

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



The pastors and staff of St. Mary's Parish wish you a Blessed New Year!

Monday Dec 31:

5:00pm Mass (Church)
10:00pm Adoration (Church)
11:30pm Mass (Church)

Tuesday Jan 1: Mary, Mother of God

9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church)
1:00pm Mass (Church)

Wednesday Jan 2: St. Basil & St. Gregory

10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Thursday Jan 3:

6:30pm Knights of Columbus
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Friday Jan 4:

6:30pm YM FLAME (School Gym)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Saturday Jan 5:

9:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory Dining)
10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)

Sunday Jan 6: Epiphany

6:30pm 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

DIVINE MERCY: Friday 3:00pm & 6:15pm

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: ana@marysyouth.com

Assistant: Ana Alfonso 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: 8:45am to 6:30pm

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

E-mail: parish.smarv@rcav.org

Website: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

PASTORS & STAFF:

Pastor

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.

Pastoral Assistant

Vesna Jankovic

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

RCIA/PREP Coordinator

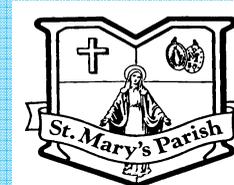
Stefan Oberg

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DECEMBER 30, 2012

*Pastor's
Corner*

WILL YOU BLESS ME FATHER?

The Lord has put into my heart a greater desire to bless you all, not only on New Year's Day, but all the time. He has also given me a greater understanding of the theology of Blessing while in Chicago at the Annual Conference for priests and bishops involved in exorcism and/or deliverance. I am not an exorcist, but the intensive practice of confession since 2006 has led me to the related ministries of intercession, prayers for inner healing, and deliverance prayers. The exorcist priests at the conference, several from Rome, taught me about the real power of blessing and of the opposite, the power of curses. For example, the person possessed by an evil spirit will react violently to Blessed Water (Holy Water), but not to fake Holy Water (water that in fact has not been blessed). The devil fears blessed objects and persons. Also many healing and deliverance will happen at the moment of the blessing.

Is this magic? No, the words used are not magical. It is God who has chosen to bless us with the words that He inspired the Church to use. It is by the will of God, not the will of man, that these words are effective. Of course, the blessings will be way more powerful if you believe that God really uses them. What about curses, hexes, and black magic? Well! The kingdom of darkness mimics the Kingdom of Light. They operate in similar ways. It is not the words and rituals of magic that have power, but it is by the will of evil spirits that they are effective. Don't be afraid. God has to give permission for any evil to happen and He will give it only when He has a way to produce greater good through it. Read Psalm 91.

What is a blessing? It is words and gift, as shown by the etymology. Benediction is Bene-Diction, that is good words. In Greek, eu-logia. The eulogy at the funeral is a form of blessing and thanksgiving for the deceased. Benediction

Pastor's Corner Continued...

blessing is powerful because it is the Word of God, and God always accomplishes His purposes through His words. That is how He created the Universe. He said, "Let there be light" and Light came to be.

A blessing is both a petition and a thanksgiving. We ask God for a blessing and we bless Him, giving thanks for what we will receive. That is why we can bless God Himself. To bless someone is in a certain way to stand in solidarity with that person. When I bless a parishioner, I think in my heart, "Father in heaven, this parishioner is given to me so that I do not lose him/her. Bless him/her. Bless him/her as you blessed your own Son and Mary and all the Saints. Make him/her a blessing for others."

Can you, who is not a priest, bless another person? Yes. Firstly, you can bless your children. Secondly, you can bless everyone, even your enemies as Jesus commanded you. During this New Year season, you can bless everyone, one by one, just by saying, "May God bless you!", instead of saying, "I wish you Good Luck, prosperity and health."

God really bless you all. Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY & YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR

St. Mary's Parish is hiring a full time YM & YA Coordinator. The job posting can be found on the YM bulletin board in the foyer. Start date late January 2013.

FLAME (gr 10-12) – OPEN GYM



Are you ready for a blast? This is gym blast with an open gym night for FLAME youth. Volleyball, handball and maybe even more...Come and join us on Friday, Jan 4th for a night of sports and fellowship. Whether you are a good athlete or can barely walk, this night will be guaranteed fun for you. Join us at 6:30pm in the school gym and bring a friend!

FLAME (GRADES 10-12) – MASTERPIECE

Prepare yourself for another incredible FLAME night with fun & games, all you can eat pizza, talks & discussions, Oscar worthy skits, the infamous 'truth or nasty' and so much more. You know you shouldn't miss it, so make sure to be there next Sunday, Jan 6th at 6:30pm in the Church basement.



PARISH NEWS

HELP KEEP THE HOMELESS WARM

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Street Outreach need really warm stuff – winter gear including hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toques, and winter jackets, especially for men. We will be collecting donations of NEW winter items during the month of Jan 2013, 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". On behalf of the homeless we thank you in advance for your generosity.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Mary's School is pleased to offer registration for **new** students for the 2013-2014 school year. Application packages are currently available **online** at **stmary.bc.ca** and from the school office Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm (starting Jan. 7, 2013), and also in the Church foyer. Interviews will be scheduled at the end of January.

2013 ENVELOPES

The 2013 offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the Church basement. Please look for envelopes by last name. If your address has changed, please fill out the forms at the envelope table.

COURAGE/ENCOURAGE

A presentation will be given by Fr. Bill Comerford, director of Courage/Encourage for the Archdiocese of Vancouver on Tuesday, Jan 15 at 7:30pm in the Rectory Dining Room. "Courage" is a support group for men and women who struggle with same-sex attraction. "Encourage" is a ministry within Courage dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents and other relatives and friends of persons who struggle with same-sex attraction. All are welcome! For info: 604-916-6192 or email: vancouvercourage1@live.ca or encourage-in-bc@live.ca.

DISCOVER THE MEANING OF LIFE

Come to the first ALPHA course and meet new friends over a free lunch and learn about the most intriguing topics of the Christian FAITH and about LIFE; then discuss the topics in small groups. This 8 session course starts on Saturday, Jan 26 at 11am-2:30pm in the Church basement. Each session starts with a (free) meal. You don't have to come to the whole course, pop in for the first session and see what you think. Pre-registration required; please contact the parish office at 604 435-9611 ext 0; or alphastmarysvan@gmail.com. Please

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLICS COME HOME PRAY & FAST

Archbishop Miller is inviting all parishioners to choose one day to fast during our Catholics Come Home campaign. Our prayer is for those Catholics who no longer practice the faith that they will return and become faithful members of the Church. The campaign will run until Jan 26. You are encouraged to choose one or more days, as you are able, and sign your initials on the calendar. There is no limit to how many people can fast on the same day but we hope to have each day covered, excluding Sundays and Solemnities. Please sign up in the foyer.



CATHOLICS COME HOME PRAYER COMMITMENTS

Please find CCH prayer commitment forms in the foyer that you can fill out and commit yourself to. Keep the form with you, or in your prayer book, as a reminder of the CCH program, and your commitment to pray for its fruitful success.

CATHOLICS COME HOME "WE MISS YOU" CARDS

Please take a "We Miss You" card from the foyer. Read the instructions, fill out the card, and give it to someone you would like to invite back to the Church. Please take as many as you need.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents will be held on Saturday, Jan. 5. Begins with Mass at 9am at Immaculate Conception, 3778 -28th Avenue, Vancouver. Followed by Rosary and Vigil at Women's Hospital.

A DAY OF WORKSHOPS ON IMPACT OF MIGRATION

The workshops will help us to look at some of the challenges faced by the Church as it seeks to form a community that is universal, Jan. 12 at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish, 555 South Slocan Street, Vancouver. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish 604-254-0691.

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, WELCOME HOME

Archbishop Miller will celebrate Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 2:30pm. All are welcome. Gather as one family in the global celebration of the Vatican declared "99th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Migrations: Pilgrimage of Faith and Hope." A cultural reception will follow in the parish hall.