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# St. Mary's Parish Vancouver, BC



*"For it is in giving that you receive."  
St. Francis of Assisi*

## Ministry Booklet 2011—2012

Revision 01

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## **MASS SCHEDULE**

Monday to Friday: 8:00am

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:00pm\*

\* followed by Adoration at 7:45pm &  
Benediction at 9:00pm

Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (Anticipation)

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm,  
5:00pm, 7:00pm

## **CONFESSIONS**

Sunday: Before & after all masses

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am,

4:15pm to 4:55pm;

6:10pm to 6:40pm

Weekdays: After ALL masses  
(except Thursday evening mass)

An appointment for confession may be  
made by phone also.

## ***A message from our Pastor....***

*When God created you, He had a purpose for you. He wanted you to bring something unique to His people. What is the message God is asking you to deliver? What is the special act of love God is expecting from you? What's your role in the unfolding of God's plan in this world and in this parish?*

*By volunteering in the parish, you could find an answer to these questions. You could experience the joy of becoming the person you were called to be. You could experience the joy of being closer to God and closer to the parish community.*

*God has already blessed this parish community abundantly. By becoming one of its active members, you will share personally in these blessings and we will be blessed by your contributions.*

*God bless you.*

*Fr. Pierre Leblond*

*Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP*

## **2000 HAIL MARYS**

This group prays to the Blessed Mother asking for her true and powerful intercession. We gather (from different parishes) at 9:00am on the first Saturday of the month in the rectory dining room to pray the 4 mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Then we pray the 20 petitions. For every petition, 100 Hail Mary's are prayed with an offering of one white rose and a candle. We do this up till 7:00pm. We invite everyone to join us once a month to pray to our Blessed Mother. For those who can not commit to the whole day, you are still welcome to join and stay for however long you can.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

This ministry is an integral part of the Mass. Good, attentive altar servers enrich the celebration and provide important assistance to their pastor. This ministry is open to young people from Gr. 6 and up. Special training seminars are provided for those who would like to join this ministry.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Baptism preparation sessions are held for parents of babies who want their children to be baptized at St. Mary's. The sessions are every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Church. As a volunteer in this ministry, you may be expected to assist the pastor at this session and also at the baptism, either on the first or last Saturday of the month.

## **BIBLE SHARING**

Experience the impact of God's Word in your life. That's what the Bible Sharing Group is all about. We share God's Word through the weekly Scripture Readings, as well as in the Catholic Catechism, and through prayer and fellowship. St. Mary's Parish has three Bible Sharing groups to choose from. Please check the weekly parish bulletin for times. All are welcome.

## **BINGO**

Bingo takes place every Monday night in the school gym. We require our volunteers to work every 3rd week (17 Mondays a year) for an approximate 4 hour shift. Some volunteers start as early as 2:00pm, while others may start as late as 6:00pm. They perform various duties such as staffing counters, tills, microphones, a desk, or selling cards in a friendly atmosphere. All workers are trained before commencing duties.

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)**

Rooted in gospel values, the Catholic Women's League is dedicated to the preservation of the Christian family values and the sanctity of life and to uphold human dignity by working to make life better for all people, especially the disadvantaged.

Membership is open to women, 16 years or older, who want to experience spiritual enrichment, personal growth and leadership development. CWL is active in fundraising in support of various charities, and parish-building events. There is an annual membership fee of \$21.00 and we meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30pm. Join CWL not only for the fun and camaraderie, but to share your talents and skills and, in turn, be richly rewarded in your life journey –spiritually, socially and in parish/community building.

## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

We are a group who meditate and practice contemplative prayer as passed on through the teaching of John Main OSB. Rooted in Christian tradition from the earliest times, meditation is a way of simplicity in which we quiet the mind and become still and attentive to God. It is a prayer of silence, which takes us beyond words, thoughts and images to experience the presence of Christ within us. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the rectory basement. The session lasts for an hour and consists of listening to an inspirational talk on meditation, followed by 25 minutes of silent meditation. There is also a time of sharing and questions if needed.

