



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday July 20, 2008



Dear Parishioners,

I was surfing the internet and came upon this piece by a Rev. Paul Cross. In that article, Rev. Cross noted 5 activities that may be helpful to renew our spiritual lives during the summer, and I intend to share his ideas with you. Now, I know some of these ideas do not exist in many of our Catholic parishes or may only exist in a sketchy format, but why not bring these ideas forward; who knows, some of them may become realities yet, either in our personal lives or in the lives of our parish community:

The first is that of *vacation bible school* for the kids that usually last for a week. It is a day of summer crafts, games, singing, skits, and so on and so forth with the focus of instilling in our children and the youth *the* most valuable lesson they will learn in their lives – the great unconditional love that God has for each one of them. And just think, it also allows for husbands and wives to breathe a little and to do day trips together.

The second is that of *bible camp*, it is like the first except this time, children stay in the camp for the whole week doing similar things as above and always with the focus of the love of God for them. Meanwhile, parents get the week off to hopefully renew their marriage covenant with one another in the secure knowledge that their kids are safe and happy, and at the same time learning in a variety of ways how much God loves them.

The third is *family camp*. Well if parents find the idea of being apart from their kids for a whole week too hard to handle, why not just join the kids and together participate in these programs to learn the love of God as a family. And as Rev. Paul notes, it also serves to bring families together instead of sending them apart.

The fourth is the cultivation of *solitude*. I remember doing that for 1 whole week alone in utter silence at the Trappist monastery in Oka, Quebec and what a spiritually refreshing experience that was – not to be distracted by a million things at once, and just to be in the presence of God. Well, *solitude* can also be cultivated by going camping or hiking in some way-off location just to experience the beauty of God in the stillness.

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Fifth and finally is *inspirational reading*. There is nothing like taking 2 or 3 good spiritual books that you have just been dying to read with you for a week, and to read them for hours on end without any distractions and without having to put the book down every few minutes for something or other. Keep the television far away from you and take the opportunity to nourish your soul with something substantial to last a lifetime.

A blessed summer to one and all. Fr. Mark

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. July 20:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)
2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. July 21:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. July 22:** 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
- Wed. July 23:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. July 24:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. July 25:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. July 26:** 10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:00pm K of C Council (Church Basement)
3:30pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. July 27:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St.)
2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL VACANCY FOR GRADE 7

St. Mary's Catholic School has one vacant spot in Grade 7 for this coming September (School Year 2008-2009). Families/Parents who are interested to apply are requested to contact Mr. Kevin Smith at the School office from July 21st to July 25th, between 9am & 4pm.

PARISH/COMMUNITY NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY'S "SPLASHTIME AT SPLASHDOWN"

This Thursday, July 24th from 9am to 5pm. Don't miss out on this fun event! Youth Ministry invites all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to a day of fun, sun, food & games at Splashdown Water Park. **Only \$20 to join** - and this includes transportation, entrance fee to the water park, lunch and snacks. We still have spaces left so download your permission form NOW! To download the form and for more details, go to the YM website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Knights of Columbus, St. Mary Council 13072 will sponsor the 5th Annual Fr. McGivney Memorial Golf Tournament on **Saturday, August 16 at Mylora on Sidaway.** Official Entry Forms and Payments should be given to Ryan Bauzon (604) 603-8870, Adel Aguilar (604) 837-6945, Manny Mendoza (604) 430-3647 or Rene Montilla (604) 454-9679 by **Monday, July 21, 2008.** 100% of funds raised will go to the candidates to Priesthood and Religious Life who come from St. Mary's Parish.

DO YOU WANT TO SPONSOR A MISSIONARY?

A St. Mary's Street Ministry volunteer is looking for free accommodation for a year to become a full-time missionary. If you have a room to spare, please contact the coordinator: Mildred at (604) 728-4284. God bless!

RECEIVED AN ANSWERED PRAYER FROM THE 30-HOUR ADORATION RELAY?

On May 31 & Jun 1, IEC and WYD pilgrims prayed for all the intentions sent to them during the 30-hour Adoration Relay. If you have received any answered prayers as a result of that, please notify us through Mildred at (604) 728-4284 or email: mmoy_ca@yahoo.com

ST. MARY'S INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FAIR

Look forward to a fun-filled event on Sunday, **August 31, 2008!** St. Mary's CWL (in coordination with all Parish Groups) is hosting the **International Family Fair.** This will start at **10:00am.** There will be food, entertainment, kids' corner, silent auctions, plants & crafts, grand door prizes and many, many more. Crafters in the parish who would like to sell their products at the Fair, please contact Christina Liew-Johannus at (604) 759-9150 or email: christina_johannus@yahoo.com.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS PRESENTATION

Last month, there were close to 40 St. Mary's Pilgrims who went to the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City. Many had a profound experience of Christ in their lives. **From 8:00pm to 9:30pm on Sunday, July 27, in the Church basement,** one of the pilgrims will take the opportunity to 1.) share what the Eucharistic Congress was all about, 2.) share some of the powerful teachings and testimonies that took place there, and 3.) field your questions for St. Mary's pilgrims to respond to. Come and find out a little more what the International Eucharistic Congress was all about, and it may whet your appetite for the next one in Dublin, Ireland!

PARISH OFFICE NEWS

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR APPLICATION DEADLINE - EXTENDED!

This position will be responsible for organizing and directing efforts to involve volunteers in the Parish with the various ministries and groups. The requirement will be around 10 hours per week, for a 1-year term (likely to be renewed). **Please submit your résumé and a cover letter to the Parish Office or email: stmarys@telus.net. Deadline of submission is on Monday, August 11th.**

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Weekdays: Monday to Friday: 8:00am; Wed., Thurs., Fri: 7:00pm**

** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm

Weekends: Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (Anticipation);

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS:

Sunday: Before & After ALL Masses

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 6:40pm

Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)

-- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: 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

BAPTISMS: 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.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am; Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. For more details, contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Sessions: Tuesday **OR** Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00pm

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Joseph D'silva

Website: www.smyac.ca

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)

Coordinator: Eli Bautista

Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal)

Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312

Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor:

Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.

YM & PREP Coordinator:

Eli Bautista

Parish Office:

Margherita Bordignon/Ossie Fernandes