



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 23, 2008

Resurrection = Freedom + Identity + Purpose



Dear Parishioners,

“Father, how can you believe that Christ rose from the dead? There was not any T.V. camera recording the event live! How can you believe you will survive after death and one day have a resurrected body like Christ?”

My answer is this. The same power that rose from Christ from the dead is at work here in the hearts of the believers. Since the Unbound - Freedom in Christ Conference held at St. Mary's last February, I have seen so many persons being freed by God. Just as Lazarus came out of the tomb at Jesus' calling and was untied by the disciples, so have I seen persons that were stuck in their interpersonal and spiritual lives being freed from repetitive sin, from a crippling resentment, from an incaptivity to forgive themselves, God and the others. The lies that made them believe they were unwanted, rejected, “never good enough” and unworthy, these lies have been exposed, brought up to the light of Christ, and have been dispelled. They discovered in their hearts that they were the beloved sons and daughters of Christ, since the moment of their conception, no matter how their conception happened, and no matter what happened since then. They discovered that God had a plan, and purpose for them since the foundation of the world (see Letter of Paul to the Ephesians). They knew that **nothing** can prevent them to fulfill this plan, the God-given purpose on earth and in heaven for eternity, if only they cooperated with goodwill and have faith the size of a mustard seed.

Now this is the living proof for me that the power of the Resurrection is real and is at work here and now in our lives. Would you like to join the crowd of people who have been graced with a new freedom, a refreshed sense of identity and a deep and sure hope in their glorious purpose on earth and in heaven? (Contd..)

(Pastor's corner contd) This crowd is not a new crowd, not a new fad. We can trace its ancestors throughout the centuries right down to Peter, John, Mary Magdalene and the first Christian community. Read the Book of the Acts of the Apostles! Read the lives of the Saints!

Happy Resurrection, Fr. Pierre



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- 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)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Mar. 24:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Mar. 25:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Mar. 26:** 8:30am Respect Life Mtg. (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Dining)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 27:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Mar. 28:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm CCO - Cornerstone (Church Basement)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar. 29:** 9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
- Sun. Mar. 30: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**
 10:00am Youth for Christ Music Workshop (Gym)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 6:15pm Youth & Young Adults PraiseFest! (Gym)

A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!



PARISH NEWS

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, who 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 for fellowship. We will take registrations after every Mass and registrations will close the weekend of Mar. 30.



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.



PREP SPRING BREAK

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

SMYAC MULTICULTURAL NIGHT (Ages 18+)

Sat. Mar. 29, 7:30pm. *Me and Julio Restaurant (2095 Commercial Drive).* Check out the website: <http://meandjulio.ca/> This month's theme: Mexico. We will meet in the Church parking lot at 7pm for carpooling purposes! Afterwards, we might check out some salsa dancing over at The End Cafe. Please RSVP us here at smyac_team@yahoo.ca by next Thu. Mar. 28, for reservation and carpooling purposes!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS PRAISE FEST!!!

St. Mary's Youth Ministry & Youth for Christ will have a night of Music, Praise & Worship **next Sun. Mar. 30 from 6:15pm to 7:30pm**. Right after the Youth & Young Adults Mass, we will go directly to the School Gym for this exciting event. Everyone is welcome to join (youth, young adults, children, families, etc). Snacks will be served too. See you there!

PARISH NEWS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - MAR. 30.

To fittingly observe this Feast day of the Divine Mercy and receive all the graces given to us by Our Lord as told to St. Faustina, we are called to do some acts of mercy, go to confession and receive Holy Communion.



PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

The Knights of Columbus are accepting 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.



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.

NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Continuing our tradition of presenting popular musicals, "**The Music Man**" will be presented at 7:30pm **Apr. 15 - 18**. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Phone 604 255-5454 to reserve tickets or contact the school at office@ndrs.org. There will also be a free matinee performance at noon on Apr. 15 and 16 for seniors. Please RSVP at the number above if you plan to attend. We are asking all who come to bring a non-perishable food item in response to a request from the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

SHARE LENT COLLECTION

St. Mary's Development & Peace Parish Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous contribution to Share Lent. So far we collected a total of \$8,989. By your generosity, we are able to put our faith into action. May we continue to respond to the call of our Risen Lord to be in solidarity with our less fortunate brothers and sisters especially in the Global South.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL SHAMROCK DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all parishioners and visitors for their support for their annual Shamrock Drive after all masses last weekend in honour of St. Patrick's Day on Mar. 17. All proceeds will go to support Seniors Housing.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

EASTER TAIZE

Fri. Mar. 28 at 6pm. St. Mark's College Chapel, 5935 Iona Drive at UBC.

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.

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on **Sat. Apr. 5.** 9:00am Mass at St. Luke's Parish (20285 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge) followed by Rosary at Maple Ridge Hospital.

VANCOUVER ARCHDIOCESAN SPRING INSTITUTE 2008

Apr. 5 at St. Patrick's Regional Secondary, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education. Catechetical & adult faith formation courses for all interested adults. Courses include "Basics of the Faith (Section B)" and courses for catechists and teams in parish ministry for PREP, RCIA and LWC. "The Church: The People of God Journey through History" will be presented by Brother Bill Bolts, SM, who holds a doctorate in church history. Brother Bill is a veteran educator/administrator, and has authored books and articles on church history. All are welcome to these one day courses from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. For all course descriptions and registration, visit www.rcav.bc.ca/ore (Spring Institute) or call 604-683-0281.

YOUTH DAY 2008: WITNESS THE POWER

Youth Day 2008 is coming on **May 2 and 3** at Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School in Port Coquitlam. Join hundreds of teens for an awesome weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! Register now with your parish youth ministry or Catholic high school: **early registration deadline is April 18, 2008.** For registration info and the promo video, visit www.youthmin.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

YMO SCHOLARSHIPS

The Youth Ministry Office at the Archdiocese of Vancouver is pleased to once again offer two YMO Scholarships this June for students exemplifying outstanding leadership in their parishes, schools, communities, and homes. Open to students finishing their Grade 12 year, applicants will be eligible to win one of two \$500 scholarships to be applied to post-secondary schooling. Download the application form at www.youthmin.com.

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