## **CLOISTER OF ST. PETER**

This ministry looks after general church housekeeping such as maintaining flower arrangements, watering plants, cleaning the candle holders, replacing the candles and keeping the pews tidy. No experience is necessary as training is provided.

## **COFFEE / SOCIAL GROUP**

This ministry promotes friendship among parishioners by serving refreshments after certain weekend masses in the Church basement. Different teams are assigned to serve coffee each weekend for approximately 2 hrs, led by a team leader. Summer break is from July to August.

## **COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC)**

CFC is a Vatican-recognized lay community dedicated to the renewal of the Christian family. CFC's mission statement is "Building the Church of the Home, Building the Church of the Poor." Every member belongs to a household, which is a group of 4 – 6 married couples

who support one another spiritually. CFC meet in their homes weekly for household prayer meetings, as well as monthly as a large group on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Church basement. Key elements of CFC spirituality include charismatic worship, frequent group sharing and intercessory prayer, intergenerational faith building, and a special love for the poor.

## **COUPLES FOR CHRIST – FFL (CFC-FFL)**

CFC Foundation for Family and Life is an evangelistic and missionary community. Membership is open to any validly married Catholic couple, and to other individuals through its Family and Special Ministries. Those who want to join go through a Christian Life Seminar (CLS) for adults, or a Youth Camp for young adults and are made part of a small cell group called a household. The household members meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement in the Christian life. Household meetings, normally in the members' home on rotation basis, usually involves a time for prayer, sharing or discussion and fellowship. As part of the larger family of CFC-FFL, a global family of many different nationalities and culture, we are an integral part of the Catholic Church. We submit to our bishops and to the Pope and make ourselves available to serve our parishes and dioceses, especially in the areas of family and life.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. The organization encourages Canadians to act in solidarity with the poor through education, advocacy, personal choices and financial assistance to the projects and programs of its overseas partners. At St. Mary's, we hold 2 events every year; The Fall Action Campaign and the Share Lent Campaign. We distribute literature, show videos, set up displays in the foyer and give talks during masses informing parishioners about

what the campaign is all about. In the fall, we encourage everyone to sign petition cards lobbying the Canadian government for specific policy changes. The lent campaign is mainly a fundraising event through the Share Lent Collection. During this time we encourage every parishioner to give generously to support our partners in their work for peace, justice and development. There are no regular monthly meetings but we try to meet before and after these campaigns.

## **DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION**

We try to spread devotion to the Divine Mercy. All are welcome every Friday at 3pm and 6:15pm in the Church (all year round).

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER**

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion assists the pastor and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion to the community. Though voluntary in nature, names of volunteers are submitted to the pastor for approval. The list of EMs is then submitted to the Archdiocese of Vancouver. EMs are commissioned and appointed every two years.

## **FLOWER MINISTRY**

We provide flower arrangements in the church to enhance and beautify our place of worship. Duties include picking up flowers and supplies and preparing the arrangements. We meet in the church basement every Friday at 9 am (with the exception of 1st Friday, when we meet on Thursday). Anyone with a passion for flowers is welcome!

## **GREETERS**

Greeters welcome parishioners as they enter the church for weekend masses and provide them with a bulletin. We answer basic questions or direct parishioners to the appropriate sources for information. There is no regular meeting and it is a perfect opportunity for those who want to volunteer when you attend Sunday mass. The average commitment is thirty minutes before mass starts. Greeters must present a modest appearance, be friendly and be able and willing to assist other hospitality ministries, such as Ushers and at the Registration Desk as needed.

## **HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD**

This is a ministry that evangelizes mature women to foster a deep and loving relationship with God. We serve coffee and refreshments after the 5pm mass on the 1st Saturday of the month. We meet for weekly prayer meetings at members homes.

