



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday May 4, 2008

Ascension Sunday
-- Desiring Death --



Dear Parishioners, sometime ago, someone approached me to mention that he was very angry because after all his prayers and efforts to help this person who was going through a long and drawn out battle with illness, the physical situation of this person only seemed to worsen with the possible final outcome of death. How could a good and loving God allow this to happen? What is the meaning of life in such a circumstance? This is what the late *Fr. Nouwen* has to say, in response:

"Our life is a short opportunity to say 'yes' to God's love. Our death is a full coming home to that love. Do we desire to come home? It seems that most of our efforts are aimed at delaying this homecoming as long as possible..."

We are challenged once again to look at our lives from above. When, indeed, Jesus came to offer us full communion with God, by making us partakers of his death and resurrection, what else can we desire but to leave our mortal bodies and to reach the final goal of our existence? The only reason for staying in this valley of tears can be to continue the mission of Jesus who has sent us into the world as his Father sent him into the world. Looking from above, life is a short, often painful, mission, full of occasions to do fruitful work for God's kingdom, and death is the open door that leads into the hall of celebration where the King himself will serve us.

It all seems such an upside-down way of being! But it's the way of Jesus and the way for us to follow. There is nothing morbid about it. On the contrary, it's a joyful vision of life and death. As long as we are in the body, let us care well for our bodies so that we can bring the joy and peace of God's kingdom to those we meet on our journey. But when the time has come for our dying and death, let us rejoice that we can go home and be united with the One who calls us the beloved."

God bless, Fr. Mark.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. May 4:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
5:00pm **Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)**
- Mon. May 5:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Lay Apostles (Church Basement)
- Tue. May 6:** 6:30pm Teen PREP (School Seminar Room)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Confirmation Parents (School Gym)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. May 7:** 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Confirmation Parents (School Seminar Rm)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Marriage Prep. Class (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. May 8:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Life in the Spirit Seminar (Church Basement)
7:30pm Parish Outreach Committee (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. May 9:** 8:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. May 10:** 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Basement)
9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement, LWC Area)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Psalm 98 Concert (see announcement)
7:30pm CFC - Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
7:30pm CFC-FFL Seminar (School Gym)
- Sun. May 11:** 12:00pm Mother's Day Luncheon (Church Basement)
2:00pm Couples for Christ Gen. Mtng (Church Bsmt)

HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL "SPRING FAIR & YARD SALE"

Bake sale, special treasures, concession/food fair on May 17 and 18, from 10am to 3pm at Rosary Hall, 650 Richards St.

PARISH NEWS

PREP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (MAY 1 TO 31)

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) early registration for Catechetical Year 2008-2009 is now open. Take advantage of the reduced fees for the whole month of May. Regular registration will be in August. Register early to be assured of a spot. Registration forms are available in the Church foyer and in the Parish Office.

CWL's ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY LUNCHEON - May 11th, 2008



CWL is again hosting the Mother's Day Luncheon on May 11th, 2008. A great opportunity to treat your lovely mother or a special lady (ladies) to a fabulous lunch and show them your appreciation.

We have a great menu at a very low cost so buy your tickets now before it's sold out!!! Ticket price is \$20 per adult, \$10 for children 7-10 yrs. old & FREE for children under 6yrs old. Committee members will be selling tickets at the foyer after each mass for the next few weeks, so come buy your tickets and enjoy a great Mother's day lunch with your family.

GREG MAGIRESCU & ST. MARY'S CHOIRS

Greg Magirescu and St. Mary's combined choir will be singing Greg Magirescu's Mass compositions from his latest CD here at St. Mary's Parish at the 9.30 a.m., 11.15 a.m. and 1 p.m. Masses on Sunday, May 18, 2008. Greg is a noted musician and has sung in past World Youth Day events.



50% of proceeds from the CD sales will go in aid of St. Mary's young adult pilgrims to the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City this June, 2008, and World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia this July, 2008.

PROJECT ADVANCE

It is very exciting to start off the 28th Project Advance. Our committee hopes to make this event as successful as previous years. Committee members and volunteers are available until the end of June to collect all returned pledges and register new donors at the church foyer after each mass. Participation from all parishioners is most important and is one key factor to make this a successful campaign. We thank you in advance for your generous support in making this a successful campaign.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MEN'S HOSTEL OPEN POSITIONS

Desk Clerks (evening & midnight shifts) & Janitorial position (dayshift) are available. Contact Marisa (604) 683-0281

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY'S ANNUAL SOFTBALL WITH K OF C

On **May 17, Saturday** YM will have their Annual Softball Day with Knights of Columbus. Join them in a day of fun, sports, barbecue & fellowship. This event is FREE! Permission forms are required and are available at the YM website, St. Mary's School or at the YM bulletin Board. From **10am onwards**.

PSALM 98 CONCERT AT ST. MARY'S

On **Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m.** there will be an exceptional **"FREE" (BY DONATION ONLY) CONCERT** at St. Mary's Parish. It will be by **PSALM 98** - a dynamic group of youths who have sung in World Youth Day events in the past. The benefit concert is in support of St. Mary's Pilgrims who will be going to the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, in June and World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in July. **Don't miss this great opportunity to support St. Mary's young adults and their adventurous pilgrims!**

LEGION OF MARY CELEBRATION

The Legion of Mary will be celebrating the 100th Birth and Death Anniversary of Venerable Edel Quinn, here in St. Mary's Parish on **Fri. May 9** from 5:00pm - 9:30pm in the Church Basement. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm, followed by Potluck Supper. Active and Auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary are invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A big "THANK YOU" to all parishioners and neighbours who donated items for our annual Respect Life yard sale. It was a great success, and many women will be helped by the money collected. Once again, *Thank you!*

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FAITH SERIES AT ST. MARY'S

Come join Jake & Heather Khym for a special evening of storytelling, reflection, and worship based on Theology of the Body on Wednesday, May 21, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Church Basement. Admission is free. Then on Tuesdays, May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2008, same time and place, St. Mary's Young Adult Community will present the final 4-parts of *Created and Redeemed*, a faith series based on Pope John Paul II's universal teaching, Theology of the Body. Not to worry if you missed the first half, it is still worth coming out. Trust us, this education on being human will blow you away. Young or old come on out, it's for everyone. Don't forget your workbook. If you're new, workbooks will be available for \$7.50. See you there.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Attention: 2 more spots made available with St. Mary's International Eucharistic Congress Pilgrims: They have been made available in light of the larger tour bus and the extra plane tickets that we have been able to arrange for. This brings the total to more than 32 St. Mary's pilgrims who will be heading for the International Eucharistic Congress as a body. **Once again, preference will be given to young adults.** If there is still an availability after May 4, spots will be made available on a first come first serve basis until May 10. The total package will be close to \$1250/person. Please refer to St. Mary's IEC itinerary on the bulletin board for more information.

DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND: THE WAY OF THE PREACHER: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT DOMINIC.

For men interested in exploring a vocation with the Dominicans of Vancouver, you are invited to a Dominican "Come and See" Weekend to be held from **5:30 pm Fri. May 16 to 1:30 pm Sun. May 18, 2008. Presenters are: Dominican Master of Novices, Fr. Yves Bériault, OP and the Dominican Novices.** The event will be held at the Rectory of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. **Deadline for registration will be Wednesday, May 14, 2008.** Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at frmarkhoo@yahoo.com or at (604) 435-9611 ext. 5.



REGAINING YOUR SENSE OF WONDER: TO YOUNG ADULTS

There are now 6.5 billion people in this world. Among those people, God created you. You are UNIQUE. There's only one YOU in this world. God created you because HE LOVES YOU. Through a discussion on the ways that God's presence is made known through a Ministry of healing, Jacqueline Loh, a young adult will speak about the believable and powerful ways through which God's graces are made known to you. This will be on **Friday, May 9th, 7pm here in St. Mary's.** Fr. Pierre will celebrate Mass first for the young adults. Topics will include: Grace, Discernment, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The testimonies are empowering. You will leave with the realization that the Holy Spirit is truly 'alive' and 'walking' with you. Please bring a food item for the food bank as a donation. *"I could sense that there is something special about her: There is holiness in her."* Most Reverend Raymond Roussin, Vancouver, BC

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Mondays to Fridays: 8:00am
Wed., Thurs., Fri: 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 8pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturdays: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sundays: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sundays: Before & After ALL Masses
Saturdays: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 6:40pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

FIRST FRIDAYS: 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

BAPTISMS: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon
RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.
PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools.

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 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

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal)
(604) 437-1312 Fax (604) 437-1193 Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.
Assistant Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.
Youth & PREP Coordinator: Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon/Ossie Fernandes