



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER



FILIPINO MINISTRY
ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER
PRESENTS

ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE
**STO NIÑO
DE CEBU**
1st ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz BC

Join us for the
Opening Salvo Mass - Aug. 16 @ 6pm
Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

Rosary, Novena & Mass - Aug 17-25 @ 5:15pm

Dedication Anniversary Mass - Aug. 26 @ 4pm
Cebu Archbishop Jose S. Palma

For more information:
email: stonino-agassiz@shaw.ca
call: (604) 683-0281 ext. 231

Celebrating the 1st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sto. Niño Shrine: A Joyous Commemoration of Faith and Unity

Written by Michelle Aprecio | Poster Design by Sherwin Ruiz

As we eagerly await the 1st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sto. Niño Shrine, preparations are in full swing to create a memorable celebration of faith, unity, and love. With only a few days left until the official start of activities, we extend a warm invitation to all to join us in person for this momentous occasion. For those unable to attend in person, a live stream option will ensure that everyone can be part of this significant event.

(Please use the link: [Santo Niño Shrine – Agassiz BC Canada –Vancouver Archdiocesan Shrine of Santo Niño De Cebu](http://stoninoshrine.ca))

A Time for Devotion and Celebration

The festivities kick off with the **Opening Salvo Mass on August 16, 2023 (Wednesday), at 6:00 pm.** This will be led by His Excellency Archbishop J Michael Miller, CSB, from the Archdiocese of Vancouver. From **August 17 to 25, 2023, we will hold Daily Rosary and Novena prayers at 5:15 pm, followed by Mass at 6:00 pm.** Each day will have its sponsors and coordinators. The pinnacle of the festivities is the **Dedication Anniversary Mass on August 26, 2023 (Saturday), at 4:00 pm.** His Excellency Archbishop Jose S Palma, from the Archdiocese of Cebu, will preside over this solemn occasion.

Procession and Sinulog

On **August 16 and 26**, a meaningful and captivating spectacle awaits as a procession leads the way to the mass, featuring the enchanting Sinulog dance that holds profound cultural and spiritual significance. The Sinulog dance is far more than just a mere visual display; rather, it stands as a powerful testament to our collective faith and unwavering devotion.

Important Information for a Smooth Celebration

To ensure a smooth experience, consider these important reminders:

- Plan Ahead: Arrive at least 30 minutes early for the mass, especially on August 26, 2023, when it is expected to be busier.
- Bring Your Treasures: Do not forget your cherished Sto. Niño images and statues for a special mass blessing.
- Carpool and Care for the Environment: Share rides to save parking space and reduce our environmental impact.
- Comfortable Gear: Pack snacks and lawn chairs, as individual tents will not be set up. Coffee and drinks will be provided on August 16th and 26th.

Embrace the Spirit of Unity

Encourage fellow attendees to carpool and arrive early to enhance the spirit of togetherness. Let us make this celebration truly memorable by working together.

A Time for Pilgrimage and Fellowship

Organize a group pilgrimage to the Sto. Niño Shrine on August 26, 2023, to deepen connections and build a sense of community that transcends boundaries.

Food and Fun on August 26, 2023

Enjoy popular Filipino dishes and the refreshing halo-halo dessert from an on-site food vendor on the day of the celebration.

Let us Make This Anniversary Special!

This unique moment calls us to celebrate our faith, community, and devotion to our beloved Sto. Niño. So, let us come together in prayer, pilgrimage, and fellowship. Near or far, let us unite in spirit to honor Sto. Niño. Do not miss this wonderful celebration!

Save the date and join us at the Sto. Niño Shrine!

**EIGHTEEN COUPLES EMBRACE MATRIMONIAL JOURNEY IN MASS WEDDING 2023***Written by Jay Cruz | Photos by Angelo Siglos*

On June 24th, a significant event took place as eighteen civilly married couples came together to celebrate their Mass Weddings. The ceremony was officiated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, marking the beginning of their shared matrimonial journey. This joyful occasion served as a poignant reminder of the sanctity inherent in marriage and the valuable life lessons it imparts.

During the ceremony, Archbishop Miller delivered an inspiring homily that drew parallels between Jesus's first miracle at the wedding in Cana and the sacrament of marriage. He highlighted how, just as Christ revealed His presence and power at that event, He continues to manifest Himself through the sacred union of marriage. The Archbishop emphasized that a marriage, blessed by God, becomes a living testament to His grace and love. The Archbishop also underscored the significance of marriage as a powerful instrument for spouses on their path to heaven. He stressed that as couples embrace the call to love and sacrifice for one another, they exemplify selflessness in all circumstances, demonstrating their commitment even through challenges. Within the ups and downs of married life, couples have the opportunity to strengthen their bond and grow spiritually.

In his address to the couples, Archbishop Miller reminded them of God's promise to be a constant presence throughout their marriage journey. This steadfast support offers solace and strength during times of joy, as well as trials. The couples were encouraged to walk in faith, understanding that God walks alongside them every step of the way. Drawing an analogy between marriage and a school, the Archbishop emphasized how it serves as a platform for learning love and sacrifice. Each day presents a chance to develop and deepen these virtues, leading to a better understanding of oneself and one's partner. The journey of marriage becomes an avenue to refine qualities such as selflessness, forgiveness, and unwavering commitment. Furthermore, the Archbishop urged the newlywed couples to glean insight from the Mass readings, particularly highlighting the significance of prayer both as couples and as a family. By cultivating a shared spiritual life, they would reinforce their connection and strengthen their relationship with God. Prayer would serve as a wellspring of guidance, comfort, and strength, forming the cornerstone of their marriage and family life.

As this momentous event was celebrated, the profound importance of the Sacrament of Marriage was deeply understood—a divine commitment that sanctifies and teaches couples on their journey to heaven. It is hoped that the couples, bound by this sacrament, will uphold their commitments and find enduring happiness together.



In the words of Pope Francis, choosing to bring one's marriage into the Church bestows many gifts upon couples—peace of heart, unity with the Church, the fullness of the sacraments, and God's special blessings on their union.





OTHER INITIATIVES

Come join the

Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade

Monthly Intensive Prayers with
Eucharistic Adoration
and Holy Rosary

THREE HOURS OF BEING IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE LORD



*Ask and it shall be given.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened.*
Matthew 7:7

Brought to you by:




Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver



Vocation Promotion:

"Come Follow Me" Sessions for Young Filipino Youth Interested in Priesthood

We are excited to invite you to our ongoing program, the "Come Follow Me" Sessions, specially designed for young Filipino youth who have the potential and interest in exploring the path to priesthood. This unique opportunity aims to provide valuable insights, guidance, and a nurturing environment for those considering a vocation in the priesthood. Whether you are certain about the priesthood or still exploring the path, we welcome you to be a part of this enriching journey. No prior registration is required – just bring your curiosity and an open heart. For any inquiries, kindly reach out to Deacon Raul Abella at rabella@rcav.org. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to walk alongside you on this journey of self-discovery and faith.

Session Details:

- Program: "Come Follow Me" Sessions
- Target Audience: Young Filipino Youth Interested in Priesthood
- Frequency: Every 4th Sunday of the Month



Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver

Join the Prayer Warrior Group: Building the Heart of the Filipino Ministry Together

Are you ready to be part of a dedicated community that forms the backbone of the Filipino Ministry? We invite you to join the Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade – a group of individuals committed to the power of prayer, nurturing the very essence of our ministry and strengthening our connection with the divine.

A Strong Purpose

This Prayer Warrior Group is not just a community; it's a force for positive change. As a member, you will be contributing to the foundation of the ministry through your heartfelt prayers. Our objectives are straightforward:

1. **Unity in Prayer:** Join hands with fellow Filipinos to pray daily for the intentions of our Archdiocese, fostering a shared spiritual journey.
2. **Targeted Impact:** Support specific projects and activities of ministry groups through your dedicated prayers, amplifying our collective influence.
3. **Community Care:** Extend your prayers to include requests from the wider community, forging connections beyond our ministry's boundaries.

Session Schedule:

- **Frequency:** Every last Sunday of the month
- **Locations:** The sessions rotate across various parishes within the Archdiocese

Your prayers can make a difference. Together, let us shape the future of the Filipino Ministry!