



**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Mar. 4, 2012

Pastor's  
Corner

**THE CAT, THE MOUSE, GOD AND US!**

Do you get the sense that God is playing with you as a cat is toying with a mouse? The cat gives it hope of running away from him, and then it is caught up again by the cat and tears down a little more and then released again. Is God like the cat? Are you like His mouse?

The truth is that God does not need us, his creatures. God does not benefit from the world. He wants to pour out His blessing on it. The truth is that everything is created by God. Therefore everything is a gift from God. Whatever I have, whatever I am is on loan from God. As long as God is pleased to allow it to exist. How long do I have what I have? Precisely as long as it pleases God to let me have it. I have talents and power because God has deigned to give these to me. I breathe and live because God is pleased to give me health and life. A saint is someone who lives that truth. He is not content only to know it. It has sunk into his bones! It determines the way he lives, what he chooses, what he embraces. A saint knows that he does not have or own or control anything! He is happy that everything exists in God and for God. He lives radically out of this consciousness. He knows this is the best way to go: to exist just to fulfill God's purposes in him with what he is and what he has. Because God's purposes are the best, he embraces them, and is always ready to turn over his life to God, to surrender everything to Him.

But this appears so counter-intuitive. In the worldly culture, we want to be the master of our own domain. We want to cling to our possessions. But death will call us back to God. All that we have will fade away, it will slip out of our control.

Here Abraham teaches us a lesson. In the first reading, he accepts to give back to God his only son, his beloved, the fruit and means of all God's gifts and promises. Did he lose

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

anything? No! The Lord told him, "Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore."

That is the law of the gift, that is on display in every story of the Bible. It goes like this, "Your being increases in the measure that you give it back to God. Life actively surrendered to God is enhanced and multiplied." It is not an arbitrary reward from God. It comes from our spiritual inner structure, from our likeness to God. When we let go of our life and give it to God for His purposes, our life becomes richer, more joyful, more abundant.

No! God is not toying with us. Everything you get, everything you are belongs finally not to you. It belongs to God. That loan to you, be willing to turn it over to God for God's purpose. Then you will be like God the Father who gave His only beloved Son for the sake of us.

*God Bless you, Fr Pierre*

p.s. See Fr. Barron sermon 426, Lent 209 on his website [wordonfire.org](http://wordonfire.org)

**PARISH NEWS**

**SPARK (grades 6-8) – SPARK DAY OFF**

There will be no Jr YM event on Monday, March 5. Our regular events will resume next Monday, March 12.



**YOUNG ADULT GROUP – SNOW TUBING**

Join the St Mary's Young Adult Group (ages 18-30) as we swish down the slopes of Mount Seymour for a day of fun and fellowship. Join us for a day in the sun and on the snow next Saturday, March 10. The cost is \$20 and it will be well worth it. Register before Thursday by contacting Arda at [arda@marysyouth.com](mailto:arda@marysyouth.com) or at 604-435-9611 ext. 6.



**PENNIES FOR HEAVEN**

Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council are appealing for your generous donation to our Annual Pennies for Heaven drive in the Church foyer starting March 1 to the end of April. Proceeds will go to the Knights of Columbus Char-ity Foundation in support of vocations to the priesthood.



**PARISH NEWS**

**MAN OF THE SHROUD EXHIBIT**

March 1-7. Exhibit hours: 10am–4pm and 6-9pm. On Saturday and Sunday, it opens at 9am. Come see a full-size replica of the Shroud of Turin, an ancient piece of cloth that has the imprint of a scourged and crucified man, believed by millions to be the burial cloth of Jesus. Free admission, donations welcome. Please note that backpacks, big shopping bags, picture-taking and use of cell phones are not allowed in the Exhibition area. Bag check service available.

**“THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE SHROUD”**

Talk by US Shroud Scholar Chris Knabenshue Saturday, Mar 3 at 6pm, Sunday Mar 4 at 1pm & 6pm, and Monday March 5 at 10am and noon. 1-hour long. Free. Donations welcome.

**SHROUD VOLUNTEERS**

All Man of the Shroud Exhibit volunteers are invited to the Closing Celebration on Wednesday, Mar 7 at 9:20pm in the gym. Let's come together to share the joy of the Lord!

**PARISH LENTEN RETREAT**

Fr Bill Comerford C.Ss.R. will conduct a Lenten Parish Retreat March 20-22. He will speak at all weekend Masses on March 17/18. Please note there is no retreat on Monday, March 19. Everyone is welcome, no registration required. The retreat is free, but a freewill offering will gratefully be accepted. The retreat schedule is as follows:



**Tuesday:** 8am Mass, followed by talk and ministry time. Topic: “Pray with Expectant Faith.” At 7pm, Mass followed by teaching: “Our call to new life.”

**Wednesday:** 8am Mass, followed by teaching: “Healing and Forgiveness.” At 7pm, Mass followed by talk “Jesus the Healer.” This will be followed by blessing of oil, salt and water. Please bring your own. Attendees will also be specially blessed during the evening session.

**Thursday:** 8am Mass, followed by teaching and ministry: “The mature Christian–Mary, as Model.” Also, answers for questions on current topics. At 7pm, Mass followed by “The Gift of the Eucharist.” Blessing and Divine Praises.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Remember to move clocks forward one hour next Sunday, March 11.



## PARISH NEWS

### **ST. MARY'S PARISH INTERNATIONAL FAIR**

There are plenty of ways for YOU to help at the International Fair taking place in September 2012. If you would like to help, please pick up a volunteer form from the Church foyer and return it to the drop off box in the foyer by Sunday, March 17th. Please contact Mrs. Lynda Tamayo for further details at [lyndaqtamayo@yahoo.com](mailto:lyndaqtamayo@yahoo.com).



### **A PERSONAL INVITATION**

Are you feeling empty? Lacking purpose? Looking for meaning? Come and be nourished, be empowered, be inspired and be blessed! Light of Jesus Family invites you to a "Living in the Light" Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 17 from 9:30am-6pm in the Church Basement. For info email [lojc.vancity@gmail.com](mailto:lojc.vancity@gmail.com) or call 778-574-3505 (Emily) or 778-885-8774 (Mel).

## DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

### **A DAY OF DISCERNMENT**

The Archdiocesan Stewardship Office presents a workshop led by Fr Elton Fernandes, SJ. This is a follow up to the recent "Called and Gifted" workshop and will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, 315 Walker Street, Coquitlam on Saturday, March 10. Mass at 9am celebrated by Archbishop Miller, followed by workshop till 4pm. Cost \$25, includes lunch. More info <http://www.rcav.org/dayofdiscernment>.

### **LADIES INTERESTED IN THE CONSECRATED LIFE?**

A Monastic Life Workshop for ladies interested in the consecrated life will be held from March 16-18 at the Westminster Abbey, Mission. For more information call 604-826-8975.




### **VANSPEC FUNDRAISER**

Annual Summer Camp Fundraiser and VanSpec Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 17 at 6pm to Midnight at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall, 555 S. Slocan Street, Vancouver. Tickets are \$40.00 each. Music by DJ Eddy M. Raffle -1st Prize: Weekend in Whistler! For more info call: 604-253-2233 or email [vanspec.centre@gmail.com](mailto:vanspec.centre@gmail.com).



## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### **SHROUD EXHIBIT HOURS – PLEASE SEE OVER**

- Mon. Mar 5:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)  
7:00pm Lay Apostles (Seminar Room)
- Tue. Mar 6:** 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Mar 7:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Ave)  
6:00pm Novena Our Lady Perpetual Help (Church)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Thu. Mar 8:** 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)  
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Fri. Mar 9**
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- 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
6:00pm CFC-FFL (Rectory Basement)  
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Mar 10:** 9:15am D & A (Rectory Basement)  
9:30am Catholicism (Church Basement)  
10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)  
2:00pm CFC-SFC (School Gym)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)  
6:00pm CFC (School Gym)  
6:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)
- Sun. Mar 11:** 10:00am Migrant Ministry (School Gym)  
1:00pm CFC-YFL (Rectory Basement)  
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)  
2:00pm CFC (Church Basement)  
7:30pm Neocatechumenal (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](mailto:stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca)

**MIGRANT MINISTRY:** (604) 355-9611 [stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com)

**YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)** E-mail: [arda@marisyouth.com](mailto:arda@marisyouth.com)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: [www.marisyouth.com](http://www.marisyouth.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 Chadarévian, O.P.

**Executive Assistant to Pastors**

Vesna Jankovic

**Office Manager**

Ossie Fernandes

**Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator** Arda Akoglu