



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Pastor's
Corner**

Sunday, February 25th, 2007

How to Resist temptations.



Dear Parishioners, The following "advices" come from my personal experience and from the teaching of St. Augustine, who happened to be a great sinner in the first part of his life. Never face temptation alone, by yourself. Fight temptation with and through Christ. How? By consciously reactivating your union with him during your trial. This is possible because you are a member of the Body of Christ, through faith and baptism. This is real, not just a pious comparison, a metaphor. You are really connected to his Resurrected Body, as much as the branches are connected to the vine and receive their sap from it. You are connected with all the victories of Christ over all the temptations he had himself, during his earthly life. St. Thomas Aquinas said that all the merits of Christ's Life and Passion belong to you as much as if you had lived this Passion and Life yourself. The same power at work in Christ, which enabled him to triumph over every possible form of temptation. Moreover, Christ knows, in his divine awareness, each and every temptation you personally had and will have; And he won the victory over them for you. It is up to you to claim the victory, by inviting him in your warfare. It is still a long-haul job; it requires resiliency and commitment. Nothing that you cannot do, with him.

Concretely, how do you do this. First, don't ever dialogue with the temptation. Turn away from the temptation. Run away. Look at Christ. Let him face the temptations. You may pray like this, "Lord, deal with this temptation for me. I will give you all the credit and praise for the victory. I will not let go of your hand". I challenge you to try this with all your faith and will, in humility. Tell me about the outcome.

Two final remarks. The first one is that the devil will make you believe you have already lost the battle and sinned, as soon as you become aware of the temptations in your thoughts. Not so! Only when you really consent to the bad thoughts and entertain them, only then you commit a sin. Christ himself had bad thoughts and yet, never sinned! You may have millions of terrible temptations and not commit a venial sin. (Contd.....)

(Pastor's corner contd....)

The second remark is that the devil will make you believe Christ has already run away from you - in truth Christ never runs away from you - especially when you feel degraded, soiled and humiliated by a terrible temptation. Christ himself has experienced this kind of temptation without being degraded. See Luke 4 verse 13 in the New Jerusalem translation. "*Having exhausted every way of putting him to the test, the devil left him.*" You may feel degraded by a great temptation, but you are not, if you stay with Christ. Have a victorious Lenten warfare. *Fr. Pierre.*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 25:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
11:15am PREP Special Classes (Church & School)
2:00pm Open Gym for Teens (School Gym)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 26:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:00pm PREP Coordinators Meeting (Church Bsmt)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 27:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm #4 of 4-Part Faith Series (Church)
- Wed. Feb. 28:** 8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Marriage Prep Class (Church Basement)
7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Library)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 01:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Mar. 02: FIRST FRIDAY**
8:00am Mass (followed by adoration all day)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 03:** 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. Mar. 04:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (Church & School)
2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)



PARISH EVENTS

TEENS' MINISTRY OPEN GYM - ONLY for youth in Gr. 9 to 12

The new Teens' Ministry will have their first ever Open Gym this **Sun. Feb. 25, 2pm-5pm** - School Gym. See you there!


THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY 4-PART FAITH SERIES, Part IV

Tue. Feb. 27, 7:30pm in the Church. 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!

HEALING MASS WITH FR. FERNANDO SUAREZ

Thu. Mar. 1, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Church. All are welcome!


SMYAC FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE NIGHT

Fri. Mar. 2, 8:30pm in Rectory Basement. All young adults (ages 18-39) are welcome to attend this spiritual discussion on "Dignity"! Light refreshments will be served. 

ONE EVENING RETREAT FOR MEMBERS OF ST. MARY'S STREET AND PRISON MINISTRIES, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, HANDS OF VERONICA AND DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

"Contemplating the face of Christ" by Fr. Chris Byrnes from Kamloops. The talk will be in the Church basement on **Fri. Mar. 2**, after the 7pm Mass. All are welcome to attend!

TALENT SHOW 2007 AUDITIONS

Have a talent that you would like to showcase? SMYAC will be hosting a Talent Show to be held on **Apr. 28. Audition dates for the show will be held on Mar. 3, 10, and 17 from 2pm to 5pm in the Church Basement.** The theme for this year is Broadway. All talents and ages welcome. Limit 5 minutes per audition. For more information or if you would like to be a volunteer contact: Joyce Azarcon 778-855-3137 email smyactalent2007@gmail.com. 

ST. MARY'S PARISH RETREAT

Mark your calendars! Fr. Silvester D'Souza, Carmelite Order of Priests, from Goa, India, will be preaching this years lenten retreat from **Tue. Mar. 6 - Thu. Mar. 8**. The retreat will start with Mass at 6:30pm on all 3 days. Make a Lenten commitment!

