



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's Corner

Sunday, July 22nd, 2007

Dear Parishioners,

Last week, I shared with you about the virtues of *holidays*. Today, I want to address those of you who do not have the opportunity for holidays at all. If, in the busyness of your daily lives, you feel not only physically, but also spiritually, mentally and emotionally exhausted, I want to share with you an excerpt from a letter taken from a little spiritual classic entitled *Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, OCD (1610-1691). In the letter, Brother Lawrence noted:

"I honestly cannot understand how people who claim to love the Lord can be content without practicing His presence. My preference is to retire with Him to the deepest part of my soul as often as possible. When I am with Him there, nothing frightens me, but the slightest diversion away from Him is painful to me.

Spending time in God's presence doesn't weaken the body. Leaving the seemingly innocent and permissible pleasures of the world for a time will, on the contrary, give us comfort. In fact, God won't allow a soul that is searching for Him to be comforted anywhere other than with Him. Hence, it makes sense to sacrifice ourselves for some time in His presence.

This does not mean that you have to suffer in this endeavor. No, God must be served with holy freedom. We should labor faithfully, without distress or anxiety, calmly recalling our spirit to God whenever it is distracted.

The only requirement is that we place our confidence entirely in God. Abandon any other concerns, including any special devotions you've undertaken simply as a means to an end. God is our 'end.' If we are diligently practicing His presence, we shouldn't need our former 'means.' We can continue our exchange of love with Him by just remaining in His holy presence. Adore Him and praise Him! There are so many ways we can thank Him. The Holy Spirit dwelling in us leads us to love God in a diversity of ways..."

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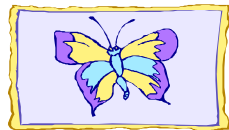
Here at St. Mary's, we have the privilege of having our Lord exposed in the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday and Friday evening. Come in and take the time to be in our Lord's presence and to adore Him, just be there in His presence, as Brother Lawrence encourages us in his letter. And, in the busyness of work, make it a habit of turning to Him in the deepest part of our souls, thanking Him and praising Him in a variety of ways as the Holy Spirit leads us. It is in this way that we become more and more aware of God as the source and center of our lives and, as such, allow His love and presence to permeate us at all times, even while we are at work! And, I am sure that this will also translate to the melting away, or at least, the lessening of the physical, spiritual, mental and emotional exhaustion that may come our way. And so, even without the benefit of holidays, there is still the opportunity to rest, in the deepest part of our souls, and be nourished in the presence and love of God. *God bless, Fr. Mark.*



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jul. 22:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
- Mon. Jul. 23:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Jul. 24:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm IMPACT - Faith Studies (Church Basement)
- Wed. Jul. 25:** 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm IMPACT - Cornerstone (Church Basement)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jul. 26:** 8:30am Respect Life (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Jul. 27:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion (Church)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jul. 28:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
- Sun. Jul. 29:** 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

Have a Blessed



PARISH NEWS

RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for:
1. Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/baptized in other faiths (if you wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic).



2. For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation).

3. All are welcome, so if you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know someone who is, the RCIA program is the answer! You may register for RCIA classes which begin this coming September.

For further information please contact: Arda Akoglu or Carolina Prada at 604-733-3457 or aakog@yahoo.com

CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS AND POSTERS ON DOORS & WALLS!

All flyers/posters etc. for the church notice boards, must be pre-approved by the Parish Office before they are posted on the notice boards, and are subject to removal without notice. All concerned are strongly advised not to post notices/posters etc. on the walls, doors and furniture of the church. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated in order to preserve our church premises. Thank you and God Bless. *Fr. Pierre.*

ALL PARISHIONERS ...NEW AND OLD ... PLEASE NOTE

If you have moved in the last few months, please make sure your new address and phone no. is communicated to the parish office. The best way to inform the parish office of an address change is to complete a blue "Change of Information Form" available at the information table in the foyer. Writing the info on your Sunday envelopes sometimes gets missed out. **Many boxes of Sunday envelopes remain unclaimed at the information table. If you recently completed a parish registration form and asked for envelopes. Please pick them up.** *Thank you*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL - GIFT SHOP

Holy Family Hospital, 7801 Argyle St., Vancouver, is in urgent need of volunteers for the gift shop. If you are able to donate your time please call Lorraine Vuch at 604-434-8900.

CHURCH ORGANIST WANTED

Guardian Angels Parish located at 1161 Broughton Street (Westend, Vancouver) is in need of Church Organist/s for weekend Masses: Saturday at 4:00pm; Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, & 12:30pm. Please contact Fr. Jerry D'Souza at 604-684-5775 or email: office@guardianangelsparish.ca

COMMUNITY NEWS

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Jul. 27-29. Helping engaged couples understand the Sacrament of Marriage and their vocation. Register at www.ceewest.com or 604-451-3300.

SUMMER TRAINING

Register now for the Youth Ministry Office's popular Summer Training events: **Youth Leader (Aug 13-17)** and **Searching in the Spirit (Aug 20-24)** Both will be held at beautiful Camp Jubilee at the base of Mt. Seymour. Check out www.youthmin.com for more info... don't miss out!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ARCHDIOCESAN SUMMER INSTITUTE

In our fast changing society, parents are often caught unprepared for the numerous "Teachable Moments" that have the potential to turn every parent into the "primary educator of their child." Sign up now for a special series, "Focus on Parenting" offered by Chuck Luttrell on **Aug. 17**. Further details and registration: Office of Religious Education (604-683-0281 or ore@rcav.bc.ca) or register on-line at www.rcav.bc.ca/ore.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE GROTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Sat. Aug. 18, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm at Heritage Park, Mission. (East end of 5th Ave., off Stave Lake Road.) Confessions at 11:00 am and Mass at 1:00 pm with Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM as the principal celebrant. Pilgrims are advised to bring picnic baskets, chairs, umbrellas, and water. For free bus reservations for the handicapped and elderly, call 604-264-1790. For more info on the pilgrimage contact Jack Ethier (jkethier@telus.net or 604-826-1205) or www.stjosephofmission.com/dept/events/grotto_2007.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT THE CENACLE

Part time, temporary office help with possibility of moving into permanent full time needed. Computer literacy and telephone skills necessary. Call Sr. Monica at 604-266-1611 (Sorry! wrong telephone # was printed in last week's bulletin).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A Catholic parish located in central Vancouver has a position open for a parish center caretaker. Job entails managing rentals and parish events, janitorial duties and general maintenance and upkeep of the building. Salary commensurate with duties performed. Apply in writing to: Caretaker Position, c/o #101-7380 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A1.

COMMUNITY NEWS

36TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RENEWAL COMMUNITIES CATHOLIC RENEWAL CONVENTION

5 DAY RETREAT, **Aug. 30 – Sep. 3**. Enjoy a spirit-filled 5 days of prayer, praise and worship amidst the incredible sights and sounds of Anaheim! Guest speakers include Linda Schubert, Linda Koontz, Fr. John Hampsch, Francis & Judith MacNutt and more! For details please take a flyer from the registration desk in the foyer. For further information on the tour contact Lennie David 604-597-8227 / 604-594-7296.



RETOUVAILLE : A PROGRAM OF HOPE DESIGNED TO HELP COUPLES IN HURTING MARRIAGES

Next Vancouver weekend **Sep. 14 - 16**. Space is limited. For more information please call: 604-530-6710 or visit our website at www.retrouvaille.org. To pre-register online, go to www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php.



SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING VOCATION LIVE-IN - Nov. 2-4

The Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC, is planning a weekend LIVE-IN for young men who are interested in the priesthood or the life of a religious brother, and want to see for themselves what seminary life is like. The Seminary of Christ the King has students in high school (Grades 8-12), in college (Arts I-IV), and in theology. The LIVE-IN is open to anyone who is thinking of entering the seminary in the next few years. The LIVE-IN provides an opportunity to spend two days at the Seminary and to become acquainted with other young men who have the priestly or religious vocation in mind. Those attending should arrive any time Friday evening, preferably between seven and eight o'clock. Bring a sleeping bag, school clothes, and some old clothes for sports, a towel, etc., and your high school transcript or your last report card. The suggested fee is \$25. The program will include interaction with priests, brothers and seminarians, daily Mass and prayer, recreational activities, sports, and some reflective reading. Anyone planning to come should fill in the application form, available on the notice board in the foyer, and forward it to: Vocation Live-In, Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC V2V 4J2, or the info may be phoned to 604-826-8715 or faxed to 604-826-8725 or e-mailed to: rector@sck.ca.



COMMUNITY NEWS

THE 18TH ANNUAL MARRIED COUPLES' RETREAT

Will be held on the weekend of **Sep. 14-16**, at Westminster Abbey, Mission and will be directed by Rev. Paul Curtin, CSsR. (Redemptorist). Retreat theme: "FOLLOWING JESUS: EUCHARIST AS FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY." Cost per couple \$295.00. To register call Anne 604-464-1958 or Marg. 604-921-7136. Space is limited.



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)

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.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