



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

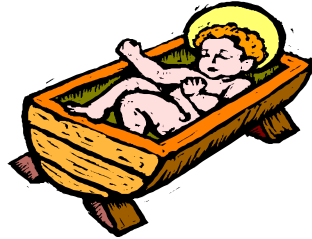
Pastor's
Corner

4th SUNDAY In Advent
December 24th, 2006

The Amazing Baby

Dear Parishioners,

"Isn't he cute!" These are the words that will be whispered over baby Jesus in the crib. Rightly so! But there is more than a pretty face to see in Jesus. Shinning through his flesh, a Divine Person manifests Himself to us. The living, spoken Word of God who is God from God. In Jesus is the very Person that was before the beginning of the world. Through Him, with Him, in Him, for Him, everything came into being. In this little baby Jesus, is the One who is the Source of life from the smallest to the greatest being.



In Him reside the resplendent Beauty of the Father, the power of Word that the Father spoke at the beginning of time, when He said, "Let there be light!" and light shone in the darkness. When we receive Him in the Eucharist, we receive the Light through which we see light; we receive Someone greater than the Universe, more intensely brighter than the sun and all the stars combined.

We are nourished by the one who summoned all the galaxies and all the angels into being. We are served by the One who created all the kings and their glory. He came first as a little baby so that we may be wooed into loving Him. In the end, He was judged by mankind so that mankind may not be afraid to be judged by Him. Between his birth and death, he grew into a leader who washed the feet of his disciples. Right now, your feet are being washed by the Creator, each time you go to confession. We also have to let Him pour out His blood for us each time we attend the Mass. When you receive the Holy Communion, the Word of God is borne again in you and in the world. This is what Christmas is about.

Merry Christmas! Fr. Pierre



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE**
Regular Sunday Masses: 8am, 9:30-am, 11:15am, 1pm
7:00pm Christmas Solemnity Mass
9:00pm Christmas Solemnity Mass
12:00midnight Christmas Solemnity Mass
- Mon. Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY (Office Closed)**
9:30am Christmas Solemnity Mass
11:15am Christmas Solemnity Mass
1:00pm Christmas Solemnity Mass
6:00pm Bingo (CANCELLED –Resumes Jan 8)
- Tue. Dec. 26: BOXING DAY (Office Closed)**
6:45pm Bible Sharing (CANCELLED)
- Wed. Dec. 27: OFFICE CLOSED**
 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec. 28: OFFICE CLOSED**
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Dec. 29: OFFICE CLOSED**
 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec. 30:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Dec. 31: Feast of the Holy Family - New Year's Eve**
Regular Sunday Masses 8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm
The Celebration of the New Year : Mary Mother of God
 3:00pm Baptisms
5:00pm Solemnity Mass
10:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11:30pm Solemnity Mass
- Mon. Jan 01: NEW YEAR'S DAY**
9:30am Solemnity Mass
11:15am Solemnity Mass
1:00pm Solemnity Mass

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS IN THE FOYER FOR MORE PARISH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

PLEASE: SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CHURCH

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED 2007



**MAY THE LOVE, PEACE
AND JOY OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST
FILL YOUR HEARTS AT
THIS CHRISTMAS AND
ALL THROUGH THE
NEW YEAR 2007**

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

PREP ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mary's PREP will have 2-week break to celebrate Christmas and New Year. **There will be no PREP classes on Dec. 26/27 and January 2/3.** PREP classes resume on January 9/10. See you in 2007.

TELEVISED CHRISTMAS DAY MASS FOR SHUT-INS DEC. 25

A special one-hour celebration that captures the peace, the joy, and the miracle of this great feast. The National Catholic Broadcasting Council will broadcast the St. Michael's Cathedral Christmas Eve Mass on **CHANNEL 70, VISION TV at 5:00 am and 9:00am on Dec. 25** See www.dailymass.ca for info.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL MASS FOR LIFE

Dec. 28 at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Most Rev. Raymond Rousin, SM presiding. Rosary at 11:30, Mass at noon, reception to follow - donations of finger foods would be greatly appreciated.

NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT AT THE CENACLE

Dec. 31, 8:00pm to 1:00am with Sister Monica and Sister Kathy. Come and prayerfully reflect upon the old year and welcome 2007! \$50 includes a light buffet and toast to the New Year! Pre-registration required: 604-266-1611.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Dec. 31, at **Our Lady of Mercy School Gym**, 7481 10th. Ave. & Kingsway, Burnaby. Doors open 6pm. Dinner (Continental / Asian Menu) at 7pm followed by dancing 8:30pm-1:00am. Dance to EJ Sound Mobile, Party favors & prizes galore. Tickets \$35 per person. Call Paul 604-524-4486 / OLM office 604-522-5733.



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES' CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Dec. 31, 9:00pm (doors @ 8:30) at Holy Family Parish Hall, 4851 Beatrice Street, Van. Party favours, light snack, midnight champagne, live band (Euro). Members \$30, guests \$35. Call Lina 604-433-0055.

PRO-LIFE MASS AND VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. **Sat. Jan. 6**, 9am Mass at St. Paul's Parish, 8251 St. Albans Road, Richmond. Followed by Rosary and Prayers in the Church. Vigils are held each first Saturday of the month under chaplaincy of Rev. Hien Nguyen. The Prayer Apostolate was instituted in 1995.



COMMUNITY NEWS

SOURCE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, January 12, 2007 from 7:30-9:30 pm at Holy Trinity Parish in North Vancouver. Open to youth ages 12-18, this event will bring youth from the entire Archdiocese together to worship Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Presented by the Youth Ministry Office, Vocations Office, and Fraser Valley West Serra Club. For more info, visit www.youthmin.com.



DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES-OLGCS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Monday nights from January 22 to March 26, 2007 at St. Augustine's Parish (2028 W. 7th Ave. Van), 7-9 pm. For info or to register, call 604-640-7549/1-888-833-7733/604-708-8402.

CALENDER DONATIONS

If you are able to donate 2007 calendars to federal prisons, please send them to Sr. Aldona Ewazko or Rev. Mako Watanabe c/o St. James Parish, 2767 Townline Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 5E1. Thank you!

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

Registration for the January 2007 term is now open. Courses include Mariology (Park), Christian Anthropology (Moser), and The Torah (Vogels) in Victoria. Please contact Marjorie Budnikas to register at 604-822-4463 (ext.115) or email: registrar@stmarkscollege.ca.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis. It is not too late to register for January 8, 2007 classes. For more information contact Dr. Marjorie Budnikas at 604-822-6862 (ext.115) or budnikas@corpuschristi.ca.

CHAMBER CHOIR NOW AUDITIONING

Corpus Christi College is considering 2 additional sopranos and tenors for its growing community Chamber Choir. Prospective members must have previous choral experience, the ability to sight read, and a commitment to regular weekly practices. Contact Tony Araujo at 604-788-6208 or 604-822-6862 to schedule an audition.



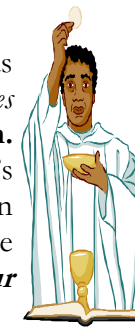
DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GREAT NEED IN MEXICO ?

Join Project Brotherhood in this missionary opportunity to help the needy in Mexico from July 9 to July 31, 2007. **Registration deadline is Jan. 31, 2007.** For info contact: Mario at 604-537-2311, 604-589-2870 or gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS

We invite single Catholic men (ages 17 & up) to join us as we look at "*Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience: Who does this apply to?*" The next meeting will be held on **Sun. Jan.7**, 7:30pm in the Luminous Hall, at St. Andrew's Parish, 480 E.47th Ave. Vcr. For info call Fr. Hien Nguyen or Fr. Tom Smith at the Vocations Office 604-443-3254 or www.vocationsvancouver.com. **Your questions are Very Important to us.**



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)

Leaders: Jonquil Francis and Eileen Carlson
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
Parish Ministries Coordinator : Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes