



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Dec. 11, 2011

**Pastor's
 Corner**

IS REAL JOY POSSIBLE?

Sr. Paul wrote in today's second reading, "Rejoice always." Yet he knows that we cannot always be psychologically and emotionally upbeat. Therefore he is not speaking of that emotional joy when he commands us to rejoice always. He is speaking about that kind of joy that wells from a much deeper place in our spirit, not just the surface of emotion. A joy that flows from the very bottom of our soul, from the "ground of the soul," as the Dominican medieval mystic Eckhart calls it. This is the place where you are here and now being created by God, as Fr. Barron puts it. The very center that permeates and determines the whole of you, psyche, mind, emotion, body. This is the union at the center of your soul with God's creative presence. "When you realize that the One who is creating you is love right through...when you realize that the One who is creating you from moment to moment is a Power that wants only what is best for you, that cares for you, that knows you more thoroughly than you know yourself or care for yourself more than you (Fr. Barron's Wordonfire.org/sermon 414). That joy is not a passing, purely emotional joy. It does not depend on changing circumstances. It does not pass with your changing moods. But a joy that the world cannot take away from you, a joy that the world cannot give you.

St. Paul invited us to access that place in us of God's creating presence and live consistently out of it. In that way, no matter what happens to us, we have a joy that nothing can take away, even amidst trials and tears.

How can you reach that place of joy and thanksgiving in yourself?

1) By contacting God in you for a few seconds or minutes many times a day, as you go from one activity to another, as you wait for traffic lights, elevators, cashiers, buses.

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

2) By doing God's will always and everywhere. At one point, God will truly become your Lord, and His Providence will kick into action into your very life. You will know that He is in you, in others, in every circumstance, good or "bad." You will know it as a fact. You will verify His Providence in the events of your life.

3) By growing in you the desire for God. The practice of His commandments will do that for you. They were formulated to accomplish that.

4) By doing something good for others, especially for your household.

5) By starting every day saying to the Lord, "Today, in your name Jesus, I renounce sadness and bitterness. Today, I choose your deep joy!"

God Bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

SPARK (GRADES 6-8) – GIVE ME, GIVE ME, GIVE ME



"Give me this! Give me that! Give it now!" Should we always get what we want when we want it? Will this truly make us happy? If not, then what will? If you want to know then Spark is calling you to come on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:30pm in the

Church basement for an evening of non-stop fun, faith and fellowship!

FLAME (grades 8-12) - ARRIVED

Can you believe another month just flew by? That means it's time for our next FLAME event. With great games, delicious pizza and inspiring talks, your evenings cannot get any better. So resist the urge to be lazy or shy and join us next Sunday (Dec. 18) at 6:30pm in the Church basement.



TESTIMONIES

We are working on our new Parish Website and we need your help! We want to inspire not only our own parishioners, but visitors and non-Catholics as well. So we would like to include a section where we can share our testimonies of faith. We would love to have yours! Please submit your typed testimonies to the parish office for consideration at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com. This is a great way to evangelize without ever leaving the comfort of your own home!

PARISH NEWS

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We will have our parish Advent Reconciliation Service on **Friday, December 16**, following the 7pm Mass. There will be 8 priests available to hear confessions. Please use this opportunity, and avoid the last minute line ups right before Christmas.



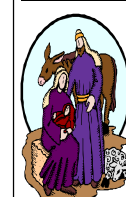
DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICES

- Dec 14 @ 7:30pm- St. Joseph (1612 E. 18th Ave, Van)
- Dec 16 @ 7:45pm- St. Mary** (5251 Joyce St., Van)
- Dec 19 @ 7pm - St. Francis of Assisi (2025 Napier St., Van)
- Dec 20 @ 7pm - Our Lady of Sorrows (555 S. Slocan St., Van)
- Dec 20 @ 7pm - Corpus Christi (6350 Nanaimo St., Van)
- Dec 21 @ 7pm - Holy Cross (1450 Delta Ave., Bby)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm - St. Helen (3860 Triumph St., Bby)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm- St. Jude (3078 Renfrew St., Van)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm- St. Theresa (5146 Laurel St., Bby)

HEALING MINISTRY

The Healing Ministry will be on Christmas break from Dec 19 until Jan 6. The last Healing Prayer this year will be on Wednesday, Dec 14. Healing Prayer for next year will commence on Wednesday, Jan 11; then every Wednesday and Friday after the 7pm Mass.

SIMBANG GABI (ADVENT NOVENA MASSES)



St. Mary's Parish will host an Advent Novena Mass on Tuesday, Dec 20 at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome. See the dramatization of Mary & Joseph's search for an inn (*Luke 2:7*) before Mass and enjoy the potluck "salu-salu" (communal feast of food) after. For more info, see the poster in the foyer or visit www.sambayanangpilipino.org.

"GROWING THROUGH SUFFERING" SR. ANN SHIELDS

Do not let your suffering be wasted. Come and listen to Sr. Ann Shields, an internationally noted speaker and author of many books, like "*Deeper Conversion*" and radio host of "*Food for the Journey*." This one day conference will be on Saturday, Jan 14, from 10am to 4:30pm at St. Mary's Church. Tickets \$10. Coffee & snacks are free; pls. bring bag lunch. Info: 604-435-9611 ext. 230 or 604-454-3143. Visit www.stmarysvancouver.ca; e-mail: servant_ablaze2011@yahoo.ca.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULES

Dec 24: 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight

Dec 25: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm

Dec 31: 5:00pm, 11:30pm

Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5pm, 7pm

2012 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

The 2012 envelopes are now ready to be picked up from the Church basement; please do so as soon as possible. If your address has changed, please fill out the form at the envelope table or at the registration table.

THE ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

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 weekends of **Dec 10/11** and **Dec 17/18**. We, along with other interested ministries in St. Mary's, 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.

NEW WINTER GLOVES, SCARVES, SOCKS & TOQUES



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, etc. We will be collecting donations of **new** winter items during the month of 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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation Group will have it's last meditation session for the year on Dec 13. There will be no sessions on Dec 20 or Dec 27. We will resume our usual Tuesday 7pm sessions on Jan 3, 2012.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



- Sun. Dec 11:** 10:00am Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
1:00pm CFC-YFL (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
- Mon. Dec 12:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Jr YM - SPARK (Church Basement)
- Tue. Dec 13:** 6:30pm Baptism Prep (Church)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm CWL (School Gym)
7:30pm Ablaze (Church Basement)
- Wed. Dec 14:** 2:00pm Willingdon Mass (4435 Grange St)
6:00pm Novena Our Lady Perpetual Help (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec 15:** 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (School Seminar Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec 16:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:30pm CCO (Church Basement)
7:45pm Advent Penitential Service (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec 17:** 9:00am D & A Men's Group (Rectory Basement)
10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)
3:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining)
4:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)
6:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)
7:30pm ARC (Church)
- Sun. Dec 18:** 6:30pm SR YM - FLAME (Church Basement)



PARISH INFORMATION

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

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

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

SATURDAY MASS: Our Lady's Mass 8:30am

SUNDAY MASS: 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: 8:30am

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning mass

CONFESSION:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 9:00am to 9:30am, 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.

BAPTISM: To register your child, see website or contact Parish Office.

MARRIAGE:

One of the couple must be Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish 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 / Saturday 9:45am

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 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

MIGRANT MINISTRY: (604) 355-9611 stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: arda@marysyoung.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.marysyoung.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 Chadarévian, O.P.

Executive Assistant to Pastors

Vesna Jankovic

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator

Arda Akoglu