




ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday December 9, 2007

“ Because I dread the pain of hell but most
of all because I love you.....” 

Dear Parishioners, I have always struggled to say these words of the act of contrition, “ I am heartily sorry for my sins.... Most of all because they have offended you My God, who is worthy of all my love.” It is still hard for me to perceive, to grasp emotionally and intellectually, how my personal sins offend God. Slowly, I am getting to see it from the perspective of my personal relationship with him, with “my own Jesus” as Mother Teresa would say. He has given me so many opportunities to trust him and each time he has rewarded me for it. Each time, almost, he would “confirm” my trust with a blessing and slowly, my union with him became a solid and secure friendship, that really nothing could shake... But each time I sin, I do implicitly admit that I don't really trust him, that I prefer my ways, my security, my autonomy, to his friendship and his shared life.

Now I understand a little bit more how my sins offend him. And I start to fear hurting him. But it is delightful fear! As the prophet Isaiah said in the first reading of today's mass, “His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.” That kind of fear of the Lord, tells me what I should do, and where is my true joy, my real security and freedom. As a bride delights in pleasing her bridegroom, so I delight in God. The loving is already the reward because love is from God and God is love.

Fearing hell will not keep you in the right path for a lifetime, but loving God will. God bless you, *Fr. Pierre* 

Act of Love - John Marie Vianny

I love you, oh my God, and my only desire is to love you until my last breath. I love you, oh infinitely loveable God, and I prefer to die loving you than to live a single moment without loving you. I love you, oh my God, and I long for heaven only in order to know the bliss of loving you perfectly. I love you, oh my God, and I only fear going to hell because there I will never experience the sweet consolation of loving you. Oh my God, if my tongue is not able to say at every opportunity that I love you, I want at least my heart to repeat it to you as many times as I take a breath. My God, give me the grace of suffering out of love for you, of loving you while I suffer. Give me the grace of one day breathing my last out of love for you and the same time feeling how much I love you. The closer I come to my final end the more I beseech you to intensify and perfect my love for you. Amen.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 09:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
6:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
- Mon. Dec. 10:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Dec. 11:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Dec. 12:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm CWL Meeting (School Gym)
7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec. 13:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15am Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec. 14:** 10:00am St. Michaels's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec. 15:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
10:00am PREP Staff Meeting (Seminar Room)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
2:00pm PREP Baptism Preparation (Church)
- Sun. Dec. 16:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave.)
3:00pm PREP Special Baptisms (Church)
6:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)



NEXT SAT./SUN. DEC. 15/16 is 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

SCHEDULE OF ADVENT PARISH RECONCILIATION

- Wed. Dec. 12:** 8:00pm St. Joseph's Parish
- Mon. Dec. 17:** 7:00pm St. Jude's Parish & St. Helen's Parish
- Tue. Dec. 18:** 7:00pm St. Theresa's Parish & OL of Sorrows
- Wed. Dec. 19:** 7:00pm Our Lady of Fatima & Holy Cross
- Thu. Dec. 20:** 6:30pm Corpus Christi & 7pm St. Casimir
- Fri. Dec. 21:** 6:30pm St. Francis of Assisi Parish
7:30pm St. Mary's Parish

SMYAC FOOD DRIVE

Weekend of **Dec. 15 & 16.** Please bring a non-perishable food item (or two) to help out those who are less fortunate this Christmas season. You can drop them off in one of the Food Bank boxes in the church foyer prior to Mass. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The St. Mary's Young Adult Community wants to thank you in advance!


YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mon. Dec. 17, 7:30-9:00pm. Rectory. We will discuss Ch. 5 & 6 of Mother Teresa's book, "Come Be My Light". Even if you don't have a copy of the book, you are still welcome to join us in discussion, as we learn more about this modern-day saint!

YOUTH MASS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults who would like to be involved in service. As we take on this major project, we will need YOUR help. If you have the talent or the skills to read, lead, sing, play an instrument, or if you just like to help in the Youth Masses in your own simple way, please contact Eli Bautista at 604-435-9611 ext 6 or via **stmarys_ym@yahoo.com**. Let us work together to make this fruitful.

NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND DANCE

St Mary's will hold their annual Potluck Dinner Dance on **Dec. 31** in the school gym. Doors open 6pm, Dinner starts 7pm followed by DJ dancing music until 1am Jan. 1, 2008. A refundable deposit of \$10.00 per family is required to reserve your spot and will be returned upon your arrival at the hall. Tickets will be available at the foyer Dec. 9 - after the 11:15am and 1:00pm masses only. For more info call Lita Blanco: 604-451-5720, Rosie Ambrosio: 604-436-3024, Letty Schmidiger: 604-521-6355. 

LOST AND FOUND

Please note that all items in the Lost and Found will be on display, in the foyer, this weekend (Dec. 8, 9). Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY-FUNDRAISING&"PRAYER-RAISING"

We are selling religious items and "Jesus on rice" necklaces in the foyer after all masses. Proceeds will go to St. Mary's Street Ministry to help with the on-going operation to minister to the marginalized. **In addition, St. Mary's Street Ministry needs your prayers!** In the summer, we had over 200 people who joined us as prayer partners. They took a prayer card home, and pray for the people on the prayer card everyday. Thanks for their prayers! We have witnessed wonderful results *and can testify that God answers our prayers!* If you missed out on the opportunity to sign up as a prayer partner in the summer, here's your chance! We have printed more prayer cards. Each prayer card has 3 different names of the people we minister to. Sign up as a prayer partner, take a prayer card, and pray daily for those in prostitution, the addicted and the homeless! Remember, prayer works wonders!

THE ANNUAL GIVING (CHRISTMAS) TREE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

The branches are covered with gift tags. Please select one or more to indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16years. Please bring the unwrapped gift (along with the gift tag showing gender and age of child) and place it under the tree at any time during the weekday or weekend masses (**Dec. 8/9 through to Dec. 15/16**). The donations will be forwarded to an organization for distribution to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. God Bless you for helping the children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

St. Mary's Respect Life Group would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to all who supported their Christmas cards and cakes sale. God Bless.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - YOUTH FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held **Sat. Jan. 12, from 2pm-5pm at St. Mary's Parish School Gym.** The Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. Last year more than 179,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3000 local competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional info. contact: **Ryan at rbauzon@gmail.com or 604-603-8870.**



PARISH/ COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. ANDREWS PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

Fr. Lucien Larre will give a Parish Advent Retreat on weekday evening Masses **Dec. 10-13** at 7pm. All are welcome! For details call 604-327-2824.

FEAST CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Rosary Cathedral - Triduum Novena at 7pm on **Dec. 9 - 11** with Fr. Fred Buttner, Msgr. Pedro Lopez-Gallo and Fr. Luis Moreno. Concelebrated Holy Mass at 5pm on **Dec. 12** led by Archbishop Coadjutor Michael Miller. Pot Luck supper with Mariachis in the hall.

WANT TO ATTEND THE 49th EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS NEXT YR?

A group of parishioners from Holy Trinity Parish, North Van., are organizing a pilgrimage to Montreal and Quebec City at the time of the 49th Eucharistic Congress. Join us from June 12 - 25, 2008 (14 days & 13 nights). Cost based on 40 people. Land & air \$2525 per person based on double occupancy. Triple & quad rates also available upon request. Information meeting at Holy Trinity Parish Hall on **Thu. Dec. 13 at 9am & 6pm.** Refreshments served. Contact Dora Croner 604-984-3020, Email: doracroner@shaw.ca

DRAMA - PRODUCTION

The Little Flower Academy Drama Department presents Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" on **Fri. Dec.13 and Sat. Dec. 14** at 7pm. This touching story will surely get you in the holiday spirit. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale now at LFA. For tickets and more information please call 604-738-9016 ext. 323 or email: mislangm@lfabc.org.

MISA DE GALLO (pre-Christmas novena)

A special novena of evening masses will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Parish (2881 Main Street, Vancouver) from **Dec. 15 to Dec. 23**. An ideal spiritual preparation for Christmas. Masses will be celebrated at 7:00pm Mon. to Fri., 4:30pm on Sat. and 5:00pm on Sun. Everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA OF MASSES (SIMBANG GABI)

Corpus Christi Parish will be having a nine-day Christmas Novena of Masses sponsored by the Filipino Community in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ from **Dec. 15-23** with Msgr. Rodolfo Gallardo as celebrant. Masses will be at 7pm except for Dec. 15 & 22 at 5pm and Dec. 20 at 8pm. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served after the mass.

NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL'S CHOIR CONCERT

Come enjoy a Christmas celebration on **Mon. Dec. 17**. Free senior's matinee from 12noon - 3pm. Beverages & goodies are also free! The evening performance at 7:30pm is \$7 per person. Fr. Joe Cuddy Auditorium, 2855 Parker St., Vcr. For info call Sue Cirillo 604-255-5454. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY NEWS

A VIGIL CELEBRATING JOHN MAIN'S LIFE & LEGACY

Dec. 30, 7:00pm, at St. Augustine's Church, 2028 W. 7th Ave., Vcr. 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of John Main's death, a Benedictine monk who revived the practice of Christian Meditation. Join us for prayers, reflection, readings from the work of John Main, Taize chant & Christian Silent Meditation. Presented by the B.C. Christian Meditation Community. All are welcome!

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

Dec. 31 at Holy Family Parish Hall (4851 Beatrice St. Vancouver). Doors open at 8:30 pm, dancing 9:00 pm-1:00 am. \$35 members/\$40 non-members, payment due by December 15. Call Barry 604-327-5425 or Tina 604-438-7618.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

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

RECONCILIATION

Sunday & Weekdays - Before and after all Masses.
Saturday - 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;

(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
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: 9:15pm

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