**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2025**

 **MASS OF ANOINTING**

 **Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB**

 **Principal Celebrant**



**Our Lady of Lourdes**

*“With our heart’s gaze directed toward the Grotto of Massabielle, let us contemplate Jesus as the true physician of bodies and souls, whom God the Father sent into the world to heal humanity, marked by sin and by its consequences.” - Pope Francis*

 **Tuesday, February 11th, 11:00 a.m.**

 **Our Lady of Sorrows Parish**

 **555 S. Slocan Street, Vancouver**



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We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of

 Rev. Rosemond Sylvestre, CS

 Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

**Holy Mass for**

**World Day of the Sick**

**Principal Celebrant** Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB

**Entrance Hymn**

**See Us Lord About Your Altar**

*Refrain:*

See us, Lord about your altar,

Though so many we are one;

Many souls by love united

In the heart of Christ, your Son.

Hear our prayers, O loving Father,

Hear in them your Son our Lord;

Hear him speak our love and worship

As we sing with one accord.

Once were seen the blood and water:

Now are seen but bread and wine;

Once in human form he suffered,

Now his form is but a sign.

**Opening Prayer**

O God, who willed that our infirmities

be borne by your Only Begotten Son

to show the value of human suffering,

listen in kindness to our prayers

for our brothers and sisters who are sick;

grant that all who are oppressed by pain,

distress or other afflictions

may know that they are chosen

among those proclaimed blessed

and are united to Christ

in his suffering for the salvation of the world.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading**: James 5: 13-16

*The prayer of faith will save the one who is sick.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

Beloved:

Is anyone among you suffering?

They should pray.

Is anyone cheerful?

They should sing songs of praise.

Is anyone among you sick?

They should call for the presbyters of the Church

and have them pray over them,

anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

The prayer of faith will save the one who is sick,

and the Lord will raise them up,

and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another,

and pray for one another,

so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

The word of the Lord.  **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  Psalm 102:1-2, 23-24, 18-20 (R.1)

**Refrain:** **Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.**

Hear my prayer, O Lord;

let my cry come to you.

Do not hide your face from me

in the day of my distress.

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call. **Refrain**

He has broken my strength in midcourse;

he has shortened my days.

“O my God,” I say,

“do not take me away at the midpoint of my life,

you whose years endure

throughout all generations.” **Refrain**

Let this be recorded for a generation to come,

so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:

that he looked down from his holy height,

from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,

to hear the groans of the prisoners,

to set free those who were doomed to die. **Refrain**

**Gospel Acclamation** 

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

 I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions
 for the sake of his body, that is, the Church.

 **Alleluia!**

**Gospel**  Matthew 8: 14-17

*He took our infirmities.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus entered Peter’s house,

he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever;

he touched her hand,

and the fever left her,

and she got up and began to serve him.

That evening they brought to him

many who were possessed with demons;

and he cast out the spirits with a word,

and cured all who were sick.

This was to fulfill

what had been spoken through the Prophet Isaiah,

“He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

**Liturgy of the Anointing**

Litany: Let us pray to God for our brothers and sisters and for all

 those who devote themselves to caring for them.

**Response:** **Lord have mercy.**

Bless all the sick here present and fill them with new hope and strength. **Response**

Relieve their pain. **Response**

Free them from sin and do not let them give way to temptation. **Response**

Sustain all the sick with your power. Assist all who care for the sick. **Response**

Give life and health to our brothers and sisters on whom we lay our

hands in your name. **Response**



**Laying on of Hands**

In silence, the Archbishop and the priests hold

their hands over the sick.

**Prayer over the Oil**

The Archbishop says a prayer of thanksgiving

over the blessed oil.

