



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday March 16, 2008

Jesus' entry into our lives



Dear Parishioners, when Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" In our day and age, what kind of event would have to occur before the entire city of Vancouver would be so shaken as to ask "who is this?" Would it be the arrival of a rock star or a professional athlete, to offer some excitement? The unexpected death of a major political figure perhaps? Or, more likely, a sudden terrorist invasion, or occupation by some foreign troops? But the arrival of a simple man on a donkey? It is likely not to attract any more attention than a passing glance!

If this is so, then the question arises. What kind of people have we become that only fame, fortune or some kind of disastrous misfortune must happen before we have our attentions grabbed? Perhaps at this point in time, the easiest thing for us to want to do is to turn to the media or whatever, to lay the finger of blame for developing such deadening tendencies in our hearts and souls!

Whatever the case may be, and whoever is to be actually blamed, during this Holy Week let us just take the opportunity to focus on that simple man processing through the streets on a humble donkey and ask ourselves if he would still be able to grab our attention, if we would still be attracted to him, or drawn by him...

What kind of person is this "Jesus" who still has the power to grab my attention so that I can still stand in awe of him, and then allow this awe to turn to 'hosannas'? Who indeed is this person, "Jesus" for me, and why, indeed, do I still want to shout out 'hosanna' from the depths of my being as he passes my way? Or do I want to do so, or indeed, do I even care? These are some of the questions Cackie Upchurch asks us to think about on this Palm Sunday and as we enter into Our Lord's Passion. *God bless, Fr. Mark.*



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE / THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Mar. 16:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)
2:00pm Couples for Christ-FFL (Church Basement)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Mar. 17:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Mar. 18:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm PREP Staff Training (School Seminar Rm)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Mar. 19:** 5:00pm L'Arche Mass (7401 Sussex Avenue)
7:00pm Mass Only (**Adoration CANCELLED**)
7:00pm CWL Meeting (School Seminar Room)
8:00pm Easter Vigil Rehearsal (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 20: HOLY THURSDAY**
NO 8:00am Mass (Church Open 8am- 11pm)
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration & Confessions up to 11pm
10:00pm Benediction
- Fri. Mar. 21: GOOD FRIDAY (Parish Office Closed)**
NO 8:00am Mass (Church Open 8am- 11pm)
1:00pm Confessions up to 2:45pm
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Church & Basement)
4:30pm Confessions (Church up to 5:30pm)
6:00pm Confessions (Church up to 10pm)
7:00pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 22: HOLY SATURDAY**
NO 12:00noon Mass (Church Open 8am)
9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
3:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
9:00pm Easter Vigil - Celebration of Light
- Sun. Mar. 23: EASTER SUNDAY**
Masses as usual with an extra Mass at 11:15 in the Church Basement
10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
12:30pm Easter Egg Hunt (School Gym)



PARISH NEWS

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Starts -ON GOOD FRIDAY for 9 DAYS. Our Lord said, "I want to grant a complete pardon to souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy. The Knights of Columbus will be distributing Divine Mercy Novena pamphlets after all masses this **Sat. Mar.15 & Sun. Mar. 16.**



GOOD FRIDAY VENERATION OF THE CROSS FLOWER OFFERING

Good Friday Mar. 21, everyone will have the opportunity to lay a flower at the foot of the cross **after** the 3:00pm service. To make this a more personal and meaningful gesture, please bring a **single flower** per person. Flowers will also be available in the Church foyer by donations.



PASSION OF THE CHRIST VIEWING (for young adults, ages 18+)

Good Friday Mar. 21, 11:45am. - 2pm, *Rectory Basement*. SMYAC will be spending time in deep reflection by viewing the movie *The Passion of the Christ* on Good Friday! Then we will proceed to the Church for Veneration of the Cross & Stations of the Cross.

PREP SPRING BREAK

To all PREP Parents and students, please be reminded that **we will NOT have PREP classes on Mar. 18/19 and Mar. 25/26** because of Holy Week and Spring Break. PREP classes resume on **Apr. 1/2**. Have a blessed Easter and a restful Spring Break.

6TH ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sun. Mar. 23 after the 11:15am Mass, in the school gym. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for all children between the ages of 6 - 11 years. Children below 6 years will receive complimentary giveaways. Bring your children and have fun watching them have a great time.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL SHAMROCK DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus request your support for their annual Shamrock Drive after all masses this weekend **Sat. Mar. 15 & Sun. Mar. 16**, in honour of St. Patrick's Day on Mar. 17. All proceeds go to support Seniors Housing.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CANDLE MINISTRY

St. Mary's Candle Ministry is in need of volunteers to help clean the candle stands and replace candles in the church on a weekly basis, preferably on Thursday afternoons. If you are able to help please call the parish office. God Bless.

PARISH NEWS

THIS SAT./SUN. Mar. 15/16 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Today we welcome into Jerusalem Jesus our Lord and Saviour. It is easy to be enthusiastic, even to be carried away briefly with that enthusiasm. It is much harder to sustain enthusiasm, because that means giving of ourselves. Is it any wonder that many who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem fell away in their enthusiasm or even turned against him? The Lord gave his all. In doing so, he invites us to be more generous, to give our very selves so that his ministry of love and reconciliation may spread throughout the world. At the beginning of this holiest week, let us pledge ourselves to be more generous, to be more giving, and to joyfully share our time, our talent, and our treasure. *St. Mary's Thanks and Prays a Blessing on all our Volunteers and their families.*



HANDMADE OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS & ARTIFACTS FROM BETHLEHEM & JERUSALEM

Will be available for sale in the church foyer after all masses this weekend **Mar. 15 & 16**. Sale benefits Christian families of the Holy Land. Cash and cheques only accepted.

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting Pennies and other canadian currency in order to support vocations to the Priesthood. Please bring in all your pennies to the foyer before and after all Sunday masses (**Mar. to Apr.**) and put them in the big bottle. Your donations will be used for the education and personal needs of our seminarians. God Bless You.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Come and enjoy breakfast with Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, and listen to his testimony of his walk with God. Food by Dutchmen Caterer. Enjoy lively worship music and fellowship with the Catholic Charismatic. **Mar. 29**, 9:00am-12:00 pm at St. Mary's Parish (5251 Joyce St., Vancouver). Tickets: \$10 – contact 604-597-8227 or fireblade@shaw.ca.

LEGION OF MARY ACIES

Sun. Mar. 30, 2pm - 5pm at St. Andrew's Church, 480 E. 47th Ave. Vcr. All active and Auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary together with families and friends are cordially invited. Refreshments will follow in the Church basement.

PARISH/COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Information Night for **NEW** families wishing to enter St. Mary's for Sep. 2008 will be held on **Thu. Apr. 3** at 7pm in the school.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT RETREAT

You are invited as members of our parish family to participate in our upcoming retreat. The purpose of this retreat is to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into a deeper experience of prayer and into a more intimate relationship with God, the will draw you closer and strengthen your faith. The retreat will begin on **Thu. Apr. 3** here in the church basement at 7:30pm. The format consists of a talk, small group discussion and a time to fellowship. We will take registrations after every Mass and registrations will close the weekend of Mar. 30.



NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

"The Music Man" Free Seniors Matinee **Apr. 15-18!** The show starts at 12noon. Free refreshments. Our elementary students \$5 only. Call Sue Cirillo 604-255-5454. Thanks for your support.

WHAT IS A GREAT MARRIAGE?

A three hour workshop offering practical suggestions on how to enrich your relationship. **Wed. Mar. 19** at 7pm, St. Anthony's Parish, 2347 Inglewood Avenue, West Vancouver. Topics include: *Attitude, Peace with the Past, Daily Talk Time, Listening, Consultation and Collaboration, Dating, and Sense of Humour, Forgiveness,And More.* Presented by: DENIS BOYD (Registered Psychologist). Denis has been counseling couples to healthier marriages for 27 years. He has a practical, relaxed and humorous presentation style. Registration is necessary. (*Handouts & refreshments included in the registration fee*). **Limited enrollment - Child Care Available. Register by calling 604-926-6881.**

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Mar. 28 - 30. Helping engaged couples understand the Sacrament of Marriage and their vocation. Register at www.ceewest.com or 604-451-3300.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great Get-away for just the two of you. A few spots left for **Mar. 28 - 30.** Steve&Mary 604-876-7298 sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca



COMMUNITY NEWS

"COME BE MY LIGHT"

Retreat in the Spirit of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta with Father Sebastian Vazhakala, MC, Co-founder with Blessed Mother Teresa and International Spiritual Director for the Lay Missionaries of Charity. **May 6 - 9** at Rosemary Heights. All interested in learning about the Charism of Blessed Mother Teresa are invited. For more information, call Imelda at 604-301-0655. Space is limited so register early!



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed., Thu., Fri. 7:00pm followed by Adoration & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturday - 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday - 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION Sunday & Weekdays - Before and after all Masses.
Saturday - 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;
(An appointment for reconciliation may be made by phone)

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
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction: 9:15pm

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.saintmarysyoung.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