



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

EPIPHANY January 7th, 2007

The Scared Priests

Dear Parishioners, When they learned from the Magi that the Messiah was born, they and all Jerusalem, got really scared. They plotted to kill the Messiah right away, while he was still a powerless baby. Those who were specialized in waiting and searching for the Messiah, became "greatly troubled", when they learned that he had finally arrived! How strange! The magi, who were pagans, rejoiced and came a long way to see the Messiah! How surprisingly wonderful!



Things have not changed a bit. We Catholics, ignore God, while pagans search for him. We, Catholics and Christians get scared when God comes "too close for comfort". We try to kill the moment of grace while it is still new and fragile. We don't want grace to take root in our heart. We kind of say to God, "I am doing OK, Lord. I don't really need you. As long as I have health and bread and friends, I don't need anything else. I don't need you. You would take too much place in my life, you would ask too much commitment from me". And we let go off the Source of all gifts, for the sake of enjoying his gifts.

Like the priest in Herod's court, we try to flush away all hints of God's presence, going as far as killing him in our own soul. We flush away God with alcohol, "busy-ness", greed, lust. We don't admit it, but this is what we do. We are afraid to give God a chance to really enter into our lives, a chance for him to have a personal relationship with us. The Evil one makes us believe that such an intimate relationship with God would deprive us of our freedom and happiness. But this is false! God is your loving Father! He knows your true needs and he respects each one of them. He knows also how to remove every bit of the cancer of sin that is eating away your soul and your life. Let the great Surgeon use his divine Knife for your greatest advantage. Let him set you free and joyful as he did for the Magi!

Joyful Epiphany, *Fr. Pierre.*



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 07: EPIPHANY**
3:00pm Baptisms
- Mon. Jan. 08: SCHOOL REOPENS**
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Mary Help of Christians (Rectory Dining)
- Tue. Jan. 09:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen Prep (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing
- Wed. Jan. 10:** 10:45am Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jan. 11:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Jan. 12:** 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:00pm YM Cosmic Bowling (Old Orchard)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm K of C Executive (Rectory Basement)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jan. 13:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 14:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)



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

YM GOES COSMIC BOWLING

St. Mary's Youth Ministry invites all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to join them in another fun cosmic bowling night. This will be on **Jan. 12, 6pm to 9pm.** Permission forms are required and they are available in the YM bulletin board and the YM website.

JOYFUL

EPIPHANY



Epiphany of the Lord

Today, we remember the coming of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. They brought with them their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Today, we brought with us our parish envelope as our gift to the Christ Child, to pay him homage. We do this each time we gather. St. Paul teaches in regards to giving, "Each Sunday each of you must put aside a portion of what you have earned." (1 Cor. 16:2). What portion will you set aside this year, each and every Sunday? How will you express your gratitude to God for all the gifts He gives to you?

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

VISITATION OF THE SICK BY HANDS OF VERONICA

If a loved one is a patient in Burnaby General Hospital and would like to have a visit from a member of the Hands of Veronica group, please contact the Parish Office with information.

ST. MARY'S RESOURCE CENTER (LIBRARY)

Many of you may not be aware that we have a borrowing facility located in the Church basement in the Children's Liturgy area. Volunteers are available for half an hour after every Sunday Mass (except 7:00pm). Come and visit us soon.

CENACLE OF PRAYERS (every 1st & 3rd Monday of the month)

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 from **7:00 - 8:30pm**. For more info call Albert 778-552-3036.



PREP ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mary's PREP classes will resume this week, **Jan. 9 & 10**. We hope that all had a blessed Christmas and a peaceful new year.

SOURCE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fri. Jan. 12 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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Receptionist/Secretary, runs the Nortel Meridian main switchboard (20 offices) in the Archdiocesan Curia and provides general office support. Superior telephone communication skills required. Experience in keyboarding, proficient with Microsoft Office software. Deadline for applications is Jan. 19. Further details, including how to apply are available on the archdiocesan website: www.rcav.org.

CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE

Public Speaking and Community Leadership Skills. This is a ten week course. Next courses start: **Sat. Feb.10** at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver, and **Sat. Feb.17** at Our Lady of Good Council Parish in Surrey. To register / for further info, call Blair 604-540-1919 - Vancouver, or Robert 604-572-9731 - Surrey.

ETERNAL WORLD TELEVISION NETWORK

EWTN is a Catholic TV station available through Shaw digital cable (channel 249) that is dedicated to airing family and religious programming from a Catholic point of view.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY (Pvt. Catholic High School for girls)

Invites all prospective 2007-2008 Gr. 8 candidates and their families to an Open House on **Thu. Jan. 18**, in the School Gym, 7pm-8pm. The school entrance is located at 1625 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver. Registration packages for the Entrance Exam will be available. For more info call 604-738-9016 or visit our website: www.lfabc.org.

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR SONS, DAUGHTERS, & LOVED ONES SEMINAR by Vernon Robertson

Have your loved ones stopped practicing the faith? Do they no longer believe in God? Then this seminar on **Jan. 20** (10:00 am-4:30 pm) at St. Ann's Parish, Abbotsford is for you. To pre-register for materials call Mena Beatch at 604-855-9701 or email varobertson@shaw.ca.

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES' CLUB Annual General Meeting and Dance

Sat. Jan. 20 at Holy Family Parish Hall (4851 Beatrice Street, Van). AGM at 6:30 pm, dance at 8:00 with Rick Leather. Tickets at the door. Members \$10, non-members \$13. Call Lina 604-433-0055.

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.

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**. **Registration deadline is Jan. 31**. For info: Mario 604-537-2311/604-589-2870 / gardunom@projectbrotherhood.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DISCOVER SOUTH AMERICA WITH NEWMAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Spiritual Director, Fr. Jim Corrigan. 15 day deluxe tour departs **Apr. 19**. Visit Santiago, The Lake District, Puerto Varas, Bariloche, Iguassu Falls, Rio de Janeiro and much more. \$5,854 per person (double) – includes taxes and many extras. Optional pre-tour extension to Machu Picchu available.

Contact Joyce Tutt 780-447-2993, Ext. 263 or 1-800-386-7231, or joyce.tutt@newman.edu.

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