



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday August 12th, 2007

"Being Prepared"



Dear Parishioners, in last week's Sunday bulletin, we read about our letting go of any tendencies towards *covetousness*. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about *preparedness* instead. In truth, I think that these two themes are related. Let's begin with *covetousness*. Tendencies towards covetousness, or towards a desire to hoard, lead believers only to look at the immediate pleasures of life that present themselves before us, and to constantly grab this or that thing that comes at us without end! It is like that of a parent with a young child going to "Toys R' Us" and the child constantly tugging at the parent's sleeve saying, "can I have this," and "can I have that." The good parent, as we well know, will likely try to limit the child to only 1 or 2 things, if at all, before leaving the store. And why so? Precisely to avoid the development of the bad habit or vice of *greed* and to teach the child the good habit or virtue of *moderation* or *temperance* in their lives as Christians. For, over time, if this bad habit of *greed* goes unchecked in us, it leads ultimately to a spiritual blindness that doesn't allow us to hunger or yearn for God anymore. The end result of which is spiritual desiccation whereby we spiritually dry up inside us like a prune, such that life ends up becoming meaningless to us!

For those of us instead who strive to practice the habit or virtue of *temperance* or *moderation* in our Christian lives and to teach this virtue or habit to our children, we learn to cultivate not only a space in our hearts, but a central space in our hearts for God, such that the immediate pleasurable things of life do not end up taking center stage in our lives nor do they need to have possession over us. Rather, it is God who reigns supreme as the centre of our lives, such that we become conscious that all that we do is meant to give God the ultimate glory and honour rather than gratifying our immediate self-interests! It is in this way that we cultivate a certain *preparedness* or *readiness* for God in our Christian lives at all times. (Contd...)

(Pastor's corner contd...)

But not only does the habit or virtue of *temperance* or *moderation* help us in this most important way, it also helps us to cultivate a *preparedness* or *readiness* to help others, especially the most disadvantaged in society – all for the ultimate purpose of giving God the glory in our lives!

This Sunday, we are privileged to have Fr. Stephen Okumu, a priest from the diocese of Eldoret, Kenya, preach a mission at St. Mary's. As noted in last Sunday's bulletin, he is here to help raise funds for 350 orphans in his diocese, whose parents died tragically of HIV/AIDS. It is my hope that our Christian desire to cultivate this virtue of *temperance* so as to be *prepared* and *ready* for God, will naturally incline us towards *readiness* to help meet the living expenses of these beautiful children of God.

God bless, Fr. Mark, OP.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Aug. 12:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Aug. 13:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Aug. 14:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Aug. 15:** 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Aug. 16:** 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Aug. 17:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion (Church)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Aug. 18:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
- Sun. Aug. 19:** 2:00pm St Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)



PARISH NEWS

NEXT SAT./SUN. AUG. 11/12 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

To all Volunteers of St. Mary's Parish – please remember to wear your Volunteer tag **next Sat./Sun.** which is the 3rd Sunday of the month, when we will recognize the tremendous assistance and support provided by you to our Parish. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS

MISSION APPEAL 2007 THIS SAT./SUN. AUG. 11/12

This weekend St. Mary's welcomes Rev. Stephen Okumu, a priest from the diocese of Eldoret, Kenya, East Africa. Fr. Stephen will make an appeal at all masses, for support of orphans and vulnerable children whose parents have died of HIV / AIDS. The money raised will assist in subsidizing tuition fees and living expenses for 350 children in his home diocese in Africa. Your donation envelopes which were distributed last weekend, may be put in the 2nd collection at all Sunday masses this weekend. Cheques may be made payable to St. Mary's Parish - Eldoret. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 and more - please write your full name, address & envelope number on the envelope. God Bless you for your generosity.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ST. MARY'S MINISTRIES

Thank you CWL, K of C, Martha's Kitchen Crew, SMYAC and Street Ministry for all your help at the IMPACTORS' farewell reception after their last meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 8th. God Bless you for your stewardship.

RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for:
1. Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/baptized in other faiths (if you wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic).



2. For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation).

3. All are welcome, so if you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know someone who is, the RCIA program is the answer! You may register for RCIA classes which begin this coming September. For further info. please contact: Arda Akoglu or Carolina Prada at 604-733-3457 or aakog@yahoo.com.

SMYAC SUMMER VOLLEYBALL (weather permitting)

On **Sun. Aug. 12**, at 4pm come out to play some ball, and enjoy the hot, hot sun at the same time. Bring water and sunscreen! We play at the Central Park Volleyball Pit by Swanguard Stadium. (Enter via Kingsway entrance to the parking lot). Please Erwin at 604-729-0853.



ST. MARY'S BUS SERVICE FOR THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE GROTTO IN MISSION - SAT. AUG.18: Departure: 9:30am Return: 6:00pm

All seats on the St. Mary's bus are now fully booked. Registrants are requested to meet near the bus, on the north side of the rectory, at 9am.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND:

THE WAY OF THE PREACHER: FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT DOMINIC.

