simple self-surrender to the loving will of the Father. A particularly striking image to illustrate this way of life appears in the "Eighth Letter", wherein Brother Lawrence exhorts someone struggling with distraction in prayer: "Hold yourself in prayer before God like a dumb or paralytic beggar at a rich man's gate. Let it be your business to keep your mind in the presence of the Lord."

To give an example of the edifying character of Brother Lawrence's writings, we can look to the "First Conversation". Reported and recorded by contemporaries, it includes a brief account of his life-changing conversion. Witnessing a barren tree in winter and recognising the life-giving power of the spring to come, Brother Lawrence "received a high view of the providence and power of God, which has never since been effaced from his soul". Recalling his admission to the monastery, he is said to have admitted an ironic disappointment with God that his self-sacrificial desire to "smart for his awkwardness and the faults he should commit" upon entering monastic life was instead "met with nothing but satisfaction in that state". Later in the interaction, Brother Lawrence provided practical advice for perseverance in prayer, perhaps counterintuitively commenting that times of spiritual dryness are actually the times most fitting for "good and effectual acts of resignation, whereof one alone would sometimes very much promote our spiritual advancement".

Subsequent conversations and letters continue in a similar vein, with a spirit of awe and wonder at the goodness of God, a sense of gentle humour and a style of prayer and action that is simple yet profound in its pursuit of closeness to God. The humility, simplicity and serenity shown through the life and writings of Brother Lawrence seem quite apposite and attractive for our new Pope, the early evidence of whose papacy suggests personal humility, meekness and balance of temperament.

While book recommendations from our popes can be instructive for our understanding of their personalities and papal styles, they are also deeply fruitful and edifying reads in themselves. Quiet spiritual masterpieces like The Practice of the Presence of God can be the perfect accompaniment to our Lenten journey, not least as we seek to grow in ever closer relationship with God. As Brother Lawrence reminds us in his "Fourth Conversation", the presence of God is something we should continually seek and something which constantly surrounds us:

"The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquillity as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament."

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, Mar. 1st - Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 am; 11:00 am; 4:00 pm - *Parishioners*

MONDAY, Mar. 2nd - Lenten Ferial
8:00 am - *Special Intention*

TUESDAY, Mar. 3rd - Lenten Ferial
4:00 pm - *Ken Joseph Yung Hsiang Huang+*

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 4th - Lenten Ferial
8:00 am - *Genoveffa Chies+*

THURSDAY, Mar. 5th - Lenten Ferial
8:00 am - *Prudence & Gabriel Cheung*

FIRST FRIDAY, Mar. 6th - Lenten Ferial
8:00 am - *John Allen Jr. +*
4:00 pm - *Dick Reid+*

SATURDAY, Mar. 7th - Lenten Ferial
9:00 am - *Warren Longpre*
5:00 pm - *Benson & Maria Cheung*
(Third Sunday of Lent)

Visiting Seminarian:

After this Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 9 am and 11 am Masses: Huy Le (4th theology seminarian) from Saskatoon will share a reflection on vocations.

2025 Tax Receipts:

Parish & Project Advance tax receipts for 2025 will be available for pick up on the left (east) side table of the Baptismal font.

THIS WEEK:

Men's Monthly Meeting:

This **Wed. Mar. 4th at 7 pm in the Church.** Topic: Fr. Robert Spitzer: The Incredible Details of Eucharistic Miracles. Join us for discussion and refreshments.

First Friday Faith Studies:

This **Mar. 6th at 10:30 am (Coffee at 10:15).** Topic: The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre. Anyone interested, both men and women, are invited to join us for discussion.

First Friday Benediction and 2nd Mass:

This **Mar. 6th** with Adoration at 12 noon to 4 pm, Benediction at 3:45 pm, and 2nd Mass at 4 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

2026 Lenten Penitential Services by the Vancouver West Deanery:

Blessed Sacrament - Wed. Mar. 4 at 7 pm
St. Augustine - Tues. Mar. 10 at 7 pm
Immaculate Conception - Wed. Mar. 11 at 7 pm
Holy Name of Jesus - Thurs. Mar 12 at 7 pm
Sts. Peter and Paul - Wed. Mar 18 at 7 pm
St. John the Apostle - Wed. Mar 18 at 7 pm
St. Mark - Sun. Mar. 22 at 2:30 pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Thurs. Mar. 26 at 7 pm
St. Anthony of Padua - Sun. Mar. 29 at 6:30 pm

Holy Week at Sts. Peter & Paul:

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Thurs. Apr. 2nd at 7 pm
Followed by Adoration until 11 pm (no morning Mass)
Liturgy of Good Friday: Fri. Apr. 3rd at 12 noon, 3 pm
Easter: Vigil Sat. Apr. 4th at 8:30 pm.
Sun. Apr. 5th at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm (no evening Mass).

LENLEN DEVOTIONS & PRAYERS:

1. Sunday Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction:

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

2. Lenten Stations of the Cross:

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning **Feb. 25th.**
Booklets available at 1st station when Church is open.

3. 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. **N.B.** Copies of "The Practice of the Presence of God" are at the Chapel.

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.

★ **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) Feb. 24th Topic: Penance & the Anointing of the Sick, Marriage & Holy Orders.
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.

SACRAMENTS & BLESSINGS:

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.