



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

Sunday, March 11th, 2007



“Holy Spirit 2 – Emboldening”

Dear Parishioners, Last week I shared with you as to how the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives can give us the strength to *convict us of sin and to turn away from sin by resisting temptation.* Today, what I would like us to focus on is to ask ourselves *how* the Holy Spirit can strengthen us and *embolden* us not only to resist or flee away from temptation but also to live and share God's message *in season and out of season.*

I shall begin by sharing my personal story once again. It happened when I was 20 years old in 3rd year university at Simon Fraser University going through an ethics course. At the end of the course, while sitting with a group of students over coffee, one suddenly stood up to enquire if each one of us believed that the *foetus* in the womb is really a child. Each one shook their heads with a resolute “no”. Now it so happened that I was the last of the 4 or 5 to be asked and because everyone said “no”, even if I believed otherwise as a practicing and believing Catholic, under group pressure, I too said “no”! I remember leaving the group with a very heavy heart and *ironically* (*God often works through ironic situations to bring about changes in our lives, doesn't He?) I was just heading for a bible study with other university students. And, just as I entered the doorway, what did I hear, but this ringing passage being read out from:

2 Timothy 1:6-8: “I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God...”

Bam! Those words hit me like a load of bricks, reminding me of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to me at baptism and confirmation to be nurtured through a life of deepening relationship with Christ. You could say a deep *shift* occurred in my life after that eventful day such that, to the extent that I deepened my *love relationship with Christ* in my life, to that extent as well was I the more *emboldened* to share the good-news of God *in season and out of season.*

(Contd....)

(Pastor's corner contd....)

Of course the Holy Spirit, who is the One God, can work in our lives to strengthen and *embolden* us in any which way desired, but doing so through *ironic* moments or moments of *crisis* in our lives, seems to be a common occurrence. Think about St. Peter, and the other Apostles. Was it not after deserting Christ, then likely feeling low and bad about it, and suddenly the Resurrection appearances and the *Pentecost* experience of the Holy Spirit that they were then emboldened to proclaim the Good-News of Jesus Christ. During this Lenten Season, let us dare to ask our Lord for those life-changing experiences in our own lives as well. That we too may then be emboldened to go out to share the Good-News of Our Lord Jesus Christ *in season and out of season.* Amen.

God Bless, Fr. Mark



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH: FAITH RELATED

- Sun. Mar. 11:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
 12:30pm Special Class Parents Mtg(School SeminarRm)
 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Mar. 12:** 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Mar. 13:** 6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
 6:30pm Baptism Prep Class (Church)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Mar. 14:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
 7:30pm Marriage Prep Class (Church Basement)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 15:** 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Mar. 16:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 17:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. Mar. 18:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (Church & School)
 2:00pm St Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)

**PLEASE SWITCH OF YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH: SOCIAL & OTHER

- Mon. Mar. 12:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Mar. 13:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
 7:30pm PEC Meeting (Rectory Library)
- Thu. Mar. 15:** 7:00pm Pastoral Council Mtg. (Rectory Dining)
 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
- Fri. Mar. 16:** 6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
- Sat. Mar. 17:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
 10:00am Christopher Leadership (Church Bsmt)
 2:00pm Talent Show Auditions (Church Bsmt)
- Sun. Mar. 18:** 2:00pm Open Gym for Teens (School Gym)

PARISH NEWS

PREP SPECIAL CLASS PARENT'S MEETING

Reminding all parents who have children in PREP Special Classes: there will be a meeting this **Sun. Mar. 11 at 12:30pm** in the School Seminar Room. Important details on 1st Communion will be discussed.

ST. MARY'S FIRST "LET US ACT" RECOGNITION SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND MAR. 17 & 18

If you are a member of any St. Mary's Ministry and/or group, please wear your name tag when you come to Church next Saturday or Sunday. The name of your ministry and/or group that you belong to must be printed on your name tag. If you do not have a name tag, please contact your group co-ordinator.

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. Last Audition for the show will be held on Mar. 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.

SMYAC MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Sat. Mar. 17. 6pm at Ceili's Irish Pub & Restaurant (670 Smithe St., Vcr); meet at the Church parking lot at 5:40pm. All young adults (ages 18-39) are welcome. Please RSVP at smyac_team@yahoo.ca by Wed. Mar. 14.

TEENS' MINISTRY OPEN GYM

St. Mary's Teens' Ministry will have another Open Gym next **Sun. Mar. 18 from 2pm to 4pm** in the School Gym. This is ONLY for youth in Grades 9 to 12. See you there!

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2007 - 2008

There will be a 'New Parent Information Night' on **Wednesday April 4th at 7:00pm**. This is for new families to St. Mary's School who are interested in registering their children for the September 2007 school year. Application packages will be distributed at this meeting only.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

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

DIVINE MERCY SYMPOSIUM

Jesus asks: Can you give up two days to hear my urgent message of Mercy? **Sat. Mar. 17**, 9am - 6pm and **Sun. Mar. 18**, Start with Mass at 9am to 6pm with benediction at 3pm. St. Monica Church, 12011 Woodhead Rd., Richmond. Bro. Don De Castro, Presenter Founder of Divine Mercy "Say a Little Prayer Movement"/3 O'Clock Habit / Divine Mercy TV Channel on Jumptv.com. Please bring a bagged lunch. Snacks will be served. For more info call Celisa D'Souza 604-274-1964, Hyacinth Yang 604-299-8008, Carol 604-279-0976 or Terrence 604-948-1719.



ATTENTION ALL MARRIED COUPLES!!!!

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.**

TALK ON "DIVINE MERCY : THE HEART OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH"

By Dr. Robert Stackpole, **Mar. 31**, 10am - 3pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 8842 119 St., Delta. Free Admission - Light lunch. For info : Sharmila 604-588-5777, Theresa 604-589-3908, Ruby 604- 507-0657.

DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED?

Beginning Experience is offering a healing weekend for those who have experienced the end of a relationship through divorce, separation, or death. It is a caring, accepting, reflective, program allowing spiritual and emotional renewal. The next weekend will be **Apr. 27-29**, at Huston Camp in Gold Bar, WA. The program begins on Friday evening and ends late Sunday afternoon. For info./ register, visit our website at www.seattlebe.org, call (206) 527-1180, or e-mail info@seattlebe.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

" A LENTEN JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM"

Rev. Johannes M. Oravec, O.S.B., a monk of the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, is visiting Vancouver to inform his brother Benedictines at Westminster Abbey, and others who may be interested, of plans of the Dormition Abbey to establish the Beit Benedict Peace Academy on Mt. Sion. This is a response to the requests of Palestinian and Israeli peace-makers to expand spiritual, cultural and educational programs that foster reverence and reconciliation. Now is a crucial time for Christians in the Holy Land. It is estimated that less than 3,000 Christians remain in Jerusalem and the total Christian population is less than 2%.

All parishioners are invited to learn first hand about the situation in the Holy Land at a presentation by Fr. Johannes which will include pictures of the area. Come and enjoy an evening rooted in prayer - "A Lenten Journey to Jerusalem".

There are two convenient opportunities:

Tue. Mar. 13 at Immaculate Conception Parish, 8842 - 119th Street, Delta and **Wed. Mar. 14** at St. Patricks Parish, 2881 Main Street, Vcr., starting with Mass at 7:30pm followed by the Presentation.

A LENT EVENING OF PRAYER AT THE CENACLE

Mar. 20, Sr. Jill Dearmer, rc, 7:00-9:30 pm. \$25 includes refreshments, pre-registration required (604.266.1611).

BIBLICAL WOMEN: OUR ANCESTERS IN THE FAITH

A day of reflection and study for women facilitated by Dr. Elaine Park, Academic Vice President and Professor of Biblical Studies, Mt. Angel Seminary. Using Scripture as a starting point Elaine will lead retreatants through an extended reflection on women of faith in our Salvation history. This will be a day to challenge, to stretch your faith and to rest in the company of other women. **Sat. Apr. 21**, 9am - 5pm at St. Marks College, 5935 Iona Dr. Vcr. **Please register by Apr. 12** - Space is Limited! At stmarks.campusministry@gmail.com or call the college at 604-822-4463.

GOSPEL EVANGILIZATION CONCERT

At Corpus Christi Parish in Vancouver on **Sun. May 6** at 7:00 pm. This concert will bring us closer to God in a musical setting. Proceeds will go to our primary school and the new regional secondary school at Notre Dame. Tickets are \$10 each. Please contact Demi, 604-322-1355 or the parish office, 604-324-2265 for tickets or more info.

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPRING DINNER DANCE

Mark your date!!! **Sat. Apr. 14** doors open 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm, followed by dancing to the music of the hottest DJ in town. A great evening of fun and entertainment. No alcoholic beverages. Tickets \$ 20.00 per person will be available in the foyer. Stay tuned for further information. All proceeds go to Charity. We look forward to your support, so bring your friends along for good time!!!!



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