



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

January 01, 2010 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother OF GOD?

Does it puzzle you, when you ponder it? How can Mary be the Mother of God, the One who existed before her and created her? We are tempted to say that she is only the mother of the body of Christ. But this would break the unity of Christ, one Person united to two inseparable natures, divine and human. This unity is the strongest that ever existed, and will never be broken. So we cannot say that Mary provided for God a human body, which after that became inhabited by God. There was never a single moment when Jesus' body was not united to the Second Person of the Trinity. Right at the moment of conception, Jesus' body was united to a divine Person. Even as a fetus, Jesus was personally God.

We can understand this a little better if we compare it to a "normal" conception. Do you say to your mother that she is the mother of your body only, not of your soul? Of course not. Even if you know really well that she did not create your soul, you say that she is the mother of all of you, because she bore you in her womb, body and soul together.

So it is with Mary. She did not create the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son. He is "eternally begotten of the Father, God from God". Yet, she is the mother of the whole Christ, because "the child was conceived in her womb". Christ took his flesh from her. That is why she had to give her consent, to say "yes" to God. That "yes" was perfect, total, unlike our "yesses". God did not have to take away from her life what was a source of resistance to His life. She had been preserved, by grace, from original sin. God was able to deposit the life of His Son within her "knowing that Mary would always live her life in service to the Lord. Nothing in her opposes the redemptive action of her Son" (Adrienne von Speyr)

Mary can justly be called the Mother of God, the Mother of Redemption, our Mother. May she bless you and bring her Son to bless you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Happy New Year. *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

2010 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

For over three weeks, the Sunday envelopes for 2010 have been available for pickup from the Church Basement., but as this bulletin goes to print, 480 boxes are still unclaimed. **As of today no one should be using anything except a 2010 envelope.** We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to the five **PLEASE** items set out below. Handling of the envelopes and accuracy of entry will run much more smoothly by doing the following


- **PLEASE** take time to go downstairs to **get your box today**
- The envelope number on the 2010 boxes is different than your number for previous years. **PLEASE destroy (recycle) any Sunday envelopes dated 2009 or older.** By doing this you will not be tempted to use an old number which could lead to inaccurate posting.
- If the label on your box has corrections to be made (spelling or address) **PLEASE note the information to be corrected on the yellow sheet** on the table by the boxes.
- When you begin to use your new set of envelopes, **PLEASE** write your name and address on at least the first four or five envelopes you use. **Note: the name you write down has to be the same as the name on the label.** i.e) someone else in your household, or a visitor to your home should not be "borrowing" a numbered envelope from you.
- **If you have looked for your new box and cannot find it, PLEASE put your name and phone number on the blue sheet** so that we can arrange to get a set ready for you. **Once a box has been assigned for you, it will be left in the foyer upstairs.**

QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Notice to all participants of the Great Adventure Bible Study that started on October 31: Please be advised that **videos of Sessions 1 - 4 will be replayed on Saturday January 2, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the school gym.** This time will be purely for viewing the videos for those who missed the past sessions and for whoever wishes to get a review. There will be no discussion and no refreshments, please bring your own snacks and drinks. **Regular sessions will resume on January 9, from 12:45pm - 3:00 pm in the church basement.**

PARISH NEWS

PARISH LIBRARY -- REOPENS ON JANUARY 9/10

We will not be open this weekend, January 2/3. The library will reopen on the weekend of January 9/10. Come and visit us in the church basement. We will be open for one half hour after every mass (except the 7:00pm mass) On occasion we will also be featuring books on display in the foyer. 

BASKETBALL FREE THROW CHAMPONSHIP

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship will be held on **Saturday, January 9, 2010 in St. Mary's school gym** from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. We invite all boys and girls aged 10 - 14, to join this annual K of C activity. For entry form and registration information, please contact Rene Montilla (Grand Knight) at 604-454-9679 or Ryan Bauzon (Youth Director) at 604-603-8870. Entry forms are also available from the foyer. **Registration deadline is January 7, 2010.**

TAI CHI NEWS

Saturday morning Tai Chi group resumes meeting on **January 9.**

DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

There will be a "Talk and Q&A" here at St. Mary's Church Basement regarding Dominican spirituality. For those of you who want to know what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the footsteps of St. Dominic, come and join the Dominicans on **Sunday January 10, 2010 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.**

ATTENTION ALL LADIES!!

On **Saturday, January 23, 2010** St. Mary's Catholic Women's League is offering a one day spiritual retreat entitled "I will seduce her and lead her into the wilderness, and there I will speak tenderly to her" Hosea 2:14. **The retreat deals with questions of prayer, discernment and God's will for our busy lives.** The retreat will be given by Father John McCarthy, SJ. Fr. John is a Jesuit priest and chaplain of UBC Corpus Christi and St. Mark's College. The retreat will be held at St. Mark's College. Transportation provided by St. Mary's school bus. Pick up and drop off will be in the church parking lot (details to follow). The fee for the retreat is **\$20.00.** Please bring your own bag lunch. If you wish to attend or would like further information, please contact vesnajankovic@shaw.ca.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

DISCERNMENT RETREAT COMING TO CHILLIWACK

What: A silent live-in retreat for women interested in discerning a call to Religious Life. **Where:** Mary's Mountain at 48368 Elk View Rod, Chilliwack, BC. **When:** Starts at 7:00pm on **January 8, 2010 and runs to January 10.** The suggested donation is \$50.00. For more information contact Linda at 604-533-5580.

NOTRE DAME OPEN HOUSE

All Grade 7 students interested in attending Notre Dame in 2010 are encouraged to come and experience all that we have to offer! The open house will be on **Thursday January 14, 2010** from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at 2855 Parker Street, Vancouver. Registration for the Placement Exam will also be done at the Open House. The exam will be written on **Saturday January 16, 2010** at 8:30am. For more information please call 604-255-5454.

DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Come and discover God's plan for Life and learn about this revolutionary teaching of John Paul II. This 11-week course begins on **Thursday January 14, 2010** at St. Ann's Parish, 33333 Mayfair Avenue, Abbotsford from 7:00pm to 9:15pm. The cost of \$40 per person includes the text: Man and Woman He Created Them -- A Theology of the Body. The instructor is Fr. Alan Boisclair, BA, MA, STL in marriage and family. To register, contact the Respect Life Office at 604-683-0281.

BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2010 graduating students enrolled in a Catholic secondary school, or who are a member of a BC or Yukon parish and enrolled in a public secondary school, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500 word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of Spirituality in Health Care. Submissions must be received on or before **March 12, 2010.** For further details, please refer to the poster on display in the vestibule of the church, or check the CHABC website at chabc.bc.ca under upcoming events.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Are you still in the mood for gift-giving? How about scheduling a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to each other on **April 9 - 11, 2010.** Contact Steve or Mary at sbohn@interchange.ubc.ca or call 604-876-7298.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Due to technical difficulties this column is not available for your viewing. Please go to the Calendar of Events to see our weekly events

<http://stmarysvancouver.ca/event/2010/01/31/month/all/all/1>

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

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

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
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 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the 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

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)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

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

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (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. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon