

## Christ is the True Vine, and We Are the Branches

The image of the vine and the branches shows us the enormous worth of each human being, and the relation we have to one another.



Recently, in my own reading, I had begun to examine the life and work of Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrand, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a former rector of Mundelein Seminary and a pioneer of the Liturgical Reform in the 1940s and 50s in the United States. Hillenbrand was, by all accounts, a brilliant man but a difficult man. When he was renovating his parish church of the Sacred Heart in Winnetka, Illinois, in 1957 in accord with Pius XII's encyclical, Mediator Dei, he wrote the architect whom he hired the following terse lines:

"I do not favor any of the conventional symbols that are used in Catholic Churches. If we have to use a symbol anywhere, I should prefer 'the Vine and the Branches,' which Christ used as a symbol for the Church, his Mystical Body."

And this symbol, the vine and the branches, is precisely the symbol that the Lord Jesus offers to us in the 15th chapter of John's Gospel. In Rome, we are well familiar with the image of the vine and the branches at the Church of San Clemente. It is the image of the Cross of the Lord being the Tree of Life, which spools out into vine and the branches. In the Immaculate Conception Chapel of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where I have the joy to serve as the academic dean, the green of the floor of this chapel that stems out of our sanctuary into the nave is the tree of life, another lived example of the vine and the branches in our midst.

Yes, image of the vine and the branches is an appropriate and powerful image given by Our Lord. What are the implications of Christ being the vine, we the branches, and his Father the vine grower? I would say that they are three and, please note, all three are connected: first, ecclesiological; second, morally; and third and finally, spiritual.



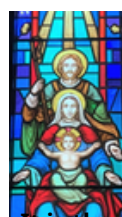
**MARCH FOR LIFE  
VICTORIA**  
THURSDAY MAY 9, 2024

We are very excited for the upcoming annual March4Life this year. It will be a full day, beginning with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Delta (3900 Arthur Drive, Delta) with Mass at 9:15 - Archbishop Miller presiding. From there, we will catch the 11:00 am ferry to Victoria, where we will participate in the March and return on the 5:00 pm ferry. We have an exciting lineup of speakers at this year's event.

**Schedule of Events**  
12:00PM - Mass at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Cathedral  
740 View Street, Victoria, BC  
1:45pm - March leaves from Centennial Square down Government Street to the BC Legislature

### LEAVE A LEGACY

By remembering Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in your Will; by this 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 & teach as we enter into our 2nd 100 years of service. May our Lord reward you in this life and in the next.



It is the most convenient way to make your Sunday Offering. Your commitment to give this way also ensures that your Sunday Offering reach 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 this brochure .

### 2024 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.



**Archdiocese of Vancouver**  
Archbishop: Most Rev. J.  
Michael Miller, CSB

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

**PASTOR: FATHER RON THOMPSON**

**RECTORY/MAILING:** 1425 WEST 39TH AVENUE, VAN. B.C. V6M 1T2

**CHURCH LOCATION:** 1430 WEST 38TH AVENUE

**PARISH OFFICE PHONE:** 604-261-3535 **E-MAIL:** PARISH.SSPP@RCAV.ORG

**ADMIN ASSIST:** ELIZABETH WONG **PARISH WEBSITE:** SSPETERPAUL.CA



### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APR. 28TH - MAY 4TH 2024

**Holy Mass :Saturday:** 5:00 pm

**Sunday:** 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**(Vespers and Benediction: 3:30pm), 4:00pm**

**Weekdays: Monday 8:00am; Tuesday 4:00pm; Wednesday-Friday 8:00am**

**First Fridays:** Adoration 12:00noon-6:45pm; Benediction 6:45pm; Second Mass 7:00pm

**Saturdays and Civic Holidays:** 9:00am

**Confessions: Wednesday-Friday; 8:30am Saturday: 9:30am and 4:00-4:30pm**

**Office Schedule:** Tuesday- Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

By Appointment; **Marriage:** Notify 8 Months in Advance



**Welcome visitors! / New Parishioner!** 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 request of the Pastor are kindly asked to be made by phone during Office Hours not by Email. Thank -You

**ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER**  
*Saint 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 Reading, Fifth Sunday of Easter

At the beginning of the second discourse after the Last Supper, Jesus says, " I am the true vine!" When he makes such an unprecedented remark, does he have in mind that vine carved in stone on the temple pediment to symbolize Israel? The image fits well within the context of the Last Supper, where Jesus has just given his disciples the wine of the new covenant prefigured at Cana. In any case, it would evoke in the hearts of the disciples the whole history of the relationship between God and the chosen people.

Sign of blessing, symbol of the fruitful wife, the vine is present throughout the life of this people who are attached to the land. God could rightly expect the find grapes from that luxuriant vine uprooted from Egypt and planted in Canaan. He had lavished so much care on it! But he received only sour grapes in return (Isa 5:1-7). In the words of the prophets, the vine came to signify the sinful & degenerate Israel, unfaithful to the covenant & about to be punished for its perversity. Later hope is reborn for a magnificent vine, a purified & faithful people for whom the Lord would be the guardian, day & night.

"I am the true vine and my father is the vinegrower." Jesus at last fullfills the divine expectation which has so long been frustrate. He is, in his person, the true isael, & his blood has brought forth a new vine on Calvary. Henceforth, none can bear fruit for God unless they are in Jesus, & Jesus in them, in a reciprocity of love which alone assures life its fruitfulness. "You in me...I in you": that is the refrain of this discourse, the marvelous promise which the Eucharist already begins to fulfill.

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY, April 28th-5th Sunday of Easter**

9:00AM; 11:00AM; 4:00PM -Parishioners

**MONDAY, April 29th - St. Catherine of Siena+1380**

8:00AM - Ortenio Miceli

**TUESDAY, April 30th -St. Marie De L'Incarnation+1627**

4:00PM - Fernando Chua

**WEDNESDAY - May 1st - Easter Ferial**

8:00AM - Barbara Chan

**THURSDAY, May 2nd -St. Athanasius+373AD**

8:00AM - Msgr. D. Neumann+

**FRIDAY, May 3rd - St. Philip+80 AD & St. James+62 AD**

8:00am - Roy Johnson  
7:00pm - Special Intentions

**Saturday, May 4th - Easter Ferial**

9:00am - Fr. Ron Thompson  
5:00pm - Elizabeth Wong (birthday)

*(Sixth Sunday of Easter)*

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish  
Celebration of Fr. Ron's  
45th Anniversary of  
His Sharing in Our Lord's Priesthood  
May 5th 2024

Date:  
Saturday, May 4th: 5pm Mass  
Sunday, May 5, 2024 9am - 11am  
(no 4pm)

Please join and enjoy the celebratory cake and lemonade after these Masses with Father Ron at the vestibule.

## THIS WEEK

**Sts. Peter & Paul Men's Group**

Next meeting: **First Wednesday May 1st at 7pm at the Church.**  
The topic: **How Science Supports Belief in the Spiritual World with Fr. Robert Spitzer...**

<http://youtube/2nXh2jpZLf4?si=9aCaXLTET9L5d5dto>

We invite all interested men to join in the discussion and socializing.

**Sts. Peter & Paul Faith Study Group Meeting:**

**First Friday @ 10:30am (Coffee at 10:15am)**

**Location: Church Vestibule. Next Meeting May 3rd.**

**We invite all those interested to join in the discussion & socializing.**

### FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION TIME

**Church is open for prayers Wed.—Fri.  
12 noon 3pm**

**Solemn Sung Vesper & Benediction at 3:30pm  
on Sundays.**

**Project Advance & Parish Tax Receipts are  
now available for pick up at the vestibule.**



### Building Fund

We are moving forward with having our own Parish Centre, this massive project will take the efforts of many people to support. If you can please consider giving to the Building Fund, every cent of the Building Fund will go towards this Parish Goal.

**A big Thank-You to all parishioners for their support in this effort!**

An update on our New Parish Centre Project to be built on the west side of the Church: (1450 W 38th and 1449 W 39th and the lane in between these): Virtually, the city has given necessary approval to move ahead. Our challenge now is to finance this. The total construction cost is estimated at 14.5 Million. We have an offer to purchase Cartier Hall for 8.5 Million. This means that we still need to raise 6.5 Million to pay for this project. Our present parish cash flow only covers operating expenses. Extra donations are required; including by contributions to the Parish Building Fund & Project Advance. An overview of the entire New Centre Building (one long one going from 38th to 39th): the 38th side (2 stories) would be the Great Parish Hall (named after Sts. Peter & Paul) with a connecting kitchen (named after St. Andrew the hospitality apostle). Nearby (on the Church side) would be the Conference Hall (named after St. James the Great) towards 39th would be the Adoration Chapel (named after St. John the Beloved). West of these (towards the neighbour: 1459 W 39th) would be the Office Wing (named after St. Matthew the tax collector). Upstairs on the 39th side would be more meeting rooms (named after all the other Apostles). Below all this would be underground parking and elevators throughout. These 12 rooms would be dedicated by the donor as they so pleased. If you might be interested in doing this, please let me know. I can't help but to remember that this Centre was Fr. John Horgan's dream; thus the Chapel of Adoration will be named after his patron. In the meantime, also, our Project Advance campaign for 2024 continues to assist this project, pledge forms for this are next to the bulletin. Our gratitude for your kind consideration in these matters that can bring about the needed growth to our parish life.

Blessings to you and yours!  
Fr. Ron Thompson, Pastor

**Welcome to Fr. Raffaele Salvino who will celebrate the Mass on Saturday, Apr. 27th at 5pm. and to Fr. Arsene Dutunge who will celebrate the Masses on Sun. Apr. 28th at 9am and 11am while Fr. Ron is at the Abbey Retreat.**

MAY 5TH - 4:00PM MASS

A SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING OF FR. RON'S 45TH SHARING IN THE LORD'S PRIESTHOOD.

THE HOMILY WILL BE GIVEN BY FR. EMMERICH VOGT, OP.  
(AS A MISSION DIRECTOR HE HAS LOTS OF TRAVEL POINTS)

FR. EMMERICH ALSO PREACHED AT FR. RON'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2004.

THE MUSIC WILL BE CONDUCTED BY CHRIS SUSANTO, FORMER ALTER SERVER OF FR. RON AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA.PARISH.



**"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."**