For men interested in exploring a vocation with the Dominicans of Vancouver, you are invited to a Dominican "Come and See" Weekend to be held from **5pm Fri. Aug. 17 – 2 pm Sun. Aug. 19.** Presenters are: **Br. David Bellusci, OP** and **Fr. Mark Hoo, OP.** The event will be held in Bowen Island. **Deadline for registration will be Wed. Aug. 15.** Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at frmark-hoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on your church bulletin board.



SUMMER TRAINING

Register now for the Youth Ministry Office's popular Summer Training events: **Youth Leader (Aug 13-17)** and **Searching in the Spirit (Aug 20-24)** Both will be held at beautiful Camp Jubilee at the base of Mt. Seymour. Check out www.youthmin.com for more info... don't miss out!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ARCHDIOCESAN SUMMER INSTITUTE

In our fast changing society, parents are often caught unprepared for the numerous "Teachable Moments" that have the potential to turn every parent into the "primary educator of their child." Sign up now for a special series, "Focus on Parenting" offered by Chuck Luttrell on **Aug. 17.** Further details and registration: Office of Religious Education (604-683-0281 or ore@rcav.bc.ca) or register on-line at www.rcav.bc.ca/ore.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE GROTTA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Sat. Aug. 18, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm at Heritage Park, Mission. (East end of 5th Ave., off Stave Lake Road.) Confessions at 11:00 am and Mass at 1:00 pm with Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM, as the principal celebrant. Mass will be followed by a procession to the Grotto where we pray the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then there will be time for a Picnic Social. Bring your picnic lunch and chairs. For free bus reservations for the handicapped and elderly, call 604-264-1790. Details on Church notice board. For more information regarding the pilgrimage contact Jack Ethier (jkethier@telus.net or 604-826-1205) or www.stjosephofmission.com/dept/events/grotto_2007.



COMMUNITY NEWS

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE:

Registration has begun for September 2007. Please phone the College at 604-822-6862 or visit www.corpuschristi.ca for more information.

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE:

Registration is open for September 2007. Courses offered include "Theory & Methods of Religious Education" (RLED 400/500), "Introduction to Pastoral Counselling" (PAST 400 / 500), "Foundations of Theology" (THEO 401/501), and "Jesus in Film" (MFST 410/510). Please contact the Registrar for more information at registrar@stmarkscollege.ca or 604-822-4463.

REDEEMER PACIFIC COLLEGE: IS STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

[Redeemer Pacific College](http://www.redeemerpacificcollege.ca) (RPC) is pleased to announce that we are still accepting applications for the Fall of 2007. RPC is a Catholic liberal arts college working in partnership with Trinity Western University (TWU) in Langley, BC, and affiliated with the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Students take courses at both RPC and TWU towards earning a degree in any one of the 39 degree programs offered at TWU. RPC also offers several certificate programs which highlight the Catholic dimension of students' studies. For more information on Redeemer Pacific College or inquiries regarding applying to RPC please call 604-888-7727 or e-mail admissions@rpcollege.bc.ca

36TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RENEWAL COMMUNITIES CATHOLIC RENEWAL CONVENTION

5 DAY RETREAT, **Aug. 30 – Sep. 3.** Enjoy a spirit-filled 5 days of prayer, praise and worship amidst the incredible sights and sounds of Anaheim! Guest speakers include Linda Schubert, Linda Koontz, Fr. John Hampsch, Francis & Judith MacNutt and more! For details please take a flyer from the registration desk in the foyer. For further info. on the tour contact Lennie David 604-597-8227 / 604-594-7296.



RETRouvaille : A PROGRAM OF HOPE DESIGNED TO HELP COUPLES IN HURTING MARRIAGES

Next Vancouver weekend **Sep. 14 - 16.** Space is limited. For more information please call: 604-530-6710 or visit our website at www.retrouvaille.org. To pre-register on-line, go to www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php.



COMMUNITY NEWS

THE 18TH ANNUAL MARRIED COUPLES' RETREAT

Will be held on the weekend of **Sep. 14 - 16,** at Westminster Abbey, Mission and will be directed by Rev. Paul Curtin, CSsR. (Redemptorist). Retreat theme: "FOLLOWING JESUS: EUCHARIST AS FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY." Cost per couple \$295.00. To register call Anne 604-464-1958/Marg.604-921-7136.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Oct. 19 - 21. Helping engaged couples understand the Sacrament of Marriage and their vocation. Register at 604-451-3300 or visit www.ceewest.com.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed. & Fri. 6:30pm followed by Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament & Benediction at 9:30pm
Saturday 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION Saturday 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;
Sunday 10:45-11:05am

(An appointment for reconciliation may be made at any time)

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursday - 8:00am; Saturday - 12:00pm

FIRST FRIDAY Adoration Throughout the day after Masses

Masses: 8:00am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:30pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction: 9:30pm

BAPTISM To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's. Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to your wedding date and prior to registering for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP Religious education program for children attending public schools.
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Jonquil Francis and Joseph D'silva
Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca
YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kevin Smith (Principal)
K-Grade 7 (604) 437-1312 Fax (604) 437-1193 Website: <http://www.stmary.bc.ca>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Pastor : Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP
Assistant Pastor : Fr. Mark Hoo, OP
Youth and PREP Coordinator : Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes