



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5251 JOYCE STREET
VANCOUVER , BC , V5R 4G8
TEL: (604) 435-9611 FAX: (604) 439-9413
EMAIL : stmarys@telus.net
WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Pastor's
Corner

Sunday, March 18th, 2007



Healing Our Father Image

Dear Parishioners, Many of us have a love-hate relationship with our father on earth. We desperately need their admiration and affirmation; yet we resent some of the things they did or failed to do. Maybe you recall your father as the punisher. How often my Mom said to me, "Wait till Dad is back from work! He will punish you if you don't obey me now!" Maybe you recall your father as an absent, distant, tired and angry person. My Dad used to work seven days a week from morning till night. I was five years old when he took his first vacation, a very short one! The few hours he would spend with us, every Sunday night, he was caught up in his inner thoughts, absent, sleepy. I thought he did not care for me. I now know I was wrong but that is how I perceived him.

Distant, preoccupied with discipline, angry, these were traits of my father image. I have unconsciously projected these traits on God, my Father in heaven. This childish image of God the Father is still alive in me, tarnishing the true image of God, the Loving Father of the Prodigal Son. I need healing.

However, the last few years, I was blessed with a "safer" and more loving relationship with God the Father. I know he cares for me. He is not out there to punish me. He is right here to heal me. He has a plan for me. He wants me to unfold and shape this plan together with him. He is a partner and a friend in the "family business". The Father of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel of Luke is very much like this. He was constantly looking out at the far horizon for the return of his delinquent son. As soon as he saw him, he ran all the way towards him, forgetting all sense of self-respect, and he covered him with his embrace. Immediately the Father restored him as his beloved heir.

What are you waiting for? God is not picky. He does not request perfect contrition on your part. The Prodigal Son came back because he was hungry, not because he missed his Father. The Father gave him food and love. Accept his joyful fatherly love, be healed, and become a good father or a good mother to your children and to God's children.

God bless you. Fr.Pierre.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH: FAITH RELATED

- Sun. Mar. 18: 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)
- Mon. Mar. 19: 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Mar. 20: 6:30pm **NO** Teen PREP (Spring Break)
6:30pm **NO** Elementary PREP (Spring Break)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Mar. 21: 6:30pm **NO** Elementary PREP (Spring Break)
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. 22: 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Mar. 23: 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. 24: 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. Mar. 25: 11:15am PREP Special Classes (Church & School)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)



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

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH: SOCIAL & OTHER

- Sun. Mar. 18: 2:00pm Open Gym for Teens (School Gym)
- Mon. Mar. 19: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Mar. 20: 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
- Wed. Mar. 21: 7:00pm CWL Meeting (Church Basement)
- Thu. Mar. 22: 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
- Fri. Mar. 23: 6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
7:00pm K of C Council (Church Basement)
- Sat. Mar. 24: 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
10:00am Christopher Leadership (Church Bsmt)
2:00pm K of C 1st Degree Exemplification (Church Basement)

Sun. Mar. 25:

PLEASE LEAVE THE PARKING SPACES MARKED ...



FOR THE HANDICAPPED!

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION

PARISH NEWS

TEENS' MINISTRY OPEN GYM

St. Mary's Teens' Ministry invites all Teens in Grade 9 to 12 to their Open Gym this Sunday, **Mar. 18 from 2pm to 4pm** in the School Gym. See you there!

PREP SPRING BREAK

There will be **NO Teen PREP and Elementary PREP classes on Mar. 20 and 21.** Enjoy your Spring Break!

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.

RESPECT LIFE: YARD SALE - MARK YOUR CALENDERS!!!!

SPRING CLEANING??????? Let us help you. Please save your discards for our Annual Respect Life - Yard Sale on **Sat. Apr. 21. NO CLOTHING PLEASE,** however, Books, Dishes, Toys, Small Appliances ETC. are appreciated.



JOB OPPORTUNITY AT ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER OFFICE

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is seeking a **full-time**, professional Coordinator for its newly created **Office of Service and Justice.** The Coordinator will provide *leadership, vision* and *advocacy* for the development and implementation of an Archdiocesan Service and Justice Mandate and Strategy. He/She will oversee a range of services including consultation, integration and support to parishes and schools, as well as related Archdiocesan agencies to create a more responsive climate of justice to serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized in our community. Deadline for applications is Wed. Apr. 4. Further details including how to apply are available on our website: www.rcav.org.

CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the soul of our dearly departed:

Elizabeth Jotie: *Funeral was held* Wed. March 14.

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord,
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her,
May Her Soul Rest In Peace, Amen.*



COMMUNITY NEWS

LENTEN RETREAT AND PENITENTIAL SERVICE

At St. Joseph's Parish, 3271 Fleming St. Vancouver, on **Wed. Mar. 21** at 7pm. Retreat Master: Rev. Terry Conway, OMI. Theme: **Call to be a Eucharistic people.** Talk: 40 minutes and discussion 20 minutes.

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 call 604-266-1611.

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI TRIVIA NITE

Mar. 30, 2855 Parker Street, Vcr. 604-255-5454. Doors open at 6:30pm, Trivia starts at 7:00pm. \$10.00 per person. Come one and all!

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 /sbohn@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.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC MISSION 2007 - FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY "REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM" - See Poster in the foyer.

Sun. Mar. 25 - Part 1 & Mon. Mar. 26 - Part 2 at 4pm

Wed. Apr. 4 - Part 1 & Thu. Apr. 5 - Part 2 at 9pm on VI-SION TV. Matthew Kelly is a New Yorker Times bestselling author and is widely recognized today as one of the best speakers in the world. With his keen sense of humour and heart-warming charm, Kelly has been effortlessly elevating and energizing audiences in more than 50 countries for the past decade. He is a voice for our times with a message for young and old. He will be joined by the world-renowned St. Michael's Choir School.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Holy Cross Parish Burnaby has an opening for a full-time custodian, responsible for the maintenance of the church building and parish grounds. Please submit your résumé to Father Darek Zarebski SDS, Holy Cross Parish, 1450 Delta Avenue, Burnaby BC, V5B 3G2.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIBLICAL WOMEN: OUR ANCESTORS 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.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL JURY FOR X'MAS CRAFT FAIR

On **Apr. 14 and Jun. 9** the Crafter Coordinators for St. Thomas Aquinas High School craft fair are holding a **Jury** for our Christmas craft fair to be held on Nov. 3 and 4. The times of the Jury will be 10:00am and 2:00pm. Participation is on a first come, first serve basis. Exhibitors' art or crafts will be subject to the approval of a jury to ensure they are **hand made by the submitting artist. Only arts and crafts accepted by the jury may be sold or exhibited at the craft fair.** The jury will take place at the school, 541 West Keith Road, North Van. For more information please check our website: www.aquinas.org/craftfair or email: craftfair@aquinas.org or call the info. Line at 604-987-4431 ext. 201.

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.

GOSPEL EVANGELIZATION 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** at the School Gym. 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. All proceeds go to Charity. We look forward to your support, so bring your friends along for an enjoyable evening!!!



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.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