## **HANDS OF VERONICA**

This ministry brings the presence of God to the sick. Members attend masses once a month at the three nursing homes within our parish boundaries. We also provide an Eucharistic or ecumenical service once a month. Our volunteers wheel residents from their rooms to masses or services. Our team of Eucharistic Ministers distribute holy communion at nursing homes and also to shut-ins. We also have a Ministry of Friendship volunteers who visit with residents who have no one to visit them. These members are required to have a police check and a Tuberculosis check. We have 3 meetings a year. There is a great need to increase our membership. We particularly need more Eucharistic Ministers. We would like to extend our Ministry of Friendship to 3 nursing homes.

## **HEALING MINISTRY**

This ministry is a group of men and women who are dedicated to praying with those in need of healing. The Healing Ministry consists of prayer teams who make themselves available during adoration every Wednesday and Friday from 7:45 -9:00pm in the Church crying room and/or in the sacristy. Healing may be sought for physical or emotional injuries, painful memories or loss, anger, despair or other concerns. Individual prayer sessions using the Unbound (Deliverance) model are available by appointment . The Healing Ministry prayer team also includes volunteers who are willing to act as intercessors or prayer warriors. They pray over written prayer petitions and supplications. Other intercessors are charged with praying for the prayer team and the supplicants during the regular prayer sessions.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Are you concerned with the Church, community and would you and your family like to share in wholesome fraternity and fellowship? If the answer is YES, then it is time for you to become a proud member of the Knights of Columbus. We strive to grow spiritually while responding to those who need our help: the disabled, unborn, orphans, youth, widows, the Church and more. Give generously of yourself, your time and talent, while building self-esteem and satisfaction by socializing with new friends. Strengthen family life through various family activities such as Rosary night, family bowling, family picnic, memorial mass, Christmas party, etc. Insurance for the protection of your family is also available. Optional and flexible benefits are conceived to meet any of your needs. Now is the time to join the Knights. If you are a practicing Catholic gentleman, 18 years or older, willing to get involved and help the Church and community, we need you.

## **LAY APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

Several years ago, “Anne” a wife and mother of six, started receiving messages from God the Father, Jesus, Mary and the Saints. These messages, received in the form of inner locution, are spoken with divine love, clarity and authority. Anne has received permission from her bishop to publish the works. Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ meets every first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the church to pray the luminous mysteries of the Rosary and to read the monthly message. All are welcome. The messages known as The Volumes are available free to download from:

[www.directionfourtimes.com/onlinevolumes.html](http://www.directionfourtimes.com/onlinevolumes.html)

The Heaven Speaks booklets are found at:

[www.directionfourtimes.com/onlinelibrary.html](http://www.directionfourtimes.com/onlinelibrary.html)

## **LECTORS / READERS**

The lectoring ministry is active at Saturday evening and Sunday masses. Those involved in this ministry assist the priest by proclaiming the First and Second readings and reading aloud the Prayers of the Faithful. Though a person may volunteer for this ministry, there may not be an immediate opening. However, all volunteers will be contacted, and a training session will be set up as new lectors are needed. Commitment to this ministry involves attending a training session and a yearly meeting, preparing for readings in advance, and arriving fifteen minutes before mass on assigned days. A clear, well-paced voice is an asset.

## **LEGION OF MARY**

Legion of Mary is a group of lay people committed to work hand in hand with the Blessed Virgin Mary; to do Christ works of mercy with love for God Almighty and for the salvation of souls. Legionaries can either be active or auxiliary. Active members perform the Spiritual

and Corporal works of mercy, visit the well and the sick residents in the hospitals and nursing homes, give communion, pray the rosary and Divine Mercy chaplets. Every two weeks, we bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue to requesting families. We distribute rosaries and rosary guides, teach them how to pray the rosary, listen to their concerns regarding confessions and Holy Eucharist. Auxiliary members pray daily the TESERA (prayer card of the Legion). Our group meets every Saturday at 3:30pm in the church basement and/or rectory dining room.

## **LIGHT OF JESUS COMMUNITY**

Light of Jesus Community (LOJC) was founded by renowned international Catholic lay evangelist Bo Sanchez 28 years ago in Manila, Philippines. Its Vancouver chapter took its form last November 2007. LOJ aims to provide an avenue for growth, transformation and spiritual nourishment to different prayer groups and communities through the use of powerful and empowering teaching tracks and various media ministries (CDs, DVDs, books, magazines, internet). Meets and celebrates the Kerygma Feast every second and fourth Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at the School Gym. For more info please visit: [www.lojcvancouver.webs.com](http://www.lojcvancouver.webs.com)

## **LINE DANCING**

We try to build a community spirit through exercise and friendship. Participants learn various popular line dances to participate in St. Mary's celebrations throughout the year. We meet every Friday from 6:45-9:15 pm from September to May. We expect that the participants will learn compassion when there are slow learners and take them aside for one on one lessons. All participants are required to register and there is a \$4.00 drop-in fee where all proceeds go to Project Advance.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN**

Liturgy of the Word with Children is celebrated during the 9:30am mass every Sunday during the school year. Children from Kindergarten to grade 5 are invited to the church basement during the Liturgy of the Word to hear the readings of the day which are proclaimed in language that the children can easily understand. Volunteers can choose to be presiders or helpers/supervisors and commit to approximately one Sunday every six weeks. No experience is necessary and training will be provided.

## **MIGRANT WORKERS AND FAMILIES' OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Migrant Workers and Families' Outreach Program of St. Mary's Parish is a welcoming, safe and compassionate church community based on respect, trust and confidentiality, that bears witness to God's love under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and protection of the Holy Family. It is facilitated by a group of volunteers committed to actively reach out to migrant individuals and families who need support from a faith-based community. We carry out our mission through Word and Worship (teachings, prayer groups, bible study, retreats), Work (Moral Values Re-orientation Program, Family Enrichment Programs, Social Awareness programs and referrals to agencies in the community) and Wellbeing (counseling referrals and fellowship).

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

The primary function of music ministry is to enhance the liturgical celebrations by leading the assembly in song and praise. The goal is to encourage full, conscious and active participation. Seven choirs serve the 7 weekend masses and all practice at various times and days during the week. Singing skills are essential and qualified

musicians and instrumentalists may be accepted, depending on the choir's need. All members are expected to attend choir practices as scheduled.

*Sat 5:00pm choir practices every Saturday at 3:30pm.*

*Sun 8:00am choir practices every Sunday at 9:00am.*

*Sun 9:30am choir practices every 1st, 2nd & 4th Saturday at 6:30pm.*

*Sun 11:15am choir practices every Saturday at 6:30pm.*

*Sun 1:00pm choir practices every Sunday at 11:00am.*

*Sun 5:00pm choir practices every Sunday at 3pm.*

*Sun 7:00pm choir practices every Sunday at 8:15pm.*

## **MYSTERIA LUCIS CHAPTER, OP**

Mysteria Lucis Chapter is a Dominican Laity. Members learn together to live the Dominican Way of Life (prayer, study, to Share the Truth, spiritual works of mercy, & Community). We meet at the Rectory Basement 9 a.m to 12pm - every First & Third Sat. each month. Participants will learn about Dominican Spirituality, the Dominican Rule & Statute, and to Study the Faith, the Scriptures, lives of Dominican saints, etc. Every now & then, we join the Friars & brothers, and the Nuns for family celebrations. Every Third Sat. each we offer Formation sessions for those who will come to inquire about us. You can visit [www.dominicanlaity.ca](http://www.dominicanlaity.ca) for more info.

## **PARISH LIBRARY**

The Library is a great place to satisfy readers of every kind. It has a variety of books on many subjects, including an extensive collection of Christian books, Catholic Documents and Church literature, and also non-fiction, general fiction, audio and video tapes, and much more. Anyone can borrow the library materials. The Library is located in the church basement and is usually open for 1/2 hour after the Saturday anticipated and Sunday masses during coffee and

snacks time. Library volunteers assist individuals who want to check out the materials and help out during the 1/2 hour after mass.

