



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

Sunday February 24, 2008

“Drinking the Water of Life”

Dear Parishioners, this Sunday's Gospel is about the Samaritan woman at the well whom Jesus offers the *water of life*, and this while knowing fully her rather colourful background. In a lot of ways the life of the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel reflects many of our lives as well, doesn't it? Many of us oftentimes look to other things in life to try to fulfill the emptiness in us. It may be clothes, shopping, gambling, drinking, pornography, power, money, whatever. As for the Samaritan woman, it was likely the string of husbands that she had, one after the other, like some of the Hollywood starlets! Yet, for those of us who have delved into any or perhaps even all of such things, we find that they bring us only further emptiness in the end, don't they? Well, initially they may keep us interested, but only for a short while. After that, that inner emptiness and inner hunger floats to the surface once again, and there arises once again a deep yearning for further meaning and fulfillment in life. This must have been the case for that Samaritan woman, as she was walking towards the well that hot fateful day. She must have been asking herself where did she go wrong in life? Is there meaning in life after all? Why is it that after going through all those men in her life, she hasn't yet found that deep fulfillment she is seeking for?



In today's Gospel, we see Jesus reaching out to us as well, no matter where we presently are in our own personal lives. Jesus reaches out to us to offer *the water of life* to quench the deep thirst and yearning for ultimate meaning in our own lives. This *water of life* that is then meant to bring about conversion and transformation in our own lives leading to eternal union with God! Notice what Jesus, himself, says to the Samaritan woman, “the water that I will give will become...a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” In other words, when we receive this *water of life*, when we dare in faith, even in our present circumstances, to receive Jesus personally into our lives and hearts, he gives us the meaning we yearn for, the meaning that is God and His profound love in our lives.

(Contd...)

(Pastors corner contd..) The meaning that hopefully then leads to further conversion and transformation in our lives, so that one day, we indeed will come to this ultimate and eternal union with God.

If there is this deep desire in you to have your thirst quenched, to find the meaning in life that you have been searching and yearning for all these years, then go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and then take a moment of quiet to slowly say out loud this prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ:

Lord Jesus Christ, I surrender my life to You. I ask for forgiveness for the area(s) of my life that has kept me from you. I thirst for you, my Lord, and I want a deep and intimate relationship with you. I ask in faith that you come into my life in a personal way and transform my life with your love, your forgiveness, and your healing, into eternal life. Amen.

God Bless, Fr. Mark.



PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S PARISH MISSION RETREAT : FEB. 25 - FEB. 27

The theme for this year: “Treasure In Heaven” will be preached by Fr. Mark Goring, who was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 at age 26, with the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, Ontario. A frequent speaker at conferences and retreats, Fr. Mark brings energy and enthusiasm to the gospel message, combining straightforward and humorous delivery with an inspiring depth of faith in Christ. He is a priest in love with the Lord, devoted to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother and deeply committed to living a life of faith. He also works in the area of youth evangelization. Fr. Mark will be preaching the homilies at all the masses on Sun. Feb. 24. Retreat topics: **Mon. Feb. 25 - “David & Goliath”, Tue. Feb. 26 - “7 Principles of the Desert” and Wed. Feb. 27 - “Power From On High”** with Mass. Venue: Church @ 7pm on three days.



DOMINICAN “COME AND SEE” WEEKEND: THE WAY OF THE PREACHER: 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. Feb. 29 to 12.30pm Sun. Mar. 2. Presenters are: Fr. Claude Noel, OP, Fr. Gabriel DeChadarevian, OP, Fr. Mark Hoo, OP, and Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP.** The event will be held at the Dominican House and at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver. **Deadline for registration will be Wed. Feb. 27.** Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 24:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
 2:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 25:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Parish Mission Retreat (Church)
 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 26:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
 6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (CANCELLED)
7:00pm Parish Mission Retreat (Church)
- Wed. Feb. 27:** 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Parish Mission Retreat (Church)
 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
 7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (Rectory Dining)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 28:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:30pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 29:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:00pm Catholic Christian Outreach (Church Bsmt)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 01:** 9:00am 2000 Hail Marys (Rectory Dining Room)
 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
 9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 7:30pm Couples for Christ Seminar (Church Bsmt)
- Sun. Mar. 02:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
 2:00pm Youth for Christ Meeting (Church Bsmt)
 3:00pm Baptism (Church)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)



PARISH NEWS

YOUNG ADULT MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Sat. Mar. 1, 7pm. Vassilis Souvlaki Greek, 6558 Kingsway, Burnaby. This month's theme: Greek! Please r.s.v.p us here at smyac_team@yahoo.ca by this Wed. Feb. 27 for reservation purposes. Carpooling is also available. For this and other info, please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca.

ST. MARY'S DEVELOPMENT & PEACE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

The film "After the Tsunami – Rebuilding our villages, our lives" after all masses (except 1pm mass) on **Mar. 1 & 2** at the Church Basement Library. The tsunami on December 26, 2004 killed 160,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes in the Province of Aceh, Indonesia. Come and see how, with your generous **Share Lent** donations, Development and Peace has helped in rebuilding 3,300 homes as well as roads and other infrastructures for 23 villages in the province in just over 2 years. This film is a must see for everyone.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM AT ST. MARY'S

Are you looking for a program that will help: 1) bring you and your spouse or loved ones to a personal relationship with God and a renewed faith in Jesus, 2) empower you in the Christian life through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and, c) 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 Sat. Mar. 1, 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Church basement.** This program is conducted free of charge, transportation will be provided upon request. 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: Ning & Edith Dinglasan (604)240-6770.

YM "FAITH IN ACTION"

St. Mary's Youth Ministry invites all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to participate in a Lenten event on **Fri. Mar. 7 from 6:30pm to 9pm.** We will meet in the Church Basement at 6:30pm. See you there!

YOUNG ADULT COFFEE NIGHT - FAITH DISCUSSION

Fri. Mar. 7, 8:30pm. Rectory Basement. We will be watching The Truman Show! Faith-based discussions to follow. Light refreshments will be served.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

CWL - NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to invite any newly registered parishioners to our first informal "Welcome Reception" on **Sun. Mar. 2** at the church basement from 2 - 4:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. We encourage any new registered parishioners to attend. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parishioners and learn more about the parish. Sign up sheet is available at one of the desks at the church foyer. So, come and join us for a fun gathering.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST. MARY'S

CWL RETREAT on "Contemplative Prayers for the Busy Women of Today" by Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, OP.

Come to a one day retreat on **Sat. Mar. 15** (8am-5pm) to ease and nurture our mind, heart and spirit in a serene setting of Rosemary Heights. Cost will be \$23.50 /person, includes transportation coffee/snack/full lunch. To register contact Chit Bauzon (604) 999-8574. Deadline is Mar 3.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A BIG THANK YOU! to *Aprille McCauley and her team of volunteers and parishioners* who hosted the Celebrant Singers last weekend, and made all the necessary arrangements for their visit to St. Mary's a comfortable experience. God Bless you and your families.

ST. MARY'S RESPECT LIFE GROUP would like to say "THANK YOU" to all volunteers who helped distribute Valentines to patients at the Willingdon Park and St. Michael's hospitals. Many were sincerely touched by our thoughtful gesture.

FAMILY VIDEO NIGHT

A special family video will be screened on **Sat. Mar. 8** after the 5pm mass in the church basement. All are welcome!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

AGM for all returning families for Sep. 2008, Thu. Mar. 13 at 7pm in the school. Information Night for NEW families wishing to enter St. Mary's for Sep. 2008 will be held on Thu. Apr. 3 at 7pm in the school.

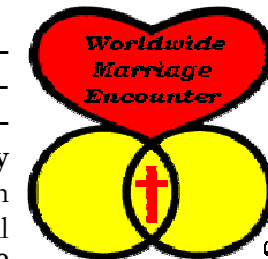
CATHOLIC CAFÉ PRESENTATION

The Christian Faith, Our Hope, and the Virtue of Love in the light of Resurrection. Come and explore the deeper meanings of the Mystery of Easter with Fr. Gabriel De Chadarevian O.P.: **Sat. Mar. 8**, 9am - 4pm at Christ the Redeemer Parish Hall West Van. \$15 for food etc. Register before Mar. 4 with Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 / hwaldock@yahoo.ca. See www.catholiccafe.ca for more info.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Do you want to give your Spouse something that will be remembered for a lifetime? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great Get-away for just the two of you. Register for an upcoming Weekend, **Mar. 28-30**. Call Steve & Mary : 604-876-7298 sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca



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, 5:00pm, 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.saintmarysyoung.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