



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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33rd SUNDAY In Ordinary Time
November 19th, 2006



Dear Parishioners, As I sit in my room in between clergy study sessions, typing out this week's Pastor's Corner in light of Sunday's scripture readings, and thinking about the rainy and grey skies that have been plaguing us here at Harrison just as much as they must be plaguing the rest of us in Vancouver, it brought to mind a circumstance that I observed just a couple of days ago involving the beauty and wonder of the persimmon tree and its fruit, and how God uses it to teach us a thing or two about the meaning of life.

Isn't it the case at this time of the year that most fruit trees in our gardens have already shed their fruits, if not their leaves as well, in preparation for winter? And, yet, you could say that the persimmon tree and its fruits are just coming to their own right about now. This time of the year presents us with the opportunity to marvel at the beauty of the many miniature pumpkin like fruits hanging on leafless branches of the persimmon tree as they await ripening right through the rainy and grey spells that is our autumn in Vancouver. And, I am also told that the persimmon fruit ripens best or is the sweetest when picked after a cold snap around this time of the year.

But back to what I observed a couple of days ago. In the backyard of my parents house, friends of the family had already begun harvesting a bag full of the ripened persimmons from the bare branches of the mother tree that my father had planted some years ago. Even if the tree looked rather dead without its leaves, yet, as a testimony to the wonderment that is life, the mother tree had brought fourth sweet and beautiful orange fruits for the picking, tasting and savouring.

Isn't this similar to what Sunday's readings may be reminding us about? That sometimes life can seem rather grey after dealing us a hard blow, and sometimes the blow may even be rather sudden and unexpected as well. However, today's readings also remind us that when we persevere in faith through those grey and rainy days of our lives, when we do not give up our hope in

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(Pastor's corner contd....) Christ but rather strive to strengthen our hope in him, especially during those times of difficulties that may come upon us suddenly or otherwise, then, as the persimmon tree reminds us, even in those grey and rainy moments of our lives, even then can the sweet savouring taste of life burst forth in our midst and present itself to us! A testimony indeed, to the reality of our resurrection faith where even death itself must give way to life! Or as St. Paul reminds us in light of our resurrection faith, "where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting." God Bless. *Fr. Mark*



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Nov. 19:** 8:30am -2:00pm Christmas Craft Fair (Gym)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)
- Mon. Nov. 20:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Mary Help of Christians Cenacle Prayer (Church)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm YM Leaders (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Nov. 21:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
1:30pm School Mass (Church)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Nov. 22:** 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (Rectory Library)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Nov. 23:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Nov. 24:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Nov. 25:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong
10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Sun. Nov. 26:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
2:00pm YM Open Gym (School Gym)
2:00pm Families for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS IN THE FOYER FOR MORE PARISH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST IT'S HERE!! THIS Sun. Nov. 19 IN THE GYM!! - 8:30am - 2:00pm. Come join us for a day of Good buys! Good food! Good fun! Good fellowship! Pancakes & sausages will be served; Lunch: Beef dip and hot dogs. Bring the family along and support our parish community. See you there!!!!



SMYAC BOOK CLUB MEETING (Young adults 18+)
Thu. Nov. 23, 7:30pm rectory basement. We will be discussing the last portion of "Catholic Matters". For more information, please contact us at smyac_team@yahoo.ca.

SMYAC MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL (Young adults 18+)
Sat. Nov. 25, 7:00pm. We meet in the church parking lot for rides, and decide on which Japanese sushi place to attend. It will definitely be a wonderful evening of food and fun!

YM OPEN GYM
St. Mary's Youth Ministry is inviting all youth from Grades 6 to 12 to their monthly OPEN GYM on **Nov. 26, 2pm - 5pm** in the School Gym. See you next Sunday!

YM CHRISTMAS PARTY
Youth Ministry will have a different kind of Christmas Party on **Sat. Dec. 16, 2pm - 6pm** in the School Gym. Activities, fun & prizes galore. Don't be left out. Watch out for more details.

ST. MARY'S SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Sat. Dec. 9. St. Mary's Seniors (65 years & above) mark your calendars for this annual event. Lunch will be served at 1:00pm in the school gym, after the 11:30am Mass. To reserve your spot - please call John 604-433-0884 or Parish Office 604-435-9611.

NEW SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES & TOQUES FOR THE HOMELESS
St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **new** socks, gloves, scarves and toques **untill Dec. 15.** These donations will be inserted along with other small items into Christmas gift bags. This is part of our outreach program for the homeless. The gifts will be distributed on **Fri. Dec. 22,** when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings & Main with our sandwich truck. Please drop your donations into the box in the foyer, marked "Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques", or bring them to Nancy in the school office. Please note that we are **not** collecting any other clothing at this time. With your generosity we will have another successful year. Thank you and God Bless.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

DAILY MORNING PRAYER WITH THE DOMINICANS

In many parishes, the pastor says the morning prayer, called Lauds, with his parishioners before or after daily Mass. This custom was highly encouraged by late pope John Paul II. Lauds is an important part of the daily prayers that all religious and priests say everyday in union with Christ. For more than a thousand years, Lauds and the other hours of the Liturgy, have been a central action of the whole Church. More and more lay people are praying the liturgy of the hours.

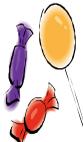


At St. Mary's, we have this odd situation where some parishioners pray Lauds in the Church at 7:15am, while the pastors and Dominican Fathers, pray the same Lauds, in their home at 7:30am. **Starting from Tuesday, Nov. 21**, the Dominican Fathers will join the parishioners present at 7:30am in the Church to pray Lauds.

Fr. Gabriel OP, will help us to make this prayer beautiful by leading us into singing. Those of you who pray the rosary at 7:30am, are requested to start earlier, at 7:10am. We are sorry for this inconvenience. We hope you will be rewarded by a blessed prayer. God bless, *Fr. Pierre*.

CANDY DRIVE - for the month of November

Save Halloween candies for the poor! St. Mary's Street Ministry and St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society are running a Candy Drive for the month of Nov. If you have any Halloween candies to donate, please drop them off in the boxes in the foyer. Thank you for your generosity!



CENACLE OF PRAYERS

Mary Help of Christians Healing & Deliverance Society of St Mary's would like to invite everyone to join us in a night of prayer with the Blessed Mother, in the Church on **Mon. Nov. 20, 7:00 - 8:30pm**. Then every 1st & 3rd Monday of the month. For more info call Albert 778-552-3036.



TALITHA KOUUM BENEFIT - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thu. Nov. 23, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Church, 5251 Joyce Street, Vancouver. Presented by the *Gentlemen of Fortune* award winning male barbershop harmony chorus featuring *Antique Gold* current International Seniors Quartet Champions. Enjoy Christmas music as well as traditional and popular tunes arranged for a four-part cappella harmony. Tickets \$10.00 each. For more info and tickets call Denece 604-985-4872.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

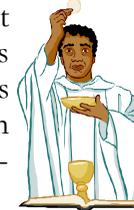
RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CAKES & CARDS SALE

This weekend **Nov. 18/19** and next weekend **Nov. 25/26**. YUMMY! Christmas Cakes and an excellent choice of Christmas cards will be on sale in the foyer, after all Masses. We look forward to your support in helping our ministry. Thanks and God Bless.



ANNUAL MASS FOR DECEASED BISHOPS, PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS

The Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Cathedral, **Wed. Nov. 22** at 12 noon. All are most welcome at this special liturgy, to be concelebrated by the priests of the Archdiocese. Kindly remember in your prayers this month those who have laboured for the Church in Vancouver - and pray that the Lord will send dedicated men and women to continue their work.



AGAPE MINISTRY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Sat. Nov. 25, Mass of Thanksgiving (Pat & Vicki's Farewell) at 11:00 am Our Lady of Fatima (Portuguese), 1423 East 13th Ave. Vancouver. Reception to follow. All are invited. RSVP. Call 604-536-0288 Allyson.

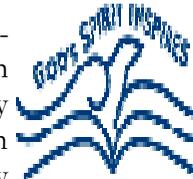


VINE & FIG'S 24th ANNUAL ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

Hope you can join us on your busy Saturday to celebrate!!!!!! **Sat. Nov. 25**, 10am-5pm. Live music with guitarist Peter Groenhof. Homemade sweets and savouries. Our famous hot apple cider & fair trade coffee. Book Prizes! Come one, Come All. Vine & Fig Tree Books. 4109 MacDonald Street, Vancouver. Tel: 604-734-2109. Email: vineandfig@telus.net

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

CFC-Singles For Christ would like to invite all singles ages 21-40 to attend a Christian Life Program at **Metrotown** (Office Galleria - upstairs by Sears). **Saturdays at 1:00pm**. Hear topics such as God's Love, Who is Jesus Christ & The Holy Spirit. Music, fellowship & free snacks will follow. For more info, contact Victor @ 604-505-5552 / Rose 778-888-8991.



DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GREAT NEED IN MEXICO ?

Join Project Brotherhood in this missionary opportunity to help the needy in Mexico from July 9 to July 31, 2007. Registration deadline is January 31, 2007. For info contact: Mario at 604-537-2311, 604-589-2870 or gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com.

ATTENTION! NEW WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES AT ST. MARY'S!!!



St. Mary's will have a **6:30pm evening Mass every Wednesday and Friday**. These masses will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until the Benediction at 9:30pm. We hope many will take this opportunity for a visit to the Church, after work, for a time of peace and stillness in the presence of our Lord.

God Bless, *Fr. Pierre*



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed. & Fri. 6:30pm followed by Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament & Benediction at 9:30pm
Saturday 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION Saturday 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;
Sunday 10:45-11:05am

(An appointment for reconciliation may be made at any time)

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursday - 8:00am; Saturday - 12:00pm

FIRST FRIDAY Adoration Throughout the day after Masses

Masses: 8:00am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:30pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: 9:30pm

BAPTISM To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's. Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to your wedding date and prior to registering for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP Religious education program for children attending public schools.

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders: Jonquil Francis and Eileen Carlson

Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kevin Smith (Principal)

K-Grade 7 (604) 437-1312 Fax (604) 437-1193 Website: <http://www.stmary.bc.ca>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoo, OP

Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes

Custodian: Zdravko Jankovic