## **PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)**

Elementary PREP is a catechism program for students in grades 1 to 7 who are attending public school and teen PREP is interactive religion sessions for teens who want to learn more about their faith. Both of these programs offer catechism sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 8pm. Students who need to receive their first Sacraments are also prepared during the year. Our main objective is to help the parents of our parish in their roles as primary religion teachers of their children. The programs are run by volunteer catechists and office staff numbering around 35 to 40.

## **PRISON OUTREACH**

Prison Outreach aims to connect with and befriend those who have been in conflict with the law. Previously we visited women at the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women (BCCW). This centre was closed and the women moved to other institutions outside our area. Currently we are visiting the youth in the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre (BYCC). Once a month Fr. Pierre and a few volunteers bring mass (with music) into the prison. We are currently looking for young musicians to participate in the mass. As well we are looking to develop a "Catholic Jam" program at the BYCC on a Friday evening where music is the "meeting place". There is ample opportunity to minister on an individual basis as well. We try to learn about, understand and incorporate the principles and values of Restorative Justice. We support, as a group, worthy causes related to our ministry in our parish and in our communities.

## **PROJECT ADVANCE**

Project Advance is much more than an annual fundraising event. Donations help to ensure that we have the resources to purchase land for churches and to build and maintain high schools that provide a Catholic education for our teenagers. They also assist in less visible needs of our youth, our seniors and our disadvantaged ones especially the hungry and the imprisoned. Responsible stewardship is required of us in order to respond effectively to these needs. Meetings occur in the beginning of spring. 3 to 5 volunteers are needed after each mass to collect pledges.

## **REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK**

This ministry welcomes people with a friendly and courteous manner. We help register new parishioners and answer any questions. Volunteers are required to be at the Registration desk in the Church foyer 20 minutes before mass and usually for 10 minutes after mass, or, until all inquiries have been dealt with. Patience in dealing with the public and general knowledge of the parish and the ministries are an asset. Training is provided.

## **RESPECT LIFE GROUP**

If you like to visit other Catholic churches in the Archdiocese we invite you to join us at a special Mass for Life held at a different parish on the First Saturday of every month at 9:00am. The mandate of our group is to promote respect for the life of all human beings from conception to its natural end. Our meetings are held in the rectory dining room on the 1st Wednesday of every month after the 8:00am Mass. The annual Life Chain takes place on the first Sunday in October and we encourage everyone to join with hundreds of other people to stand quietly on the sidewalk in public witness to the

sanctity of human life. At various times we show videos and invite expert speakers in our parish.

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

This program is designed for:

- Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/ baptized in other faiths who wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic.
- For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation).
- We also welcome all who are interested in learning or re-learning the Catholic Faith.

We look for committed team members that will help us with various tasks and/or sponsors that can be role models for all those people who want to join our Church. Both team members and sponsors need to be committed to the whole program. Sponsors need to be confirmed Catholics over the age of 18 that are faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. You can register for RCIA, or apply to be a sponsor/team member before August.

## **SINGLES FOR CHRIST (CFC-SFC)**

Singles for Christ is the singles ministry of Couples for Christ for unmarried men and women ranging in age from 20 to 40. Like CFC, SFC members meet monthly in a large group at the church and weekly for household meetings in their homes. Through community life, innovative formation, and trying out different kinds of service, SFC are empowered to discern their individual vocations and answer them, all the while using their gifts and singlehood to give life to the Church. SFC is called, not to go against the current, but to change it entirely! For more information please visit: [www.cfcfccanada.com](http://www.cfcfccanada.com)

## **ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY**

We are an outreach group that strives to provide unconditional love and spiritual support to vulnerable women, the homeless, and the addicted in the Lower Mainland. We drive down Kingsway and Seymour streets to reach out to the prostituted women. We go to downtown to reach out to the homeless. We also go to the Vancouver Detox Centre to pray over the addicted patients upon request. We journey with those who have left the street or in recovery (from addictions) by visiting them, and helping them in their needs. Volunteers have to be non-judgemental and willing to serve Jesus in the marginalized. We are the 'Light in the Dark'.

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Our aim is to bear witness to the faith in the exercise of true charity, development of charitable projects and of social justice. Some of the regular activities we participate in are the "Outreach Program" where several groups of us prepare sandwiches, coffee and treats on Friday afternoons and go downtown (East side) in the evening to distribute the same. We also do home visits within the parish boundaries to the needy whenever requested. Some of our volunteers help out at the Collingwood Community Center with the "Shower and Breakfast Program" on Saturday mornings. In addition, we do toy and clothing drives, giving trees etc., during the Christmas season when the poor feel especially vulnerable and depressed.

## **TAI CHI AND CHI QUONG**

The goal for this group is to be an active part of our parish community and for parishioners to be proactive in health and wellness. It is suited for all ages. This group practices two forms of low-impact exercise imported from China. The group meets every Saturday morning from 8:00-10:00am in the school gym, free of

charge. Participants are expected to wear loose fitting, casual attire suitable for physical exercise. The program is perfectly designed for those who want to drop in on a casual basis for any duration.

## **USHERS**

We assist parishioners before and after mass, help seat people prior to mass and are in charge of the collection. We also act as a security guard during the mass and assist during communion distribution. We may also be required to pass out the Sunday bulletin and assist at the Registration desk if needed. Ushers are asked to make a commitment and honor that commitment to serve on a regular basis at the weekend mass they usually attend. Training will be provided.

## **YOUTH FOR CHRIST (CFC-YFC)**

Youth for Christ is the youth ministry of Couples for Christ. Like CFC, every member belongs to a household, a group of 6 – 8 youth who support each other spiritually. YFC meet twice a month, once for a household prayer meeting, and once as a large group. All YFC activities are organized and led by the youth themselves, with the support and guidance of CFC volunteers. YFC puts a premium on the 4 F's (fun, faith, freedom, and fellowship) and empowers youth to believe and spread the word that God loves them, and He is calling them to something great. For more information please visit: [www.cfcyfcanada.com](http://www.cfcyfcanada.com).

## **YOUTH FOR FAMILY AND LIFE (CFC-YFL)**

CFC-YFL exists to provide an environment for youth ages 12 to 21 to honor God through a life of holiness, to empower them to act in humble service, to encourage them to relate in joy with their family, community and the church and to testify to God's love.

Entry to CFC-YFL is through a weekend youth camp with several talks/sessions meant to promote an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus and a positive and life giving relationship with family and peers. All members participate in a continuous spiritual formation program as well as other youth oriented activities. They have monthly assemblies as well as a yearly Canada wide youth conference. There also weekly meetings. Everybody is encouraged to participate actively in all of the community's activities while allowing for schedule constraints from school, work shifts and other obligations. For more information please visit: [www.cfcyfl.org](http://www.cfcyfl.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

As youth, we respond to God's call through the Holy Spirit to be connected to each other, the church, and the world so that our lives proclaim with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord! If you are between the ages of 11 and 18 please come and join us so you can see for yourself the difference Jesus can make in your life. And if you are 19 and older, Youth Ministry is an amazing opportunity to serve our Lord by using the gifts He has given you. No experience is necessary.

If you are interested in joining any of our ministries please fill out a PARISH PARTICIPATION FORM. You can find the form either online at <http://stmarysvancouver.ca/node/4540> or at the church foyer Registration Desk. Please return the completed forms to the parish office or to an attendant at the Registration Desk.





**ST. MARY'S  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**5251 JOYCE STREET  
VANCOUVER, BC  
V5R 4G8**

**TEL: 604-435-9611  
FAX: 604-439-9413**

**[stmarys@telus.net](mailto:stmarys@telus.net)  
[www.stmarysvancouver.ca](http://www.stmarysvancouver.ca)**