



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

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27th SUNDAY In Ordinary Time

October 8th, 2006

*"The worst moment for an atheist is when he or she is grateful and doesn't know who to thank."*

Wendy Ward.



Dear Parishioners, When she was still an atheist, Dorothy Day got pregnant twice. The first time she had an abortion. But the second time, she kept the baby and felt so grateful for the gift of life in her womb, that she wrote, "For the beauty of life in me, I felt the need for someone to be grateful to". She started searching for God and found him so well that she became a "saint". Gratitude is a pathway to God, and to a meaningful life.

Think about it! Life would be absurd if we could not say "Thank you so much"! to its Author and at the same time, knowing that He himself is receiving our expression of gratitude with divine joy.

For the last few months, I have been starting nearly every day with at least half an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament expressing gratitude and praises to God. I don't always have a very specific reason to be grateful for, when I begin my prayer time. I start by praising the Father for waking up alive this morning, praising Jesus Christ for the Passion and Death he suffered for me, for His presence in the Tabernacle. This usually awakens my memory: events, providential coincidences, graces and persons to be grateful for come to my mind and lift up my heart. After a while, I listen to God as He inspires me to ask for more favors, more divine graces for myself and my people. And ask for His mercy for my sins and our sins.

Expressing gratitude is the best way I know to initiate prayer. It is like priming a manual water pump by pouring in it a bucket of water. It opens up the well of living water flowing from the Spirit in our heart. A grateful heart is a magnet drawing to itself the blessings of God and the friends of God. Grateful persons will soon discover that the greatest joy is to "feel" the joy of God himself echoing in their lives.

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The marathon runner in the movie "Chariots of Fire" explains why he runs. "When I run, I feel the joy of God taking pleasure in my running." Whether you work, play, serve the Lord, pray, connect with the Joy of God who is grateful for what you do and for who you are. Ask Mary to teach you that secret. *God Bless, Fr. Pierre.*



**"Some complain that God put thorns among roses; others give thanks that God put roses among thorns".**

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- Sun. Oct. 08:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Oct. 09:** **THANKSGIVING DAY (Office closed)**  
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (**Cancelled this week**)
- Tue. Oct. 10:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)  
6:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)  
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)  
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)  
6:30pm Baptism Prep Class (Church)  
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Oct. 11:** 10:45am Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)  
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)  
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining Room)  
7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Basement)
- Thu. Oct. 12:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)  
7:00pm Development & Peace (Rectory Dining)  
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Oct. 13:** 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)  
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)  
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)  
7:30pm K of C Executive (Rectory Basement)
- Sat. Oct 14:** 8:00am Tai Chi (School Gym)  
9:30am YM's "Booo!!!Fest" (front of the Church)  
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)  
7:30pm Couples for Christ Seminar (ChurchBsmt)
- Sun. Oct 15:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)

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

**PARISH EVENTS**

**ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT GROUP (SMYAC) - (Ages 18 - 39)**

**Young Adult Book Club "Founding" Meeting**

**Thu. Oct. 12,** 7:30 pm, Rectory Basement. Reading books and discussing topics that touch young adults lives such as work, faith, love and relationships. If there are any books you would like to read, bring them to the meeting!! This will be a great opportunity to expand your bookshelf and get you to read books you may have never chosen! For more information, please contact us at [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca!](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca)

**YOUTH MINISTRY'S BOOO!!! Fest**

Here's a very good alternative to Halloween Parties: YM is inviting all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to join them in a whole day of fun on **Sat. Oct. 14.**

The fee for the Booo!!! Fest event is \$10 — it includes transportation, entrance fee to the pumpkin patch, wagon rides, free pumpkins and apples, pizza lunch and a movie. Permission forms are available on the YM bulletin board. We will meet at 9:30am in the Church parking lot.



**CWL - SENIORS SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION TALK**

St. Mary's CWL have invited guest speakers at their general meeting on **Oct. 18** at 7pm at the Church basement. All are welcome to attend. The guest speakers have spoken to a lot of groups and have received great commends from their audience about crime prevention tips. Presentation will be approximately 1 hour including questions and answer period, so come and don't miss out on this great learning experience.

**ST. MARY'S CWL HARVEST MOON DINNER & DANCE**

**Sat. Oct. 21.** This is the CWL's first social event and they would really appreciate parish support! Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing and door prizes. Tickets will be sold after Masses for the next few weeks. Please note that this is a "dry" event."



**ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Sun. Nov. 19.** Start making your Christmas Crafts for sale at our Annual Christmas Craft Fair/Pancake Breakfast. Table Reservations can be made by contacting John Rudland @ 604-433-0884. Stay tuned for further details.



## PARISH EVENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you are a practicing Catholic man, at least 18 years or older and promote faith and family, then consider joining the Knights of Columbus. Today there are nearly 1.7 million members in over 12,000 councils in the U.S.A., Canada, The Philippines, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba, The Dominican Republic, Guam, The Virgin Islands, The Bahamas, Saipan and most recently Poland. We have contributed more than 60 million volunteer hours and donated over \$130 million to charitable programs annually. We help members and the society to realize that membership in the order is the experience of a life time. Member Knights will be available after all masses **this weekend** to answer your questions.