**Response:** **Blessed be God who heals us in Christ.**

Praise to you, God the almighty Father. You sent your Son to live

among us and bring us salvation. **Response**

Praise to you, God, the only begotten Son. You humbled yourself

to share in our humanity and you heal our infirmities. **Response**

Praise to you, God, the Holy Spirit, the Consoler. Your unfailing power

gives us strength in our bodily weaknesses. **Response**

God of mercy, ease the sufferings and comfort the weakness of your

servants whom the Church anoints with this holy oil. **Response**

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Sacrament of Anointing**

*The Archbishop and the priests anoint the sick persons with the blessed oil. First, the forehead, saying:* Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy, help youwith the grace of the Holy Spirit*.* **Amen*.***

*Then the hands, saying:* May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up*.* **Amen*.***

**Lay Your Hands**

*Refrain:*

Lay your hands gently upon us,

Let there touch render your peace,

Let them bring your forgiveness and healing

Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.

You were sent to free the broken hearted.

You were sent to give sight to the blind.

You desire to heal all our illnesses.

Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.

Lord, we come to you through one another,

Lord, we come to you in all our need.

Lord, we come to you seeking wholeness.

Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.

**Prayer after Anointing**

Let us pray: Father in heaven, through this anointing, grant our brothers and sisters comfort in their suffering. When they are afraid,

 give them courage, when afflicted, give them patience, when dejected, afford them hope, and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Special Blessing for Caregivers**

Lord Jesus, our Brother, you showed your love for the sick by your concern for them. Help us to see you and serve you in the sick. Bless these men and women who are dedicated to helping and healing the sick. Guide them in their labors and give them a greater share of your love. Reward their service by the peace and joy of your Holy Spirit and by the everlasting happiness of heaven.

Lord Jesus, we praise you, for you are our Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn**

**Taste and See**

*Refrain:*

Taste and see, taste and see

The goodness of the Lord

O, taste and see, taste and see

The goodness of the Lord, of the Lord

I will bless the Lord at all times

His praise shall always be on my lips

My soul shall glory in the Lord

For He has been so good to me

Glorify the Lord with me

Together let us all praise His name

I called the Lord and He answered me

From all my troubles He set me free

Worship the Lord all you people

You’ll want for nothing if you ask

Taste and see that God is good

In Him we need put all our trust

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Since the moments of our life unfold, O God,

according to your good pleasure,

receive the prayers and sacrificial offerings

by which we implore your mercy

for our brothers and sisters who are ill,

that, having been anxious for them in their danger,

we may rejoice at their recovery of health.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion**

**Healer of Our Every Ill**

*Refrain:*

Healer of our ev’ry ill,

light of each tomorrow,

give us peace beyond our fear,

and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,

grace us with your peace and gladness,

Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy beholding

how your grace is still unfolding,

give us all your vision: God of love.

You who know each thought and feeling,

teach us all your way of healing,

Spirit of compassion: fill each heart.

Give us strength to love each other,

ev’ry sister, ev’ry brother,

Spirit of all kindness: be our guide.

**Meditation**

**As I Kneel Before You**

As I kneel before you,
As I bow my head in prayer,
Take this day, make it yours
and fill me with your love.

*Refrain:*
Ave Maria,
Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu.

All I have I give you,
Every dream and wish are yours,
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine,

present them to my Lord.

As I kneel before you,
And I see your smiling face,
Ev’ry thought, ev’ry word
Is lost in your embrace.

**Prayer after Communion**

O God, only support of our human weakness,

show the power of your protection

over your servants who are sick,

that, sustained by your merciful help,

they may be restored to your holy Church in good health.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Concluding Rites**

Blessing: May the Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you. **Amen.**

 May he go before you to lead you and behind you to guard you. **Amen.**

May he look upon you, keep you safe and bless you. **Amen.**

And may almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**

**You Are My All In All**

You are my strength when I am weak

You are the treasure that I seek

You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel

Lord, to give up I’d be a fool

You are my all in all

*Refrain:*

Jesus, Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Jesus, Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame

Rising again I bless Your name

You are my all in all

When I fall down You pick me up

When I am dry You fill my cup

You are my all in all





**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

**FOR THE 33rd WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

**11 FEBRUARY 2025**

*“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5),
but strengthens us in times of trial*

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

We are celebrating the 33rd World Day of the Sick in the Jubilee Year 2025, in which the Church invites us to become “pilgrims of hope”. The word of God accompanies us and offers us, in the words of Saint Paul, an encouraging message: “Hope does not disappoint” (*Rom* 5:5); indeed, it strengthens us in times of trial.

