



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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December 5, 2010

Pastor's Corner

THE FIRE THAT FREES US

This reflection is largely inspired by several homilies of Fr. Robert Barron, found on his website "Wonderonfire.org"

These remaining weeks before Christmas will have us spending more time in the shopping centres than anywhere else except our workplace. We will be exposed to all these goods we would like to possess. We will have pre-Christmas parties where we will share our dreams of holidays in the south or in our home countries. We will find ourselves thinking, "I wish I had this or that! I wish I could have time for myself!"

We tend to see the world and our life from the standpoint of our egotism, of our ego, of our "I." How is this day good for me? How did I suffer? How was I inconvenienced? How was I rewarded? How was I noticed? I...I...I...! I am at the center of the day. I see it through my perspective, my interest. John the Baptist is calling us to repent; that is to change our perspective, to see beyond our self interest, to go beyond our mindset. He challenged us to see our life from God's will. Go through a day and see it from the standpoint of God's will. The people I meet, the things that happen to me, the accidents that occur, the strange things, do I see them as an opportunity for me, success and failure for me? Or do I see them as invitations to move into a deeper relationship with God? It is the converted mind that can see it that way. Try it!

John is saying "The Kingdom of God is at hand." God's ways, God's will, God's order, they are at hand in everything we do, in every person we meet. But unless our minds and hearts are changed, we cannot see it. John the Baptist says, "It is never too late to repent. Go back to that simple life, where life is not a project of self-satisfaction, of self absorption. Start thinking "My life is not about me. My life belongs to God and serves God's purposes." Try to go through a day seeing everything you do and see as a way to fulfill God's day.

Pastor's Corner Continued...

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How can you do that? John says you need to let God cut your selfishness, your deep pride, your deep fear at its roots. The axe of the Messiah is at the roots of the tree. Normally an axe cuts higher and leaves a stump, but Jesus' axe can cut at the roots of our egotism. Because he is interested in a total renovation of our lives, not just changing the external behavior, but getting at the root that gives rise to that dysfunctional behavior. Jesus can uproot the causes of our lives of self-satisfaction. Jesus wants to live at the roots of our lives, under the ground of everything we desire, of everything we think and experience.

In order to do this, we need to let Jesus baptize us not just with water, as John did, but with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is more than a teacher. He is the Second Person of the Trinity who gives Himself to enable us to live from the very inner life of God, the Holy Spirit, who is the beating Heart of God, the love between the Father and the Son. The Fire of the Holy Spirit can make us incandescent with the love of God. That fire will burn everything that is chaff, unsubstantial and sinful, without destroying in us what is good. We need to let Christ baptize us, that is plunge us in the fire of God, in his jealous love. Jesus said that he came to light a fire on earth! The baptism with fire and the Holy Spirit is "a drenching of the entire being with inward understanding of what God is." (Cardinal von Balthasar)

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

THE ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS

St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. 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 weeks **Dec 11/12 and Dec 18/19**. We, along with other interested ministries in St. Marys, will then 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.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Please note this week's session is cancelled due to Catholic Forum, and will resume again next week.

PARISH NEWS

Jr. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6 -8) – THE HOUSE

Why do we need the Church? Can't we pray to God on our own time and place? Why do we go to Mass or do we even have to go to Mass? When we don't know the answers to these questions our faith life can become a burden for us and that's not good. We want our faith to be alive and strong. Join the Jr. Youth Ministry as we figure out the answers and have fun doing it. **When:** Monday, December 6 at 6:30pm **Where:** Church Basement

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

Join St. Mary's Sr. Youth Ministry celebrating Our Lord's birth on Sunday, December 19 at 6:30pm at the school gym. The tickets are \$5 and DJ, dancing, movies, & more, this is a Christmas party not to be missed. For more information please contact 604-435-9611 ext.6, or at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com.

NEW WINTER ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Street Ministry need really warm stuff—winter gear including hats, gloves, socks, scarves, ear muffs, toques. We will be collecting donations of **NEW** winter items during December as part of our outreach program for the homeless. Please drop your donations into the box in the foyer marked "**Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques**". **Please note that 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.

2011 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

The 2011 envelopes are now ready to be picked up from the Church basement; please do so as soon as possible. Envelopes that are not retrieved will be reassigned to someone else. You will notice your envelope number changes every year, as assigned by the computer program. **Therefore it is vital that you do not use any other envelopes as of January 1, 2011, other than the 2011 box you have just claimed.** Do not "lend" your envelopes to other family members, friends or visitors; there are visitor envelopes in the church foyer available for this purpose.



CANCELLED!!



PARISH NEWS

SOLEMN EXPOSITION

This week the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for 40 hour exposition on Tuesday from 9am-5pm, Wednesday and Thursday from 12pm-5pm, and Wed, Thurs & Fri evening after mass.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Invites you to explore: "Does the Marriage Tribunal still matter?" with Chief Judge Msgr. Lopez-Gallo, this Tuesday, December 7th at 7pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MADONNA HOUSE

Madonna House is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Death of foundress Catherine de Hueck Doherty on Monday, December 13th. Archbishop Miller will celebrate Mass at 7:30pm at St. John the Apostle Church (5457 Trafalgar St, Vancouver) followed by a reception. More info: 604-267-1757 or madonna02@shaw.ca

THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

Theology of the Body: "*The human person, in the image and likeness of God*" according to Pope John Paul II. Come and discover God's original design for us, our call to holiness, and our destiny with him in heaven. Fr. Alan Boisclair will present an 11 week course, starting Jan. 12 at St. Andrew's Parish, Vancouver or Jan. 13 at Christ the Redeemer Parish, West Vancouver. The cost is \$50 and includes the textbook "Man and Woman, He Created Them – A Theology of the Body." For info: www.rcav.org

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY

Applications are being accepted for 2011-2012 gr 8 candidates. All candidates are required to write the entrance exam on Saturday, December 11. For more info, please contact Kathi Wilson, registrar at wilsonk@lfabc.org or 604-738-9016 ext. 222. Application forms are available on the school website www.lfabc.org.

MISSION AT HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Fr. Philip Chircop, S.J., will conduct a parish Advent Mission, the theme being Christmas - a Festival of Incarnation, at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Cambie & 33rd Avenue, on December 13– 15, at 7pm. He will also preach at the 9am Mass.

SHOP AT THE CWL CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, Dec. 12 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Cambie & 33rd Avenue, Vancouver.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Dec 5:	9:30am Handmaids (School Gym) 1:00pm CFC-FFL Youth (Church Basement) 2:00pm Youth for Christ (School Gym)
Mon. Dec 6:	6:00pm Bingo (School Gym) 6:30pm Jr YM -SPARK (Church Basement) 7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)
Tue. Dec 7:	9:00am Solemn Exposition (Church) 6:30pm Prep Catechism (School) 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement) 7:00pm CWL (Church Basement) 7:00pm Catholic Forum (Church)
Wed. Dec 8:	 12:00pm Solemn Exposition (Church) 2:00pm Willingdon Mass (4435 Grange) 6:00pm Novena Our Lady Perpetual Help (Church) 6:30pm PREP Catechism (School) 7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church) 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement) 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room) 9:00pm Benediction (Church)
Thu. Dec 9:	 12:00pm Solemn Exposition (Church) 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church) 9:00pm Benediction (Church)
Fri. Dec 10:	 9:00am Lectio Divina/Bible Study (Rectory Dining) 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church) 7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church) 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room) 9:00pm Benediction (Church)
Sat. Dec 11:	12:45pm Bible Study (School Gym) 3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement) 5:00pm Handmaids (School Gym) 7:00pm CFC (Church Basement) 7:00pm CFC-FFL (School Seminar Room)
Sun. Dec 12:	12:30am LOJ (School Gym) 1:00pm CFC-FFL Youth (Church Basement) 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Rectory Dining)

PARISH INFORMATION

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: Monday - Friday: 8:00am

Weekday Morning Rosary 7:00am / Weekday Morning Lauds 7:30am

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7pm followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm

SATURDAY MASS: Our Lady's Mass 12:00noon

SUNDAY MASSES: Anticipated Mass Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am / 9:30am / 11:15am / 1:00pm / 5:00pm / 7:00pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

Wednesday 6:00pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:

Thursday: 8:00am & Saturday: 12:00noon

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning mass
CONFESIONS:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm

Sunday: Before & After all Masses

An appointment for confession may be made through the parish office

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

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

MARRIAGES:

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

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 6:45pm / Friday 9:00am / Saturday 12:45pm
Sunday 6:00pm (*Young Adult Bible Study*)

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

Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Coordinator: Erwin Mow E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

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

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms Brenda Krivuzoff Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Phone: (604) 437-1312 Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Phone: (604) 435-9611 Fax: (604) 439-9413

PASTORS & STAFF:

Pastor

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.

Executive Assistant to Pastor

Vesna Jankovic

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator

Arda Akoglu