



**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**34th SUNDAY In Ordinary Time**

**November 26th, 2006**



Dear Parishioners, After all these years as a priest, I am convinced that the biggest obstacle to joy and holiness is the anger and bitterness that simmer in our hearts, waiting for a chance to explode. There are a lot of frustrations in today's fast paced world. Sooner or later, they trigger our inner bitterness and we start hating one another, ourselves, even life and God himself.

We don't really love God if we are constantly angry and bitter about life. We may be doing God's will grudgingly but not lovingly. If we really love God, if we truly believe and hope in his love and power, we have good reason to keep smiling!

Mother Teresa taught that when it comes to loving and serving others, joy is half the gift we bring. She reminded us that we are trying to make those who are suffering feel that they are loved, but "if we went to them with a sad face, we would only make them much more depressed." I personally think that when we serve God with a sad face, we add to the sorrowful Passion of Christ. St. Paul urged us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. When we persist in our bitterness and sadness, we are telling the Lord that we don't really like his gifts, the world that he gave us, and that his love and his promises don't make them any better.

Here are some of Mother Teresa's beautiful words:

*"Love in action is joy. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love, by which you catch souls. He gives most who give with joy.*

*The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy.*

*A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love."*

*"Let us meet God with a smile, everywhere we go and in everyone."*

*"Be happy and make it a special point*

*to become God's sign of happiness in your community....*

*Do not tell people of the hard life — just be happy with Christ."*

*"Joy comes to those who in a sense forget themselves and become totally aware of the other."*

*"Be the sunshine of God's Love everywhere you go."* (contd.....)

*(Pastor's corner contd....)*

*"Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at — do it for peace."*

I am really grateful to Susan Conway, who inspired me through her little book, "Praying in the Presence of Our Lord With Mother Theresa."



God Bless, Fr. Pierre.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Sun. Nov. 26:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)

2:00pm YM Open Gym (School Gym)

2:00pm Families for Christ (Church Basement)

3:00pm Baptisms (Church)



**Mon. Nov. 27:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)

**Tue. Nov. 28:** 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)

**Wed. Nov. 29:** 8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)



6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)

6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)

7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)

9:30pm Benediction (Church)

**Thu. Nov. 30:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)

7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)

**Fri. Dec. 01: FIRST FRIDAY**



3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)

6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)

6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)

7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)

9:30pm Benediction (Church)

**Sat. Dec. 02: 1st Day of Advent**



8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong

10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)

12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)

7:30pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

**Sun. Dec. 03:** 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)



**PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS IN THE FOYER FOR MORE PARISH AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

**PLEASE: SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CHURCH**

**PARISH NEWS & EVENTS**

**NEXT SUNDAY DEC. 3 - YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY**

The purpose of this archdiocesan collection is to assist the work of Youth Ministry Office ("YMO") in providing parish youth ministry formation through training and support. Youth ministry in our diocese continues to grow, as evidenced by the number of parishes with youth ministry programming, and the number of participants at diocesan events and training opportunities. Parishes with youth ministry programming will receive a rebate from this collection. Please be generous in supporting the youth of our parish and archdiocese.

**SMYAC COFFEE NIGHT**

**Fri. Dec. 1, 8:30pm.** Rectory Basement. All young adults (ages 18 to 39) are welcome to join us for a night of enlightening discussion regarding various current topics of the Catholic faith. Light refreshments will be served!



**YM ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Here's your chance to rock the night away... with a new iPod! Youth in Grades 6 to 12 are invited to this fun-filled event on **Dec. 16, from 2pm to 5pm in the School Gym.** Lots of fun, prizes, singing, games and gift-giving are in store. Don't be left out, be a part of this. Watch out for more details.

**ST. MARY'S SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Sat. Dec. 9.** St. Mary's Seniors (65 years & above) mark your calendars for this annual event. Lunch will be served at 1:00pm in the school gym, after the 11:30am Mass. To reserve your spot - please call John 604-433-0884 or Parish Office 604-435-9611.



**NEW SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES & TOQUES FOR THE HOMELESS**

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **new** socks, gloves, scarves and toques **until Dec. 15.** These donations will be inserted along with other small items into Christmas gift bags. This is part of our outreach program for the homeless. The gifts will be distributed on **Fri. Dec. 22**, when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings & Main with our sandwich truck. Please drop your donations into the box in the foyer, marked "Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques", or bring them to Nancy in the school office. Please note that we are **not** collecting any other clothing at this time. With your generosity we will have another successful year. Thank you and God Bless.



## PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

### DAILY MORNING PRAYER WITH THE DOMINICANS

In many parishes, the pastor says the morning prayer, called Lauds, with his parishioners before or after daily Mass. This custom was highly encouraged by late pope John Paul II. Lauds is an important part of the daily prayers that all religious and priests say everyday in union with Christ. For more than a thousand years, Lauds and the other hours of the Liturgy, have been a central action of the whole Church. More and more lay people are praying the liturgy of the hours.

At St. Mary's, the Dominican Fathers will join the parishioners present at 7:30am in the Church to pray Lauds.

Fr. Gabriel OP, will help us to make this prayer beautiful by leading us into singing. We hope you will be rewarded by a blessed prayer. God bless, *Fr. Pierre*.

### CANDY DRIVE

**This is the last Sunday, Nov. 26,** we will be collecting Halloween candies for the poor! Please drop them off in the boxes in the foyer. St. Mary's Street Ministry and St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society thank all parishioners who donated their candy for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. May God Bless you for your generosity!



**SOLEMN ANNUAL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** Forty Hour Devotion. St. Mary's will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **Wed. Dec. 6** after the 6:30pm Mass, **Thu. Dec. 7** after the 8am Mass - until noon, and **Fri. Dec. 8** after the 6:30pm Mass.

### NOVENA OF GRACE TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

This year is the 500th anniversary of the birth of this great missionary saint, patron of the Missions. Father Steve LeBlanc, SJ, from Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, ON will be at Holy Name Parish (4925 Cambie St.) to lead the novena from **Nov. 24 -Dec. 2** at the 9:00am (daily) & 7:15 pm (Mon-Thu only) Masses.

### PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on **Sat. Dec. 2.** 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows (555 S. Slocan St., Van.) followed by Rosary & prayers in the church.

### ADVENT RETREAT

"Begin Advent by putting your heart in the right place..." Cenacle Retreat given by Sr. Kathy Scott, rc at St. John the Apostle Parish (5457 Trafalgar St. Van), **Sat. Dec. 2,** 9:00am to 3:00pm. \$50 includes retreat, muffins, coffee, and lunch. Pre-registration required: 604-266-1611.

## PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

### RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CAKES & CARDS SALE

This weekend **Nov. 25/26.** YUMMY! Christmas Cakes and an excellent choice of Christmas cards will be on sale in the foyer, after all Masses. We look forward to your support in helping our ministry. Thanks and God Bless.



### ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER NIGHT

St. Mark's College is hosting a Taizé Prayer Night on **Fri. Dec. 1** from 6-7pm to prepare for Advent. Join us for reflection through song, beauty, and prayer.



St. Mark's College Chapel, 5935 Iona Drive, UBC.

### VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS (V.I.P. SESSIONS)

We invite single Catholic men (ages 17 & up) to join us as we look at **"Spiritual Direction: Why do we need a spiritual director?"** The next meeting will be held on **Sun. Dec. 3** at St. Andrews Parish, 480 E 47th Ave. Vancouver (between Main & Fraser streets) which starts at 7:30pm in the Luminous Hall. For more info please call Fr. Hien Nguyen or Fr. Tom Smith at the Vocations Office 604-443-3254. *Your questions are Very Important to us.* Or visit our website at / [www.vocationsvancouver.com](http://www.vocationsvancouver.com).



### AN ADVENT VIGIL FOR THE SILENCED

Our faith traditions call us to stand with the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed and bear witness to the hope that is implicit in this advent season. (We will be distributing an explanatory leaflet) Everyone is encouraged to join us. Wednesdays in Advent: **Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20 - 12noon - 1pm,** corner of Granville & Georgia. For more info call Sr. Elizabeth 604-685-9987.

### LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION

All members of the Legion of Mary - Active and Auxiliaries are welcome to attend. **Fri. Dec. 8,** 7pm at Holy Family Catholic Church, 4851 Beatrice St., Vancouver.

### ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES' CLUB

Christmas Dinner Dance on **Dec. 9,** 7:00 pm, Holy Family Parish Hall, 4851 Beatrice St., Van. Potluck dinner followed by dancing at 8:00pm with "Euro." Tickets at the door. Members \$15, non-members \$20. Call Barry 604-327-5425/Lina 604-945-1059.

### DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GREAT NEED IN MEXICO ?

Join Project Brotherhood in this missionary opportunity to help the needy in Mexico from July 9 to July 31, 2007. **Registration deadline is Jan. 31, 2007.** For info contact: Mario at 604-537-2311, 604-589-2870 or [gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com](mailto:gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com).

## ATTENTION! NEW WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES AT ST. MARY'S!!!



St. Mary's will have a **6:30pm evening Mass every Wednesday and Friday.** These masses will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until the Benediction at 9:30pm. We hope many will take this opportunity for a visit to the Church, after work, for a time of peace and still



ness in the presence of our Lord.

God Bless, *Fr. Pierre*

## PARISH INFORMATION

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>MASSES</b>         | Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm<br>Wed. & Fri. 6:30pm followed by Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament & Benediction at 9:30pm<br>Saturday 5:00pm ( <b>Anticipation</b> )<br>Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm |
| <b>RECONCILIATION</b> | Saturday 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;<br>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](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca) Website: [www.smyac.ca](http://www.smyac.ca)

**YOUTH MINISTRY** E-mail: [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com)

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: [www.saintmarysyouth.com](http://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

Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes

Custodian: Zdravko Jankovic