### ST. JUDE'S NOVENA MISSION

**Oct. 19-27** at St. Jude's Parish & Shrine (3078 Renfrew St., Vcr). 9 days of prayer, preaching, praise, and inner healing. Fr. Frank Fusare, CPM, will speak on key aspects of the Faith applied to life issues. **MASSSES: Weekdays:** 9am & 7:30pm. **Oct 21:** 9am & 5pm. **Oct 22:** 9am, 11am, 5pm. All services include mission preaching and Confession will be available ½ hour before and after every service. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following each morning service until the evening service.

**PROJECT ADVANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS - Deadline Oct. 21**  
Project Advance 2007 is now accepting grant applications from groups / organizations in the Archdiocese of Vancouver for consideration in the "Special Needs" category of the Appeal. Download Guidelines for eligibility & the application form from [www.rcav.org/project\\_advance/2006/latestnews.htm](http://www.rcav.org/project_advance/2006/latestnews.htm). For more info, please contact Fr. Glenn Dion 604-682-6774 or [hrc\\_rector@shaw.ca](mailto:hrc_rector@shaw.ca).

### 2 DAY DIVINE MERCY SYMPOSIUM

**Oct. 21 & 22** Our Lady of Lourdes, Coq.  
For info call Christi 604-931-2726 or email: [cfausto@cw.bc.ca](mailto:cfausto@cw.bc.ca).

**Oct. 28 & 29** Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey. For info call Nerie 604-507-3448 or email: [hhombrebueno@shaw.ca](mailto:hhombrebueno@shaw.ca).

**Nov. 4 & 5** St. Monica Church, Richmond.  
For info call Mario 604-521-7753 / 604-512-0179 / email: [marfest@shaw.ca](mailto:marfest@shaw.ca).



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### HARVEST DANCE - Sat. Oct. 14

7:30pm at Immaculate Conception Parish. Refreshments, Door Prizes, Fun. Music by the MYSTICS. Sponsored by Surrey-Delta Pro-Life. Tickets \$20.00 per person. Call 604-574-0225/604-576-0268.



### MAKE POVERTY HISTORY WALK - Sat. Oct 14

To coincide with global mobilizations around the International Day of Poverty Eradication, Make Poverty History will be holding a Walk & Rally from Peace Flame Park to the Vancouver Art Gallery. Come join us for music and how communities are working to eliminate local and global poverty. - Rain or Shine! Registration: 10am. Walk starts at 11am at Seaforth Peace Flame Park (south end of Burrard Street Bridge). Festivities: Guest speakers, music, NGO booths. Location: Vancouver Art Gallery 12pm. For more info call 604-899-4475 or 778-898-4475.

### CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - Oct. 20 -22

Helping engaged couples understand their vocation and building stronger marriages. Register at [www.ceewest.com/](http://www.ceewest.com/) 604-451-3300.

### DRUG ADDICTION! HOW CAN WE PLAY A ROLE IN PREVENTION?

Guest Speakers: *Pat & Vicki Conroy* founders of Agape Street Ministry, will share with us their compelling stories in bringing the **Love of Jesus** to the working women on the streets of East Vancouver and Surrey.

- Find out their views as to how "we can all play a role in prevention"
- This talk is most suitable for young adults, parents and guardians

**Thu. Oct. 26**, 7:30 to 9:30pm, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish (School Gym), 4451 William Street, Richmond. Brought to you by St. Paul Parish Prevention Ministry, Richmond. Contact Bessie 604-272-4693/email: [preventionministry@stpaulparish.ca](mailto:preventionministry@stpaulparish.ca).

### NOTRE DAME GRAD '86 - 20 YEAR REUNION

**Sat. Oct. 28** at The Denman St. Free House 1780 Davie St. (on English Bay) at 8pm. Tickets are \$30. For tickets and more info please call Dino at 604-816-5157 or Dennis at 604-649-5008.

### VOCATION LIVE-IN

For boys or young men who are interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, on the weekend of **Nov. 3 - 5**, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, B.C. For more information call 604-826-8715.



## CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS !!

### WEDDINGS

**Oct. 7:** *Daniel Bertrand & Marina Hung*



THANK YOU FATHER, LORD JESUS AND  
HOLY SPIRIT FOR BLESSING  
ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.  
THANK YOU MOTHER MARY  
FOR INTERCEDING FOR US.



A BLESSED THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

### PARISH INFORMATION

**MASSSES** Mon - Fri 8:00 am; Saturday 12:00 pm  
Saturday 5:00 pm (**Anticipation**)  
Sunday 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am, 1:00 pm, 7:00 pm  
**RECONCILIATION** Saturday 11:15-11:45 am; 4:15-4:45 pm;  
Sunday 10:45-11:05 am  
(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 - 7:55 am; Saturday - 11:55 am

### FIRST FRIDAY

Mass & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am and 7:30 pm  
Benediction 11:45 am and 9:00 pm

**BAPTISM** To register your child, contact 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. Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.  
Contact: Arda Akoglu / Carolina Prada 604-733-3457/ [aakog@yahoo.com](mailto:aakog@yahoo.com)

**PREP** Religious education program for children attending public schools.  
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm

### 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 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP  
Assistant Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoo, OP  
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes  
Custodian: Zdravko Jankovic