



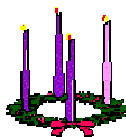
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
Corner

November 30, 2008 -- 1st Sunday of Advent

STAY ALIVE!!

Dear Parishioners,



We go through the motions of life like a robot. Like the young man who does not see that this woman is in love with him. Everybody else but him noticed it! Maybe you are like the husband who does not see anymore all that your wife is doing for you. Maybe you did not notice the change that is happening in your daughter's heart.

When I was a teenager I stopped going to church for many years. Then I had an inner conversion and a few years later I announced to my parents I was entering the seminary in the hope of one day becoming a priest. They could hardly believe me! Their eyes had been closed to what had happened to me during these years even though I lived with them.

Until a few years ago, I too was blind to the real needs of my parishioners. I was blind to the marvels God was doing every day in some of you and in me. He sent me people almost every day to wake me up to the beauty of His Kingdom and to the tragedies of this world.

One of the purposes of Advent is to reconnect us with the persons God sends us every day to tell us of his presence and the needs of the blind ones. Who are these persons for you? Name them. What are they telling you?

God Bless, Fr. Pierre

"There is no such thing as darkness; only a failure to see"
 Malcolm Muggeridge

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Nov. 30:** 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Dec. 01:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)
 7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Dec. 02:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:30pm K of C Executive (Church Basement)
- Wed. Dec. 03:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Avenue)
 6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 7:00pm Exodus Ministry (Rectory Basement)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec. 04:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 8:00pm Lay Missionaries of Charity (Rec Bsmt)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec. 05:** **FIRST FRIDAY -- Adoration all Day**
NEW TIME 9:00am Bible Sharing for Moms (Rectory Bsmt.)
 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm Cornerstone (School Gym)
 7:40pm FREEDOM (see bulletin ad on next page)
 9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec. 06:** 9:00am 2000 Hail Mary Prayer (Rectory Dining)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 3:00pm RCIA (Church)
 3:30pm RCIA (continues in Rectory Basement)
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 6:30pm CFC-Christian Life Program (RectoryBsmt)
 7:00pm CFC - FFL Unbound (Church Basement)
- Sun. Dec. 07:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)



PARISH NEWS

NEW TIME FOR MOTHER'S BIBLE SHARING

As of **Friday November 28**, Bible Sharing for Mothers has moved to a new time of 9:00am. Come and join us in the rectory basement for weekly group discussions and coffee. **Please enter through the front door..**



2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES READY FOR PICK-UP.

Envelope boxes for 2009 are available in the church basement. Please inform us of any name or address changes or inform us if you cannot find your box. Sheets are available to relay this info.

FORTY HOUR DEVOTION

The Proposed Schedule for Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Forty Hours Devotion) for the year 2008/2009 is posted in the foyer. Please note that St. Mary's is scheduled for December 3 - 5.



FREEDOM

St Mary's Parish is hosting an evening of Reconciliation on **Friday, December 5**. The evening begins with Mass at 7:00pm followed by Praise & Worship, Testimony, Adoration, and Reconciliation. There will be 6 - 8 priests available for confessions. We encourage parish wide participation in this event in an effort to fulfill an objective of our parish goals: "To challenge each individual to encounter and embrace Christ in their personal lives." Please come and embrace the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Benediction could be delayed from the usual 9:15pm until about 9:30pm - depending on when the confessions are finished.



YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Saturday December 6 at 7:00pm -- Our theme this month is: Italy ... Arriva Ristorante Italiano: 1537 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.. Cost:\$15 - \$20 (+15% gratuity). For all info please rsvp to smyac_team@yahoo.ca by Thursday December 4.



LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION

On **Sunday December 7 at 6:00pm**, the annual general reunion of all the active and auxiliary members of St. Mary's Presidium will be held at 4851 Beatrice St, Vancouver (Beatrice & 32nd)

YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY

Next **Sunday, December 7** is Youth Ministry Sunday. While we thank you for the support that you have given us last year, we appeal to you for your generosity once again. Next week's second collection will be for the work we do in Youth Ministry. Please help us reach out to more youth this coming year. All YM leaders and members thank you in advance. Your Sunday envelope boxes have a special envelope, or use a plain envelope with your name and phone marked Youth Ministry.

PARISH NEWS

YOU ARE NEEDED

Youth Ministry is still recruiting volunteers. We need adults and young adults to join the Youth Ministry team to serve our youth. Please see the Youth Ministry Board in the church foyer for more details and pick up a flyer.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Come and visit **St. Mary's School Library** during the book fair. There is something for every member of the family including many ideas for Christmas gifts. Book fair hours are: **Wednesday December 3 and Thursday December 4 from 12:00noon - 4:00pm** and **Friday December 5 from 9:00am - 7:00pm.**



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The annual giving tree has been set up in the church foyer. The branches are covered with gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16 years old. Please bring the unwrapped gift and place it under the tree during the weekends of **Dec 6/7 or Dec 13/14.** We will then forward these donations to an organization(s) that will distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you again for helping these loved ones, your generosity will make this another successful Christmas.



KEEP THE HOMELESS WARM

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **NEW** socks, gloves, scarves and toques during the month of December as part of our outreach program for the homeless. They will be distributed during this Christmas season when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings and Main with our sandwich truck. Please drop your donations into the box in the foyer marked **"Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques"**. **PLEASE note the we are NOT collecting any other clothing at this time.** Again, we thank you in advance on behalf of the poor. With your generosity, we will have another great year.



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SENIORS

On **Saturday December 13** a special Christmas Luncheon will be hosted in honor of all our St. Mary's Seniors (65 years and above) **by reservation only.** Lunch will be served at approximately 1:00 in the school gym following the 11:30am Mass of Anointing. Reservations: call John (604-433-0884) or Margherita in the Parish Office (604-435-9611 ext #3)



DIOCESAN/ COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW YEARS EVE

Come and join fellow parishioners and celebrate during our **New Year's Eve Family Potluck Dinner on December 31 in the school gym.** The cost is \$15 per family (will be refunded when attending). For ticket reservations call: Lita (604-451-5720), Becky 604-437-4965 or Beth 604-431-9945.



MORNINGS OF RECOLLECTION

Madonna House continues the Morning of Recollection with a gathering on **Saturday December 6 from 9:30am - noon.** Please join us. Bring bible and rosary to 5450 Trafalgar St Vanc



INVITATION FROM THE VOCATIONS OFFICE

We invite any Single Catholic man to join us as we continue to explore the gift and call of those modern heroes who have responded to God. The meeting will be held **on December 7** and every **1st Sunday of the month.** at Andrew's Parish, 480 East 47th Avenue, Vancouver .

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS—ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

Saturday, Dec 13 at 8:00pm: Handel's Messiah at the Vancouver Orpheum Theatre, a special celebratory performance with the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Seating is limited! Cost is \$36 for Upper Balcony seats. For ticket availability information please contact the Parish office immediately.

'Traditions of Faith and Service' -- the first ever popular history book (200 pages) published about the Archdiocese of Vancouver, written by historian Dr. Jacqueline Gresko. It covers the Archdiocese as a whole, as well as individual parishes. Cost is \$39.00 (tax included). To order this book, contact the Chancery Office directly at 604-683-0281.

THE PATRICK WEBB ESSAY CONTEST

This competition is open to secondary school students between grade 9 and 12. There are two different topics to choose from. First prize is \$300 and second prize is \$200. For more information please contact Arda at 604-435-9611 extension #6.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Superintendent's Office of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver is seeking a full time person to work in our Catholic faith based office. The ideal candidate will be able to efficiently multi-task, be a good communicator, have advanced skills in Microsoft Office Suite, be comfortable in a small, fast-paced office. Working knowledge of business technology is an asset. Info: www.cisva.bc.ca. Fulltime begins ASAP

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Monday & Tuesday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am & 5:00pm) & After all Masses
Saturday: 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

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

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.

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

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm
E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Joseph D'silva
Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon