ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

*Pastor's Corner*

## CUT IT OUT!

Aron Ralston was a vigorous outdoorsman. In May of 2003, he was in the Nevada desert, doing some rock climbing. While lowering himself into a crevasse, he lost his footing and fell to the ground. He found himself trapped, a big rock having fallen on his right arm. He laid there in agony for two days, trying desperately to extricate himself from the rock, but to no avail. Finally, in his desperation, convinced that he would die, because no rescue mission could see him from a helicopter, he decided to take action. He grabbed a small pocket knife out of his backpack and began to cut off his own arm. Despite unspeakable pain, he completed his task! Aron Ralston then tied a crude tourniquet around the stump of his arm, to stop the bleeding. He wandered through the desert until he came to a road and flagged down a car. Some months after the incredible ordeal, Ralston appeared on the Dave Letterman show and told his story. When he finished, the normally lighthearted and sarcastic Dave Letterman became unusually serious. Looking at his guest intently, Letterman said, with great admiration, "You know something about life that I don't." Ralston knew that life was infinitely precious. He was ready to give up anything, in order to live. (from Fr. Barron, homily 299)

If life on earth is so precious, how much more is eternal life? Am I willing to sacrifice something big for eternal life? To let go of something I really, really like? Jesus invites us to do so. He commands it when it is needed, "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell." (Mark 9:43) *Pastor's Corner Continued...*

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

We must understand this on a spiritual level, but it is still a real sacrifice. The hand is the organ we use to grasp at things we desire. It started with Adam and Eve: they grasped the forbidden fruit in order to grasp the knowledge of good and evil, instead of receiving it from God. They tried to take hold, by their own power of God's likeness, instead of receiving it from God. Don't you think it is the same attitude that is the underlying cause of any capital sin?

Take lust for example: Sexuality was meant to express the gift of oneself and to receive gratefully the gift of your spouse. It became a power game, a control game. When someone rapes another, he grasps what can only be given. So if your internet leads you to sin, pluck it out. Cut out whatever is bad. You may even have to cut out something that is normally good for others but is bad for you, like TV, or alcohol! In order to be fully alive in this life and in the next, we must make big sacrifices, whenever needed. It is worth it. Ask the Lord to teach you what He knows about the value of life eternal, that you don't know yet...before it is too late.

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

## PARISH NEWS

**R.C.I.A. REGISTRATION ENDS OCT. 4**

Are you an adult in need of Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation? Would you just like to learn more about your Catholic Faith? This is your last opportunity to join the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for 2012- 2013. If you are interested, please contact the Coordinator at soberg@rcav.org for more information.

**FEAST OF THE ROSARY!**

A special way of praying the rosary will be celebrated on Sunday, October 7 at 6pm in the Church. The Living Rosary is a solemn and communal way of praying. Instead of praying with beads, different people will lead prayer. The Church will be in complete darkness, except for the lit candles participants will hold. For those who wish to join in this wonderful prayer please see the sign up sheets in the Church foyer. Everyone is welcome!

## PARISH NEWS

**SPARK (GRADES 6 & 7) – GAMES NIGHT**

It's game time with SPARK once again! Time to team up with your fellow youth to beat the leaders and rack up all the Power Points you can get! With all the fun games we have for you, you can be sure that this night is a winner! Come and join the fun on Monday, October 1st at 6:30pm in the Church basement for an evening of extreme fun and fellowship!

**FIRE & FLAME (grades 8-12) – TAG & CLIMB**

Are you ready to tag & climb? This Friday, October 5, St. Mary's Youth Ministry is going laser tag and rock climbing and you don't want to be left behind. So you better be quick because we only have limited spots available. First come, first serve or should we say 'You snooze you lose'? The cost is $15 and the registration forms are available from the Youth Ministry web-site and at the parish office. Questions? Contact Arda at arda@marysyouth.com

**CAMP FLAME**

This is a retreat you won't want to miss out on. Come and find out for yourself what all the buzz is about. Throughout this special weekend you will laugh, cry, yell, scream and pray. Come and form memories that will last a lifetime. Space is limited and the deadline for registration is Monday, Nov. 5. Registration forms are available from the parish office or from the Youth Ministry Website www.saintmarysyouth.com/forms. What are you waiting for? Go and register!!!

**STREET OUTREACH "FAST AND PRAY"**

St. Mary's Street Outreach has a "Fast and Pray" prayer meeting every Friday at 6pm in the rectory basement to fast and pray for an end to human trafficking and for the street people. Please come join us.

**FR. VINCENT'S BOOK**

For those who pre-ordered and prepaid for Fr. Vincent's book, the books are ready to be picked up at the parish office during regular office hours.

## PARISH NEWS

**THE CATHOLIC FORUM**

We invite you to explore the topic, "Vatican II–Year of Faith" with Archbishop Miller on Tuesday, October 16 at 7pm in the Church. For info, contact Dr. Paul Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy Neugebauer ve7cld@shaw.ca.

**PROJECT ADVANCE 2012**

We are now at 72% of our parish goal, getting closer to 100%! We need everyone's support, so please continue to send in your pledges through the Sunday collection. Pledge forms can be obtained at the registration desk in the foyer. You have until December 31st to send in the pledges to claim the 2012 tax credit. Thank you for your generosity.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE**

Our Parish Building Committee is in need of volunteers with expertise in the areas of communications, marketing, and fundraising. If you have these skills and wish to be part of this committee, please email your resume to the parish office at parish.smarv@rcav.org. Deadline is Sept. 30.

**HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT**

CWL would like to invite everyone to "Halloween Family Night". Join us for a fun filled evening on October 13 in the School gym from 6-10pm. We will serve a delicious spaghetti dinner; including salad, bun and dessert, $8 for adult or $5 for kids aged 6-12, and free for kids 6 and under. CWL members will be selling tickets after Masses on Sept 29/30 and Oct 6/7. For more info please contact Teresa Lung at 604-437-7745.

**ANTI SEX TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN**

St. Mary's Street Outreach and CWL would like to thank all who supported the anti sex trafficking campaign. We sent out 2200 postcards, close to 1300 signatures and over 80 personal letters to the government expressing our concern in this issue.

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Sun Sep 30:**
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
6:20pm Bible Study (Church Basement)

**Mon Oct 1:**
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM-SPARK Gr 6-7 (Church Basement)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm MVA (Rectory Basement)

**Tue Oct 2:**
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Ablaze (Church Basement)

**Wed Oct 3:**
10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex)

6:00pm Novena Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:30pm Neo Catechumen (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**Thu Oct 4:**

6:30pm Knights of Columbus (School Gym)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Theology of the Body (Seminar Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**Fri Oct 5:**

3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
5:30pm CFC-SFC (Seminar Room)
6:00pm Fast & Pray (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**Sat Oct 6:**
9:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory Dining)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:30pm CFC (School Gym)
7:30pm Neo Catechumen (Seminar Room)

**Sun Oct 7:**
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
1:30pm YFC (Rectory Basement)
6:20pm Bible Study (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-9:30am, 4:15pm- 4:55pm, 6:10pm- 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.
**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact soberg@rcav.org.
**PREP:** Catechism Program for children attending public schools on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm
Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: soberg@rcav.org.
**TEEN PREP:** Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens on Tuesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm
Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: soberg@rcav.org.
**YOUTH MINISTRY:** E-mail: arda@marysyouth.com
Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.marysyouth.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
E-mail: parish.smarv@rcav.org
Website: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

**PASTORS & STAFF:**

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|---|---|
| **Pastor** | Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. |
| **Assistant Pastor** | Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, O.P. |
| **Assistant to Pastors** | Vesna Jankovic |
| **Office Manager** | Ossie Fernandes |
| **Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator** | Arda Akoglu |
| **Youth Ministry Assistant** | Ana Alfonso |
| **RCIA/PREP Coordinator** | Stefan Oberg |