



### ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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#### Pastor's Corner

### 25th SUNDAY In Ordinary Time September 24th, 2006



Dear Parishioners, This week's *Vancouver Sun* had an article noting the finger pointing that is presently going on between two countries – one, a superpower, accuses the other of developing weapons of mass destruction. The other, a growing regional power, accuses the superpower of using its political and economic strength to muscle its way into the region so as to appropriate the resources of the region for itself. And so, on and on it goes as both sides attempt to gain powerful allies onto their side to force the hand of the other into submission.

In a lot of ways, this present reality at the international scene is not so different from what went on in today's Gospel among the apostles, and, for that matter, what has been going on between human beings for centuries.

Today's Gospel brings to the reader's attention, the disciples arguing on the way to Capernaum as to who was the greatest among them, and I suppose, we can infer from this, who will have the ultimate deference of the rest. But, instead of egging them on in this silly game of theirs, Jesus does an about face by noting to them that whosoever welcomes a little child in his name also welcomes him. Why a "child" as his example? Precisely because a "child" represents one without power and, as such, one that cannot force others into submission. Because of this, a "child" represents one who is easily forgotten in the crowd, and in a world that panders to the strong, the powerful, and now, increasingly, the Hollywood crowd of the "beautiful"!

But, it is precisely to the "weak", the "faceless" and "defenseless" that today's Gospel calls our attention to. For, as Christians, we are called to be in service to those who have "nothing" and are often forgotten as "nothing" by our world. On a wider scale, this can be as a voice on behalf of those suffering in places such as Darfur, Sudan, and, on a scale, closer to home, as a voice on behalf of the aged, the poor, the street-people, the single mothers and, yes, the unborn. (Contd.....)

(Pastor's corner contd....)

Of course, when Jesus calls our attention to such as these, when Jesus calls our attention to a "child", he does not pretend that by doing so, we will resolve the jostling of power among the rich, the powerful and the beautiful. After all, even his disciples were tempted to jostle for power during his three and a half year ministry with them. However, it is perhaps through befriending the least and reminding others of them that Jesus hopes to remind ourselves and others that those acts of ours on behalf of places of honour and power are, in final respects, just as Jesus would have regarded them, "silly acts" that will only bring unfortunate and sad consequences in their wake. *God Bless, Fr. Mark.*



#### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

<b>Sun. Sep 24:</b>	10:15am	Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange)
	3:00pm	Baptisms (Church)
<b>Mon. Sep 25:</b>	6:00pm	Bingo (School Gym)
	6:00pm	YM Leaders (Rectory Dining)
	7:00pm	Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
<b>Tue. Sep 26:</b>	12:00pm	Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rect. Dining)
	6:00pm	Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
	6:30pm	Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
	6:30pm	Elementary PREP– Welcome Mass(Sch/Ch)
<b>Wed. Sep 27:</b>	7:15pm	Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
	8:30am	Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
	6:30pm	Elementary PREP– Welcome Mass(Sch/Ch)
	7:00pm	RCIA (Rectory Dining)
	7:00pm	Exodus Ministry (Rectory Basement)
<b>Thu. Sep 28:</b>	7:30pm	St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Library)
	7:00pm	Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
	7:30pm	Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
<b>Fri. Sep 29:</b>	3:00pm	Divine Mercy (Church)
	6:00pm	Jr. Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
	6:45pm	Line Dancing (School Gym)
	7:00pm	Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
<b>Sat. Sep 30:</b>	8:00am	Tai Chi (School Gym)
	12:30pm	Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
	1:00pm	YM Lazer Tag Activity(Church Entrance)
<b>Sun. Oct 01:</b>	7:30pm	Couples for Christ Seminar(ChurchBsmt)
	10:15am	Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
	3:00pm	Baptisms (Church)

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)

**1. Open House - Sun. Sep. 24, 11:30am,** Rectory Basement. Are you between the ages of 18 to 39? Would you like to be part of a dynamic Catholic group? Then the St. Mary's Young Adult Community is for you! Come learn more and join us for BRUNCH and meet other fellow young adults of the Catholic faith! For more info please contact us: [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca).

**2. Monthly Multicultural Outing - Sat. Sept. 30, 8:00 p.m.,** The Irish Heather (217 Carrall Street at E.Cordova, Vancouver). Get to meet fellow Catholic young adults and have awesome food at the same time. If you would like to join us, or like to have more info, please contact us: [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca)!

**3. First Friday Coffee Night - Fri. Oct. 6, 8:30pm** Rectory Basement. Join us for coffee, hot chocolate and other refreshments as we engage in an enlightening discussion regarding the Catholic faith!



#### PREP ANNOUNCEMENT

PREP Registration is NOW CLOSED. All Classes are full and we regret to inform parents that we can no longer accept any registrations. ALL PREP PARENTS please note: we will have our Welcome Mass and Parents' Orientation Night on **Sept. 26 (Tue. PREP)** and **Sept 27 (Wed. PREP)** - Students must attend PREP classes at 6:30pm as per their schedules. Attendance is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITY

St. Mary's YM is inviting all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to their first event of this school year. It's going to be a "Lazer Tag afternoon" on **Sep. 30**. Pre-registration is a MUST for this event. Permission forms are available on the YM bulletin board in the Church foyer. We meet at 1pm at the Church front entrance.

#### RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for:

1. Adult inquirers - non-baptized/ baptized in other faiths (to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic).
2. For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and /or did not complete the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

If you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know someone who is, the RCIA program is the answer! To register for RCIA classes and for more information please contact: Arda Akoglu or Carolina Prada at 604-733-3457 or [aakog@yahoo.com](mailto:aakog@yahoo.com).

## PARISH EVENTS

### ONE LAST "THANK YOU" FROM FR. GUY

Dear parishioners, My last "thank you" is for your gifts of money, last Sunday, to me and to "Partnership4China." You couldn't have given me anything which would have touched me more. Countless times in my life, I have literally been saved by the words of the Bible, especially, in the Book of Psalms. The thought that, thanks to your gifts, Catholics in China might be saved one day by the Word of God, as I have been, so many times, moves me more than I can say. Thanks to Fr. Pierre (as usual!) for this brilliant idea, and thanks to you all, many many times. God bless you all, *Fr. Guy*.



### LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN (KG - Gr. 5)

Will resume **Sun. Sep. 24** at the 9:30am Mass. All children from Kindergarten - Gr.5 are invited to join us in the Church basement during the Liturgy of the Word. The children will hear the same readings which are read in the Church, but in language that they can understand. This ministry is run entirely by volunteers in our parish and we welcome any newcomers to our team (training will be provided). Please contact the parish office if you wish to help out. Schedules will be available for all new and returning volunteers after the 9:30am Mass next week - Oct 1. We will meet in the Church basement after Mass to hand out schedules. If you are unable to attend this informal meeting you may pick up your schedules at any time in the Children's Liturgy area downstairs.



### 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

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.



### AFTER MASS COFFEE HOUR/SNACK PROGRAM - URGENT NEED

Our parish needs one of its many groups to volunteer to prepare and serve coffee and snacks for the **5pm mass - on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.** Please call the parish office. God Bless you for your generosity of time and talent.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### THE BISHOPS ASK FOR YOUR HELP

Today, **Sep. 23-24**, you are invited to donate generously to the Bishop's Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada. This collection will help finance the activities of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). The proceeds of this collection help dioceses to cover the amount they contribute annually to the CCCB, which can then maintain its services and continue to assist all the bishops of Canada in their pastoral work. Your donation is essential, and the bishops of Canada thank you for your generosity to strengthen the outreach of our Church.

### PARISH LITURGY-CELEBRATION OF OUR FAITH ANNUAL WORKSHOP

This year's theme is The Ministry of Hospitality with Rev. Richard Fragomeni at St. Anthony of Padua Parish (7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz) on **Sep. 29** (prayer, singing, and a keynote address from Father Fragomeni at 7:30 pm) and **Sep. 30** (9 am-3:30 pm workshop). \$30 for Friday & Saturday/\$10 for Friday night only, all coffee breaks and a hot lunch included. For more info, please contact the parish office at 604-796-9181.

### HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR SONS & DAUGHTERS

This seminar by Vernon Robertson is being held on **Sep. 30** at St. Francis De Sales in Burnaby (10:00 am-4:30 pm). Call or e-mail Vernon to pre-register for materials: 604-929-4511 or visit the website at [seminar.of.hope@hotmail.com](mailto:seminar.of.hope@hotmail.com).

### MAKE POVERTY HISTORY WALK

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. **Sat. Oct 14** - 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 12:00pm For more information 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.

### PREP COORDINATOR NEEDED

Holy Name Parish (4925 Cambie St, Van.) is in need of a PREP Coordinator for about 30 children. Classes are on Tuesdays from 5:45-7:00 pm. Please call the parish office at 604-261-9393.

## CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS !!

### WEDDINGS

**Sep. 23:** *Gregory Jung & Joy Vertucio*



### CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the soul of our dearly departed:



**John Tan** - Funeral service was held on Thursday Sep. 21.

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him O Lord,  
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him,  
May His Soul Rest In Peace, Amen.*



### PARISH INFORMATION

**MASSES** 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.

**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