



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday March 2, 2008



"I DON'T THINK OF ALL THE MISERY BUT OF THE BEAUTY THAT STILL REMAINS"

Anne Frank

Dear Parishioners, Anne Frank like Etty Hillesum, Martin Gray, Victor Frankl and many other survivors of the Holocaust, had the capacity to see beauty in the terrible concentration camps of the second world war. When you read her diary, you get a sense of what the worst situation really looks like when seen with the eyes of God. And God sees things, events and people the way they really are. God is not a dreamer. He is a realist. But reality, when touched by him, becomes more beautiful than what we can ever imagine. The beauty is there, but our eyes cannot see it. We are like the Pharisees in today's Gospel (*John 9: 1-41*). We think we see but we don't.

Neil Miller confirms this perspective when he writes, "If tenderness were rare instead of normal, wouldn't newspapers give it headlines: *Mother Cherishes Family — Blind Person Helped Across Street — Prisoners Visited — Destitute People Cared For* and on and on? But thanks to Jesus' coming to on earth, such events are not news; they are as common and as beautiful as dandelions."

Yes. Because dandelions are common, we don't see their beauty. Lord, help me to see the beauty of life by seeing you in my life! Touch me with your Holy Spirit, enable me to understand the inner meaning of your Creation, of your Redemption, of your sanctification.

What is one thing that I see happening in my Church, in my family, in my community that fills me with new hope? Speak to Jesus about it.

I wish to thank Fr. Mark Link S.J. for inspiring me with his book entitled *Mission*.

God Bless, Fr. Pierre.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Mar. 02:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm Youth for Christ Meeting (Rectory Bsmt)
2:00pm New Parishioners Reception (Church Bsmt)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Mar. 03:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:30pm Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ (Church)
- Tue. Mar. 04:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm School of Healing (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Charismatic Core Meeting (Counsel Room)
7:30pm K of C Executive (School Gym)
- Wed. Mar. 05:** 10:45pm Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Street Ministry (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 06:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:00pm Hospitality Committee (Rectory Dining)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Mar. 07:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
8:30pm SMYAC Coffee Night (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 08:** 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
6:30pm Family Movie (Church Basement)
7:30pm Couples for Christ Seminar (Rectory Bsmt)
7:30pm CFC-FFL Seminar (School Gym)
- Sun. Mar. 09:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S DEVELOPMENT & PEACE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

The film "After the Tsunami – Rebuilding our villages, our lives" after all masses (except 1pm mass) on this **Sat. & Sun. Mar. 1 & 2** at the Church Basement Library. The tsunami on December 26, 2004 killed 160,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes in the Province of Aceh, Indonesia. Come and see how, with your generous **Share Lent** donations, Development and Peace has helped in rebuilding 3,300 homes as well as roads and other infrastructures for 23 villages in the province in just over 2 years. This film is a must see for everyone.

CWL - NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to invite any newly registered parishioners to our first informal "Welcome Reception" on this **Sun. Mar. 2** at the church basement from 2 - 4:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. We encourage any new registered parishioners to attend. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parishioners and learn more about the parish. Come and join us for a fun gathering.

LAY APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST MEETING

The Monthly prayer Meeting of Jesus Christ, the Returning King, will be on **Mon. Mar. 4** at 7.30pm in the Church. Where the monthly message will be read, and the luminous mysteries will be prayed. All are welcome.

YM "FAITH IN ACTION"

St. Mary's Youth Ministry invites all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to participate in their "Faith in Action" this **Fri. Mar. 7 from 6:30pm to 9pm**. They will meet in the Church Basement at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

YOUNG ADULT COFFEE NIGHT - FAITH DISCUSSION

Fri. Mar. 7, 8:30 p.m. Rectory Basement. We will be discussing "Sin, Repentance, the Blood of Jesus Christ and the Greatness of our Father's Mercy". Light refreshments will be served.

FAMILY VIDEO NIGHT

A sensational video!!!! "*The Woman Who Willed A Miracle*" will be shown next **Sat. Mar. 8** in the church basement after the 5pm Mass at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be available. Admission by donation. All are welcome! An unforgettable experience!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

AGM for all returning families for Sep. 2008, Thu. Mar. 13 at 7pm in the school. 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.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTIAN LIFE SEMINAR FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Everyone ages 18 and above, is invited to a Christian Life Seminar (CLS) starting on **Sat. Mar. 8** at 7:00 pm in the School Gym of St. Mary's. For the single or married individual, it brings a person into a stronger relationship with God by discovering and living more fully the power and the gifts he or she receives from Him and to live Life to its fullest according to God's plan for us. It brings married couples to a renewed commitment to Catholic Christian family life growing in a community of Catholic Christian families supporting each other in God's love and spirit. This program will also bring healing and transformation to every participant through the powerful talks of our invited preachers like Fr. Pierre Leblond, Fr. Mark Hoo, & Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian (OP's), Fr. Mario Fernandes, OCD and Sr. Marie Bouchard. Sponsored by the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family & Life. Please see poster in the Church foyer, our flyers or contact (24 / 7): Oscar / Riz Geronimo 604 782-8094; Singles: Victor 604 505-5552 or Pam 604-710-7933.



ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST. MARY'S

CWL RETREAT on "Contemplative Prayers for the Busy Women of Today" by Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, OP. Come to a one day retreat on **Sat. Mar. 15** (8am-5pm) to ease and nurture our mind, heart and spirit in a serene setting of Rosemary Heights. Cost will be \$23.50 /person, includes transportation coffee/snack/full lunch. To register contact Chit Bauzon (604) 999-8574. Deadline is Mar 3.

CONFESSION SERVICES AT NEIGHBOURING CHURCHES

St. Theresa's, 5146 Laurel St., Tue. Mar. 11 at 7:00pm.
St. Francis of Assisi, 2025 Napier St., Wed. Mar. 12 at 7:00pm.
Corpus Christi, 6350 Nanaimo St., Thu. Mar. 13 at 7:00pm.
St. Mary's, 5251 Joyce St., Fri. Mar. 14 at 7:30pm.



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. If you are able to help please call the parish office. May God bless you for your stewardship.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOSPITAL GIFT SHOP

Holy Family Hospital is in urgent need of volunteers for their gift shop. For information please contact Lorraine 604-434-8900.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Lieu Family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish for their support and prayers on the loss of their daughter, Janine. Thank you and may God bless you all!

LENTEN PARISH MISSION ST. THERESA'S PARISH

Mar. 3 - 6, 6:30pm - 7:15pm, 5146 Laurel St., Burnaby. During the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, d.s.m.p. is giving a mission on: Pope Benedict's *Spe Salvi* and the Lenten Journey of Hope with St. Therese. Topics: **Mon. Mar. 3** - *Understanding Hope in the Context of our Lenten Journey*, **Tue. Mar. 4** - *Applying Hope and Trust in Daily Living*, **Wed. Mar. 5** - *Following closer to the Passion of Christ in Hope*, **Thu. Mar. 6** - **Youth Night Mission** - *TNT Spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux and Mother Teresa of Calcutta*. Free will offering for DSMP Missions!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2008

Fri. Mar. 7, 10:00 - 11:00am at Holy Rosary Cathedral, 646 Richards Street, Vancouver. This special event, hosted this year by Holy Rosary Cathedral Parish, with Rev. Glenn Dion presiding, is an interdenominational service prepared by the Women of Guyana. You are invited to join us in prayer, and in doing so will join 170 countries around the world and 2000 communities in Canada, who will all be gathering on this same Friday. We welcome all parishioners and visitors to join us. A reception will follow. A donation of baked goods or finger foods to share would be greatly appreciated.

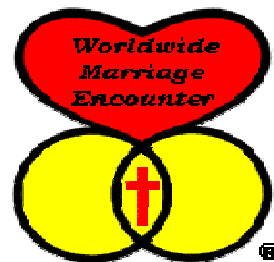


CATHOLIC CAFÉ PRESENTATION

The Christian Faith, Our Hope, and the Virtue of Love in the light of Resurrection. Come and explore the deeper meanings of the Mystery of Easter with Fr. Gabriel De Chadarevian O.P.: **Sat. Mar. 8**, 9am - 4pm at Christ the Redeemer Parish Hall West Van. \$15 for food etc. Register before Mar. 4 with Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 / hwaldock@yahoo.ca. See www.catholiccafe.ca for more info.

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. 28-30/08**. Steve & Mary 604-876-7298 sbohn@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.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