These are comforting words, but they can also prove perplexing, especially for those who are suffering. How can we be strong, for example, when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford? How can we show strength when, in addition to our own sufferings, we see those of our loved ones who support us yet feel powerless to help us? In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God’s help, his grace, his Providence, and the strength that is the gift of his Spirit (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808).

Let us stop for a moment to reflect on how God remains close to those who are suffering in three particular ways: through *encounter*, *gift* and *sharing*.

1. *Encounter.* When Jesus sent the seventy-two disciples out on mission (cf. *Lk* 10:1-9), he told them to proclaim to the sick: “The kingdom of God has come near to you” (v. 9). He asks them, in other words, to help the sick to see their infirmity, however painful and incomprehensible it may be, as an opportunity to encounter the Lord. In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological and spiritual levels. Yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering. God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never expected, and would never have found on our own.

Sickness, then, becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life, an experience that, even at great cost, makes us all the stronger because it teaches us that we are not alone. Suffering always brings with it a mysterious promise of salvation, for it makes us experience the closeness and reality of God’s consoling presence. In this way, we come to know “the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life” (SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Address to Young People*, New Orleans, 12 September 1987).

2. This brings us to the second way that God is close to the suffering: as *gift*. More than anything else, suffering makes us aware that hope comes from the Lord. It is thus, first and foremost, a gift to be received and cultivated, by remaining “faithful to the faithfulness of God”, in the fine expression of Madeleine Delbrêl (cf. *La speranza è una luce nella notte*, Vatican City 2024, Preface).

Indeed, only in Christ’s resurrection does our own life and destiny find its place within the infinite horizon of eternity. In Jesus’ paschal mystery alone do we attain the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God” (*Rom* 8:38-39). This “great hope” is the source of all those small glimmers of light that help us to see our way through the trials and obstacles of life (cf. BENEDICT XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 27, 31). The risen Lord goes so far as to walk beside us as our companion on the way, even as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (cf. *Lk* 24:13-53). Like them, we can share with him our anxieties, concerns and disappointments, and listen to his word, which enlightens us and warms our hearts. Like them too, we can recognize him present in the breaking of the bread and thus, even in the present, sense that “greater reality” which, by drawing near to us, restores our courage and confidence.

3. We now come to God’s third way of being close to us: through *sharing*. Places of suffering are frequently also places of sharing and mutual enrichment. How often, at the bedside of the sick, do we learn to hope! How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love! We realize that we are “angels” of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together: whether patients, physicians, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and women religious, no matter where we are, whether in the family or in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or medical centres.

We need to learn how to appreciate the beauty and significance of these grace-filled encounters. We need to learn how to cherish the gentle smile of a nurse, the gratitude and trust of a patient, the caring face of a doctor or volunteer, or the anxious and expectant look of a spouse, a child, a grandchild or a dear friend. All these are rays of light to be treasured; even amid the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37).

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill or who care for the suffering, in this Jubilee you play an especially important part. Your journey together is a sign for everyone: “a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 11). Its strains are heard far beyond the rooms and beds of health facilities, and serve to elicit in charity “the choral participation of society as a whole” (ibid.) in a harmony that is at times difficult to achieve, but for that very reason is so comforting and powerful, capable of bringing light and warmth wherever they are most needed.

The whole Church thanks you for this! I do as well, and I remember you always in my prayers. I entrust you to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, in the words that so many of our brothers and sisters have addressed to her in their hour of need:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

I bless you, along with your families and loved ones, and I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 14 January 2025*

FRANCIS