



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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**Pastor's
 Corner**

Sunday, February 11th, 2007

Free-falling!



Dear Parishioners, many, many moons ago, when I was a young high-school lad, I remember participating in an event in a leadership program that has remained with me until today. In this event, each of us had to walk across rather lengthy knotted ropes that were suspended some 7-8 feet in mid-air, and that were tied between the branches of two trees. When we arrived at the middle point of the rope, we were supposed to close our eyes and free-fall backwards. Now, the sensation of free-falling was certainly scary for me, but relief came afterwards when I fell into the interlocking arms of fellow friends and members. Of course this activity was meant to build trust with one another, and the wonderful thing is that it drove home its point, so much so that I still remember this event quite clearly to this very day.

Now, just like what I have just shared with you, *surrendering* ourselves over to God by giving over one or another aspect of our lives to Him is certainly not an easy thing to do, and it is difficult precisely because it calls us to be *vulnerable* to God. In a sense, we are to close our eyes and free-fall backwards and wait for God to respond in His own good time. But, as Fr. Pierre shared with us in last week's *Pastor's Corner*, if we want God to work in one or another aspect of our lives that we may be dissatisfied with, be it recurring anger, deeply rooted bitterness, dissatisfaction with our job, drugs, alcohol, etc., then we are called to do precisely this – to give God the permission to do His work in our lives, in His own good and perfect time. In other words, to free-fall backwards and wait and trust that He will indeed catch us in His arms!

And, you know what, the wonderful thing is that God ALWAYS catches us when we *surrender* ourselves over to Him, or when we give Him permission to do His work in our lives! And, oftentimes, we find out that the way God catches us or works in our lives is not quite what we expected. For God's ways are not our ways! But as Jeremiah 29.11 also reminds us, God's plans for us will always be ultimately for the good: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

So, brothers and sisters, let yourselves go, in those aspects of your lives that you are dissatisfied with..., close your eyes and free-fall backwards, and watch God catch you in His arms. A catch that will transform your life, forever!

God bless you, *Fr. Mark.*



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 11:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)
 2:00pm New Parishioners Welcome (Church Bsmt)
- Mon. Feb. 12:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 13:** 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)
 7:30pm #2 of 4-Part Faith Series (School Gym)
- Wed. Feb. 14:** 10:45am Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
 6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
 7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 15:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
 7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Feb. 16:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
 6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
 6:45pm YM Ice Skating (Killarney Skating Rink)
 7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 17:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 10:00am Christopher Leadership (Church Bsmt)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 18:** 2:00pm St Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex)



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

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

VALENTINES DAY VOLUNTEERS

St. Mary's Respect Life Group requests for volunteers to help hand out Valentines on **Wed. Feb. 14**, to Senior residents in Hospitals. We will meet at Willingdon Park Hospital (4435 Grange Street near Willingdon) at 10:00am and then proceed to St. Michael's Hospital (7451 Sussex Ave.). To car pool from St. Mary's please meet in front of Columbus Tower at 9:45am.



PARISH EVENTS

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT :

YM Goes Ice Skating

Want to do something "wintery" before winter actually ends? Join us in our Ice Skating Night on **Fri. Feb. 16, from 6:45pm to 9pm.** This will be at the Killarney Skating Rink. Open for all youth in Grades 6 to 12. Permission forms are available on the YM Bulletin Board and the YM website.



ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULTS' EVENT

The Theology of the Body 4-part Faith Series, Part 2

Tue. Feb. 13, 7:30pm in the School Gym. Come and learn Pope John Paul II's landmark integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit. For details please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca. All parishioners are welcome!

SMYAC (Ages 18-39) Book Club Meeting

Thu. Feb. 15, 7:30 pm Rectory Basement. We will be wrapping up "Search & Rescue" by Patrick Madrid. As well, we will be starting our next book, "Finding God's Will for You" by St. Francis de Sales. If you are interested in the book by St. Francis de Sales, please contact Ana, alvc@telus.net, so that she can obtain a copy for you in time for the meeting -cost approx. \$15.00.

SMYAC Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Sun. Feb. 18, after all Morning and Afternoon Masses in Church Basement. All proceeds go towards the operational costs of the Young Adult Group. Please refer to the posters in the foyer for all details! We want to thank you in advance for your support.



ST. MARY'S RESOURCE CENTRE

It is time once more to ask for volunteers to work in our library. We are looking for people who will be willing to offer one - half hour a month after the Sunday Mass they usually attend. It would be additionally great if you have a spouse, sister, brother, or friend who will work with you. So you see, we are looking for a lot of volunteers - 24 pairs (48people), we hope. If you and your companion will leave your names and phone numbers at the registration desk you will be contacted and we will be able to start reading again. Thanks for your cooperation. *Sr. Katherine.*



PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP:

- 1) Bring you and your spouse or loved ones to a real relationship with God and a renewed faith in Jesus,
- 2) Empower you in the Christian life through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and,
- 3) Integrate you into an environment where you can receive support for your individual and your families' Christian life?



If your answer is YES! Couples for Christ, a Catholic community movement, invites you and all couples, including those separated, divorced and widowed to a Christian Life Program (CLP). **The CLP will be held starting Feb. 17, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Church basement.** This program is conducted free of charge. Sessions consist of: a teaching, a group discussion, and a time for fellowship with free refreshments. Each session would normally last for about 2-1/2 hours. For further details, pls. contact: Jun & Amie Morales (604)522-6870.

ALL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED TO THE SUMMIT

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Andrews Parish, **Feb. 17**, at 7pm. The evening includes Testimony, Praise and Worship, Sacrament of Reconciliation and a social. Come and Adore Our Lord and meet a friend.



IGNATIAN PILGRIMAGE (INFORMATION HOUR)

On **Sat. Feb. 17** at 11:00am in the Holy Name Church Hall (4905 Cambie & 33rd), you are invited to come and hear a formal presentation about this spiritual pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola (Spain) and Mary in Fatima (Portugal) and in Lourdes (France), May 28 to June 13, 2007 under the Spiritual Guidance of Fr. Robert Wong, S.J.

NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL: GR.8 PLACEMENT TEST

Thu. Feb. 22 at 12noon - 3pm, in the auditorium. All students must pre-register in order to write the test. Fee \$25. For more info call 604-255-5454, or jugglers@ndrs.org or www.ndrs.org.

DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND

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. Feb. 23 to 12pm Sun. Feb. 25.** The event will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 5251 Joyce St., Vancouver, BC. Cost will be \$25/person.



For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at fmarkhoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on the church bulletin board.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE

Public Speaking and Community Leadership Skills. This is a ten week course. **Sat. Feb.17** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Surrey. To register / for further info, call Blair 604-540-1919 - Vancouver, or Robert 604-572-9731 - Surrey.

CARE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

To register call Catholic Family Services at 604-443-3220:

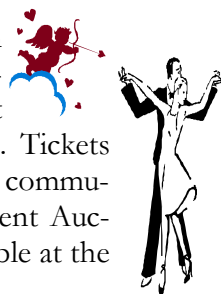
Women's Groups: 1)Thursdays starting **Feb. 15** at St. Patrick's Parish, Vancouver. 2)Mondays starting **Feb. 19** at St. Nicholas Parish, Langley. **Men's Group:** Wednesdays starting **Feb. 21** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Surrey.

VOCATION LIVE-IN

Feb. 16 - 18 for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission BC. For more info, call 604-826-8715.

WCDWA VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISING DANCE

West Coast Domestic Worker's Association invites you to our Annual Valentine's Fundraising Dance! **Sat. Feb. 17**, 8pm-1am at ANZA Club, 3 West 8th Ave./Ontario St.. Tickets \$15 for current or former caregivers, \$20 for community members. Music by DJ Star Mobile. Silent Auction, food, games & prizes. Tickets are available at the office: 604-669-4482/ at the door.



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Feb. 18, 1-3pm, 5935 Iona Drive. Everyone is invited to learn more about the Corpus Christi Advantage. Contact Monica Munaretto (monicam@corpuschristi.ca) for more info.

BLESSED SACRAMENT FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

Applications are being accepted for children entering Kindergarten in Sep. 2007. We offer only Catholic French Immersion program. Address: Heather St./14th Ave., Van. Please call 604-876-7211 for more info. Few spaces are also available in Gr. 1 - 7 for students already attending a French Immersion School.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18 -35)

"JESUS IS GOD! HE LOVES YOU!" Come and join us for a Day of Reflection and Inspiration presented by Fr. Chris Byrnes and the Cathedral Youth Outreach Team on **Sat. Mar. 3**, 9:00am to 5:00pm at the HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL HALL, 650 Richards Street, Van. Refreshments/lunch provided. To sign up, call the Cathedral office, 604-682-6774, ext. 5 (by Feb.20), or email: hrc@shaw.ca

ATTENTION ENGAGED & MARRIED COUPLES

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Feb. 23-25. Helping engaged couples understand the Sacrament of Marriage and their vocation. To Register call 604-451-3300 or www.ceewest.com.

ATTENTION ALL MARRIED COUPLES!!!!

You deserve a weekend to enhance your relationship. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend in the Vancouver Archdiocese will be held **Mar. 30-Apr. 1.** The weekend is a great gift that you can give to each other. For info or to register contact Steve & Mary Bohnen 604-876-7298/sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca/www.wmecanada.org for more information.

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