"FREEDOM" FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The Youth Ministry Office invites all high school teens to our 8th annual FREEDOM reconciliation event. FREEDOM will take place on **Fri. Mar. 9 from 7 - 11pm (5299 Joyce Street, Vcr.)**. Participants will experience first-hand the healing power of Christ through music, prayer, testimonies and teachings, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is no admission charge and no pre-registration. Visit www.youthmin.com for info.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

St. Mary's Respect Life Group would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to all the volunteers who helped distribute Valentines to patients at Willingdon Park and St. Michael's hospitals.



MANY THANKS AND BLESSINGS for your generous support to the Seafarers at Christmas. A total of 2,838 gifts were given out. *Rev. John Eason - Port Chaplain.*

ST. MARY'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Today is the 4th Sunday of Feb. The Library Resource Centre will be open for 1/2 an hour after the 9:30am, 11:15am & 1pm Masses only. Come! Take a book to read and pray during Lent. More volunteers are still needed. *Sr. Katherine.*



49th INTNL. EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - Quebec City, 2008

The Chancery has sent prayer cards to parishes & schools to invite people to give their spiritual support to the preparations for the IEC from **Jun. 15 - 22, 2008.** Please take a card from the foyer and visit the website at www.cei2008.ca for more info.

NOVENA MASS TO THE MOST HOLY INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Mon. Feb. 26, 7:00pm, Guardian Angels Church, 1161 Broughton St. Vancouver.

MAYAN PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA - STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

Sr. Jan Gregorich, a Sister of Notre Dame will be speaking on **Mon. Feb. 26, 7:00 pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish, 3778 W. 28th Ave., Vcr. Sr. Jan will speak about her work with the Mayan people of Guatemala and their struggle for survival and advancement. As a result of her 12 years ministry in Guatemala and Honduras, she established Global partners: Running Waters, Inc., a non profit organization building relationships between parishes, families & individuals in communities in Latin America through collaboration on water, food and health programs. She is also a co-director of GATE (Global Awareness Through Experience) which leads cultural immersion programs offering solidarity with the people of Guatemala & El Salvador.

IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA PRESENTATION

Immaculee Ilibagiza, Rwandan genocide survivor and author of the book Left to Tell, will be giving a presentation at Saint Thomas More Collegiate, 7450-12th Ave., Burnaby, at 7:00pm **Feb. 27.** Immaculee was recently featured on CBS' 60 Minutes among other high profile network programs. Immaculee has an incredible faith story integrated into her survival of the genocide. All are invited, entrance by donation.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

29 June - 1 July, Vancouver, BC. Keynote speaker: Fr. Laurence Freeman. Theme: Food for the Journey - Great Spiritual Teachers of the Contemplative Tradition. All registrations in by Mar. 1. Venue: University of British Columbia. To register contact the coordinator joycerogers@telus.net / www.meditatio.ca

LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18 -35)

"JESUS IS GOD! HE LOVES YOU!" Come and join us for a Day of Recollection 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

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents, **Sat. Mar. 3.** Mass at 9am Holy Spirit Parish, 244 Lawrence St. New West. Followed by Rosary at Royal Columbian Hospital.



CHRISTIAN SACRED ART THROUGH THE AGES

With Rev. Lawrence Donnelly. Come and see beauty - artists painting for the love of God. This is a rich visual presentation of the beautiful sacred art of Churches from across history. Come be inspired. **Sun. Mar. 4,** 7pm at St. Augustine's Parish Hall, 2028 W. 7th Ave. (near Arbutus & Broadway), Vcr. Admission by donation. STAAC Faith Presentation Series: See www.staac.ca for more details. For more info. Contact Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 or hwaldock@yahoo.ca.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING

Seven week program for interpersonal communication; improvement in talking/listening effectiveness. Prerequisite for: (i) Training as CARE peer counselor, (ii) Couple enrichment program (starting May 7'07). **Starts Mon. Mar. 5,** St. Francis de Sales Parish, 6610 Balmoral St., Burnaby, 7 - 9pm. Fee \$90 per couple / \$60 individual. To register call 604-443-3220. Website: www.rcav.bc.ca/cfs. Conducted by Catholic Family Services.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

With Fr. Salvador Reyes on **Thu. Mar. 15 - Sat. Mar. 17.** Masses at 8:15am and 7pm (Thursday & Friday) and 5pm (Saturday). Retreat talk after each Mass. Please come to refresh your faith.

VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS

"PRIESTLY LIFE: WHAT IS IT?"

We invite single Catholic men (ages 17 & up) to join us as we look deep into the Vocation of Holy Priesthood. The next meeting will be held on **Sun. Mar. 4, at 7:30pm** in the Luminous Hall, at St. Andrew Parish, 480 E. 47th Ave. Vcr. (Between Fraser & Main St.). For more information, please call Fr. Hien Nguyen or Fr. Tom Smith at the Vocations Office 604-443-3254. Or visit our website at 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

Youth and PREP Coordinator : Eli Bautista

Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes