



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Pastor's
Corner**

**Feast of the Holy Family
December 31st, 2006**



Dear Parishioners, On this *Feast of the Holy Family*, as we prepare to make New Year's resolutions for ourselves, let us ask for the grace of God to make these words of our late Pope John Paul II our words, and to transform them into a reality not only for ourselves but especially for our family. And, so, permit me the opportunity to shamelessly quote from a text by our late Pope John Paul II:

"In a world that is becoming ever more secularized, the great task of the believing family is to become conscious of its own vocation and mission. In every circumstance, the starting point for this work is to safeguard and intensify *prayer, an unceasing prayer to the Lord* to increase one's faith and make it more vigorous. It is true that when one goes through difficult times, the support of science can be of great help, but nothing can replace an ardent, personal, and confident faith that is open to the Lord... This is why you must develop an *intense spiritual life* and *open your soul to the Word of life*. In the depths of the heart the voice of God must be heard; even if at times it seems to be silent, in reality it resounds continually in the heart and accompanies us along the path that can have its burden of sorrow... Prayer, frequent recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation, spiritual direction, must never be abandoned with the idea that one can replace them with other techniques of human and psychological support. We must never forget what is essential, namely, to live in the family under the tender and merciful gaze of God. The richness of the sacramental life in the life of the family that participates in the Eucharist every Sunday, is undoubtedly the best antidote for confronting and overcoming obstacles and tensions. This is even more necessary when there abound lifestyles, fashion, and cultures that bring into doubt the value of marriage, even reaching the point of holding that it is impossible to realize the mutual gift of self in marriage until death in joyful fidelity... There is no difficult situation that cannot be adequately confronted when one cultivates a genuine atmosphere of Christian life... It is clear that, if sacramental life is weak, the family yields more easily to snares because it is deprived of any defenses. How important it is to foster family support for couples, especially young couples, by families who are spiritually and morally solid. It is a fruitful and necessary apostolate at this time in history."

On behalf of Fr. Pierre and I, allow me, at this point, to wish both you and your family a blessed 2007. That it may be a year where both you and your family may grow into a deeper union and love for one another; a union and love that find their source and sustenance in a lived relationship of love with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A Happy New Year to you all! *God bless, Fr. Mark.*



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 31: Feast of the Holy Family - New Year's Eve**
Regular Sunday Masses: 8am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm
3:00pm Baptisms
The Celebration of the New Year: Mary Mother of God
5:00pm Solemnity Mass
10:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11:30pm Solemnity Mass
- Mon. Jan. 01: NEW YEAR'S DAY (Office Closed)**
9:30am Solemnity Mass
11:15am Solemnity Mass
1:00pm Solemnity Mass
6:00pm Bingo (CANCELLED -Resumes Jan 8)
- Tue. Jan. 02:** 6:45pm Bible Sharing
- Wed. Jan. 03:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jan. 04:** 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Jan. 05: FIRST FRIDAY**
8:00am Mass followed by Adoration all day
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Mass
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
8:30pm SMYAC Coffee Night (Rectory Bsmt.)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jan. 06:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 07:** 3:00pm Baptisms



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

PLEASE: SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CHURCH

CONDOLENCE

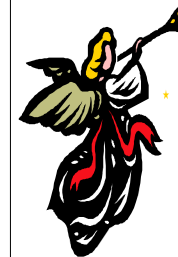
Please pray for the soul of our dearly departed:

Grace Yvonne Fripp - Funeral was held December 28th.

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord,
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her,
May Her Soul Rest In Peace, Amen.*



A BLESSED NEW YEAR 2007



**LORD JESUS,
THROUGH THE
INTERCESSION OF YOUR
HOLY FAMILY
WE PRAY FOR YOUR
BLESSINGS ON ALL OUR
FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS
FOR 2007**

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

PREP ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mary's PREP will have 2-week break to celebrate Christmas and New Year. **There will be no PREP classes on January 2/3.** PREP classes resume on January 9/10. See you in 2007.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18 to 39) COFFEE NIGHT DISCUSSION

Fri. Jan. 5, 8:30pm. Rectory Basement. St. Mary's Young Adult Community invites all young adults to another session of Coffee Night, as we engage in enlightening discussion regarding the Catholic faith. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served.



NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT AT THE CENACLE

Dec. 31, 8:00pm to 1:00am with Sister Monica and Sister Kathy. Come and prayerfully reflect upon the old year and welcome 2007! \$50 includes a light buffet and toast to the New Year! Pre-registration call: 604-266-1611.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Dec. 31, at Our Lady of Mercy School Gym, 7481 10th. Ave. & Kingsway, Burnaby. Doors open 6pm. Dinner (Continental / Asian Menu) at 7pm followed by dancing 8:30pm-1:00am. Dance to E! Sound Mobile, Party favors & prizes galore. Tickets \$35 per person. Call Paul 604-524-4486 / OLM office 604-522-5733.



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES' CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Dec. 31, 9:00pm (doors @ 8:30) at Holy Family Parish Hall, 4851 Beatrice Street, Van. Party favours, light snack, midnight champagne, live band (Euro). Members \$30, guests \$35. Call Lina 604-433-0055.

PRO-LIFE MASS AND VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. **Sat. Jan. 6, 9am** Mass at St. Paul's Parish, 8251 St. Albans Road, Richmond. Followed by Rosary and Prayers in the Church. Vigils are held each first Saturday of the month under chaplaincy of Rev. Hien Nguyen. The Prayer Apostolate was instituted in 1995.



SOURCE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fri. Jan. 12'07 from 7:30-9:30 pm at Holy Trinity Parish in North Vancouver. Open to youth ages 12-18, this event will bring youth from the entire Archdiocese together to worship Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Presented by the Youth Ministry Office, Vocations Office, and Fraser Valley West Serra Club. For more info, visit www.youthmin.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES-OLGCS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Monday nights from Jan. 22 to Mar. 26, at St. Augustine's Parish (2028 W. 7th Ave. Van), 7-9 pm. For info or to register, call 604-640-7549/1-888-833-7733/604-708-8402.

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE & INFORMATION MEETING

Tue. Jan. 23, 7pm to 9pm, 2855 Parker St. Vcr. All parents & students in Gr. 7 are invited to attend. Parents must pre-register their child at this Open House in order to write the Placement Test (fee: \$25.00 cash only). Gr. 8 Placement Test Thu. Feb. 22 at 12noon in the Auditorium. Parents please pick up students at 3pm. Selection preference must be given to students in our Region and selection is not based only on performance in the test. For more info call 604-255-5454 or email; juggiers@ndrs.org or visit www.ndrs.org.

CALENDER DONATIONS

If you are able to donate 2007 calendars to federal prisons, please send them to Sr. Aldona Ewazko or Rev. Mako Watanabe c/o St. James Parish, 2767 Townline Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 5E1. Thank you!

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

Registration for the Jan.'07 term is now open. Courses include Mariology (Park), Christian Anthropology (Moser), and The Torah (Vogels) in Victoria. contact Marjorie Budnikas to register at 604-822-4463(ext.115) or email: registrar@stmarkscollege.ca.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis. It is not too late to register for Jan. 8'07 classes. For more info: Dr. Marjorie Budnikas at 604-822-6862 (ext.115) or budnikas@corpuschristi.ca.

CHAMBER CHOIR NOW AUDITIONING

Corpus Christi College is considering 2 additional sopranos and tenors for its growing community Chamber Choir. Prospective members must have previous choral experience, the ability to sight read, and a commitment to regular weekly practices. Call Tony Araujo at 604-788-6208 / 604-822-6862 to schedule an audition.



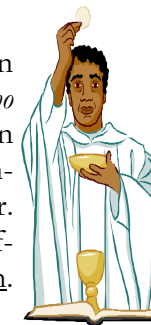
DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN GREAT NEED IN MEXICO ?

Join Project Brotherhood in this missionary opportunity to help the needy in Mexico from Jul. 9 to Jul. 31'07. **Registration deadline is Jan. 31.** For info: Mario 604-537-2311/604-589-2870 / gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS

We invite single Catholic men (ages 17 & up) to join us as we look at "*Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience: Who does this apply to?*" The next meeting will be held on **Sun. Jan. 7, 7:30pm** in the Luminous Hall, at St. Andrew's Parish, 480 E. 47th Ave. Vcr. For info call Fr. Hien Nguyen or Fr. Tom Smith at the Vocations Office 604-443-3254 or www.vocationsvancouver.com. **Your questions are Very Important to us.**



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 Ministries Coordinator : Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes