



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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January 16, 2011

Pastor's  
Corner

## WHY SACRIFICE?

Last week, we celebrated Jesus' Baptism by acknowledging what He did for us: He took our human nature, went down into the muddy waters of our sins and lifted us up to be part of His divine family. He allowed us to become His brothers and sisters, configured into His likeness. But His Baptism at the beginning of His life was a ritual expression of forgiveness and salvation. How did He make this happen effectively? The Church answers that He did it by dying and rising for us, by offering His life as a sin-offering to God for us. This is what John said in today's Gospel when he exclaims, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Now many of us may rebel against this conception of sacrifice. Why would God require a sacrifice? How could the sacrifice do anything in regard to sin? What is sin anyway? The modern culture prefers to call sin a dysfunctional behaviour, a lack of compassion, something that can best be dealt with in therapy or counselling and in more difficult cases, with punishment and imprisonment. But sacrifice? How would the sacrifice of a lamb deal with sin?

Many religious people would choose in the Gospels only the passages where Jesus teaches and edit those where He forgives sins and presents Himself as a sacrificial offering to the Father. We are at ease with Christ the moral teacher, not with the Lamb of God slaughtered for our sins. But the idea of sacrifice is a key to understand Jesus in Himself, and Jesus in relationship to His Father and to us. The concept of sacrifice runs like a golden thread throughout the Bible. From Adam to the father of John the Baptist, all religious leaders performed sacrifices. Throughout the centuries, millions of animals have been slaughtered in the Temple. One approaching the Temple, would smell a kind of combination of a slaughterhouse stench and the fragrance of barbecue!

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

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What is the logic of sacrifice? Here is what it is, as Fr. Robert Barron explains it: **"Some aspects of God's good creation is returned to God in order to signal one's desire for union with God."** It can be the first fruits of harvest, tithes, animal offerings. There are sacrifices of Thanksgiving. There are sacrifices of communion where one eats part of the animal offered so that God and every participant becomes one by sharing the same food. The communion at the mass is an example of that. We all partake, in the same Body of Christ and become one with Him and one with one another.

What about sin-offering? Fr. Barron said, "The one killing an animal (or is having a priest do it for him) is saying 'May this happen to me if I violate my covenant with God,' or else, 'As this life is given, so my life is given away symbolically,' or else, 'What happens to this poor animal should be happening to me in strict justice.'" You see here the connection between sacrifice and expression of contrition.

Now we must remember that God gains nothing by these sacrifices. We can add nothing to His being and we know too God is not insecure in His identity like ourselves. He doesn't need to be reassured He is right and we are wrong. The sacrifice is for the benefit of the one offering it and God wants that benefit **for us**.

What does the sacrifice do for us? In the Old Testament, the sacrifice expressed the desire of the one offering it, to be in the right relationship to God. Symbolically it expressed our desire to order our life back to God, to straighten what sin had twisted in us.

In the New Testament, the sacrifice offered for sins becomes **more** than symbolical. It becomes effective, it configures us into the lost likeness to God. Why? Because in Christ, God is the priest offered it, the victim and He stands for all of us. "Christ was made sin for us." On the cross, Christ assumes all the pain caused by sin and yet remains who He has always been, the Son of God perfectly obedient to the Father, whatever happens to Him. We are made right in our relationship to the Father and are enabled, through Christ, to live like Him!

*God Bless you, Father Pierre*

## PARISH NEWS

### **Jr. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6 -8) – EDGETOPIA**

Precepts of the Church....hmmm!! What does a precept mean? For example, one of the precepts of Youth Ministry is "you can eat all the pizza you want". If that sounds good to you then make sure to join Jr. Youth Ministry on Monday, January 17 at 6:30pm in the Church Basement and find out more about the different precepts we have.

### **ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

**NEW families** who wish to enter St. Mary's School in September 2011 must attend our Information Night regarding registration on Thursday, January 20 at 7pm in the Church basement. **You must attend this meeting** if you are interested. We **DO NOT** give out information packages from the school office.

### **MONASTERY FUND**

Your valuable support is needed for the Dominican Nuns Monastery Fund! To help raise funds, we are raffling off a beautifully framed icon of the "Mother of the Rosary." With their hard work and talent, the nuns framed this icon and the other works of art that are on sale in the foyer. Raffle tickets are only \$2.00 each and are available in the church foyer this Sunday Jan 16. St. Mary's Parish holds a very special place in their hearts and prayers. Please help to support these holy women!

### **BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS**


St. Mary's CWL is collecting blankets for the homeless. We will be collecting items on day January 29<sup>th</sup> only, in the church parking lot from 10:30am to 12pm. Please mark your calendar and consider donating any used or new blankets to people in need, since it is expected to be a very cold winter. Thank you for your generous support.

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & STREET MINISTRY THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all the parishioners of St. Mary's for contributing to our efforts in the last year. In particular, the candy drives, the giving tree and sock drives, all of which were great successes. We were able to brighten up Christmas morning for a number of under-privileged families with children as well as to assist other charitable organizations like the Christmas Bureau with the toys collected from the giving tree. The socks, mitts, toques and candy contributions were overwhelming as we are still giving them out. We thank you again on behalf the poor and God Bless you for your generosity.

## PARISH NEWS

### WEBSITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

 Our parish is updating its website and we want to make sure that it remains a dynamic and ever expanding tool of communication to help us achieve our Mission. The possibilities and opportunities are limited only by our imaginations. We are looking for parishioners with different skill sets who would like to be part of this exciting project, helping to steer our parish in the right direction on the information superhighway. Skills that may be beneficial are (but not limited to): good communication skills, creative writing, photography, graphic design, web-design, good visual skills and organizational skills. If you are interested please contact Arda at 604-435-9611 ext. 6 or [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com) for more information.

### THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

The next study, entitled "ACTS: The Spread of the Kingdom," focuses on the work of Christ continuing beyond His resurrection as He empowers believers with the Holy Spirit to do His work. In this 20-part video study, you will see how the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into Truth and how the Gospel spreads from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Session starts on Saturday, February 5, at 9:45am to 11:45am. The series runs from February to October and the schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Cost is \$30.00. To register, sign-up sheets are available in the church foyer or email [stmarysbiblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbiblestudy@gmail.com).



## DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS




### THE HEALING OF THE FAMILY TREE

Jan. 28, 29 & 30 IC School Gym. IC Prayer Group in celebration of their 18th anniversary & the Life in the Spirit present Father Denis Phaneuf from the Saskatoon Diocese with Moira Noonan from the Diocese of San Diego who will teach about the many disorders and problems which are typical to families from generation to generation. The teaching is scripturally based and calls for healing and deliverance prayer. The retreat will commence with Healing Mass on Friday 7:30pm. Tickets \$20. Call [Lennie David @ 604-597-8227](mailto:Lennie David @ 604-597-8227) or [lennieptl@telus.net](mailto:lennieptl@telus.net).

### KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE

Jan. 29. Info/reg: [www.rcav.org/winter](http://www.rcav.org/winter), 604-683-0281.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan 16:** 1:00pm CFC-FFL Youth (Rectory Basement)
- Mon. Jan 17:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
6:30pm Jr. YM-SPARK (Church Basement)
- Tue. Jan 18:** 6:30pm Prep Catechism (School)  
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)  
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)  
7:00pm Ablaze Growth (Church Basement)  
7:00pm CWL (School Gym)
- Wed. Jan 19:** 5:00pm L'Arche Mass (7401 Sussex)  
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)
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**Thu. Jan 20:** 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)  
7:00pm New Parent Meeting (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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**Fri. Jan 21:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
6:00pm CCO (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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**Sat. Jan 22:** 1:00pm CFC (School Gym)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Jan 23:** 1:00pm CFC-FFL Youth (Rectory Basement)  
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)  
2:00pm Knights of Columbus (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

**CONFESSIONS:**

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, see website or contact 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 6:30pm (*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](mailto:stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca)

**YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)** E-mail: [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: [www.saintmarysyouth.com](http://www.saintmarysyouth.com)

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Ms Brenda Krivuzoff

Website: [www.stmary.bc.ca](http://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