



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY January 28th, 2007

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners, Fr. Pierre had shared with you last Sunday as to how passages from the Bible can be a means for God to speak to each one of us afresh each and every day in light of our own personal life's experiences. As such, both Fr. Pierre and I thought it would be a great idea to introduce you to some simple steps to help you pray with the Bible so that *His Word* can become truly *alive* in our hearts and in our lives each and every day.

The steps that I want to introduce you to is called *lectio divina*. It is a fancy Latin word to mean *divine reading* or *holy reading* and calls for 4 simple steps. This method was introduced in the 12th century by a Carthusian monk by the name of Guigo but can already be traced all the way back to the early 3rd century:

Preparation: a) Set aside at least 1/2 an hour each day. **The key is to select the same time and same place that is away from distraction to devote to prayerful reading, and to keep it.* This leads to a daily habit of prayerful reading that becomes most effective. b) Before reading the Bible passage for the day, take a few moments to still yourselves with deep, regular breathing and invite the *HOLY SPIRIT* to guide the prayerful reading time. You are now ready for the 4 simple steps. **4 Simple Steps:** **1) Read:** Read the Bible passage or the Gospel reading for the day slowly a couple of times. **2) Meditate:** Reflect on the text of the passage and think as to how it can be applied to your own life. If a particular word or phrase jumps out at you, stop reading and stay with it. Reflect on the word or phrase to see how it can be applied in your own life. **3) Share:** Open your heart to God and begin a conversation with God about what spoke to you in that word or phrase. **4) Contemplate:** Listen attentively to God speaking to you in return. To do this well, we must open our very selves - our mind, heart and soul - to God, and free ourselves from the busyness of our own thoughts so as to listen to God speak to us. Any good conversation must allow both parties to speak. When you have done this, continue reading until another word or phrase jumps out at you, at which point you **repeat** the 4 simple steps. This is all there is to *Lectio Divina*! It's as easy as that! If you prefer to prolong this prayerful reading time, stretch it out to 1 hour, or 1/2 hour in the morning and 1/2 hour in the evening.

In September 2005, Pope Benedict XVI noted, I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of *Lectio divina*: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart... If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring the Church - I am convinced of it - a new spiritual springtime."

Happy, Healthy and Holy Divine Reading! God Bless, Fr. Mark



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 28:** 10:15pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
- Mon. Jan. 29:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Jan. 30:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen Prep (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
6:45pm PREP 1st Reconciliation-Tue Gr. 2 (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Jan. 31:** 8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 01:** 6:45pm 1st Reconciliation-School Gr. 2 (Church)
7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Feb. 02:** **FIRST FRIDAY**
8:00am Mass (followed by Adoration all day)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Mass (Adoration continues)
6:30pm YM Meeting (Rectory Basement)
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 03:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
9:00am Pro-Life Mass (Church)
10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 04:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange)
2:00pm YM Open Gym (School Gym)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

2007 ENVELOPE BOXES - LAST WEEKEND FOR PICK UP!!!!!!

This is the last weekend the 2007 Envelopes will be available for pick up in the Church Basement. Please go down to the basement after Mass and collect your envelope box. Thereafter the boxes will be moved to the Parish Office.

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



PARISH EVENTS

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT :

Open Gym Grades 6 to 12

It's time for the monthly YM Open Gym. Join us on **Sun. Feb. 4, from 2pm to 5pm** in the School Gym.



YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS (ages 18-39):

Coffee Night Fri. Feb. 2, 8:30pm. Rectory basement. All young adults are invited to join SMYAC for a fruitful Catholic discussion based on the topic "Evangelization & Apologetics". All are welcome!



Snow Day Sun. Feb. 4, meeting @ 9am in the parking lot for carpooling purpose. Destination: Cypress Bowl. Three activities to choose from (with approx. cost of each: Snowboarding (about \$80); Cross Country (\$40); Downhill (\$100). For more info, please e-mail smyac_team@yahoo.ca.



Faith Series - facilitated by the Young Adult Group (SMYAC) All parishioners are welcome to attend a very special 4-part Faith Series starting on the evening of **Tue. Feb. 6, and will continue for the next three Tuesday evenings thereafter.** Please refer to the posters in the church foyer for details. To register, please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca. All are welcome!

CWL - NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to invite all newly registered parishioners to our first informal "Welcome Reception" on **Feb. 11, 2.00 - 5pm**, at the Church basement. Light refreshments will be served. We encourage all new registered parishioners to attend, it's a great opportunity for you to meet other parishioners and learn more about the parish. A sign up sheet is available at one of the desks in the Church foyer. So, please come and join us for a fun gathering!



ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are an outreach group who strive to provide friendship and spiritual support to vulnerable women in the lower mainland. The needs of our ministry is growing and we would like to recruit volunteers to help us in these areas: "Friends on Wheels" (i.e. drivers), baby-sitting, celebrations and events, newsletter, program development & training, informatics & coordination, spreadsheet, and other future programs for the homeless. To find out more or to join us, pick up an info sheet and/or fill in the "Call for Volunteer" form at the foyer.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY – WATER PICK DRIVE

We give flowers to the street working women on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. We are in need of water picks for cut flowers. If you have any spare ones, please drop them off at the Church foyer next week. Thank you very much!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you and may God graciously bless all who prayed for my recovery during my stay in hospital. *Rose Pierce.*

PRO-LIFE MASS AT ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's has been selected to host a special Mass on **Sat. Feb. 3, at 9am**, in order to promote respect for life and an end to abortion. We invite everyone



to come and express their prayerful support for the "Unborn Children". Followed by Rosary & Vigil at Burnaby Hospital.

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC - WORKSHOP

Subject: "Challenges facing residents who move from their homes to a long-term care facility." This workshop has been re-scheduled for **Feb. 8** at St. Michael's parish in Burnaby. For more information please contact Clare Kietabl 604-437-4819.

CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE

Public Speaking and Community Leadership Skills. This is a ten week course. Next courses start: **Sat. Feb.10** at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver, and **Sat. Feb.17** at Our Lady of Good Council Parish in Surrey. To register / for further info, call Blair 604-540-1919 - Vancouver, or Robert 604-572-9731 - Surrey.

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 – 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 frmark-hoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on your church bulletin board.



CARE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE SEPERATED 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.

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. **Register by February 1st for a 10% discount.** All registrations in by March 1st. Venue: University of British Columbia. To register contact the coordinator joycerogers@telus.net, or www.meditatio.ca

BLESSED SACRAMENT FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

Applications are being accepted for children entering Kindergarten in Sep. 2007. We offer only Catholic French Immersion program in Vancouver and are located on Heather Street at 14th Ave., Vancouver. Please call 604-876-7211 for more info. A few spaces are also available in Gr. 1 - 7 for students already attending a French Immersion School.

VANCOUVER COLLEGE - K-12 CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Established by the Christian Brothers in 1922, is holding its annual **Open House for prospective students and families on Thu. Feb. 1, from 6 – 9pm.** This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our Faith and Learning Community through a presentation by the Administrative Team and by touring the school and speaking with teachers and students. Information on admissions and application forms are available online at www.vc.bc.ca or please call the Registrar at 604-261-4285 x 223.

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

There are still spots available to register for The Torah (Vogels) in Victoria and Mariology (Park) at SMC. Please contact Marjorie Budnikas for more information or to register 604-822-4463x115 or registrar@stmarkscollege.ca.

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.

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.

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.wwmecanada.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
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