



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Pastor's
Corner**


**3rd SUNDAY in Ordinary Time
January 21st, 2007**

Dear Parishioners, God has been working unusual things at St. Mary's since December 20th, 2006. The number of confessions have suddenly multiplied by three or four. We have had hours and hours of confessions and it keeps going. The two weekends after Christmas, we had an average of 8 hours of confessions each weekend. Normally we would have almost no confessions in the following weeks after Christmas.

Not only the number of confessions was unusual, but their quality was very impressive. Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Mark and I were very moved by them. Many beautiful conversions: men and women returning to God and to the Sacraments after a long long time! Many young people too, having long and detailed lists of sins! Who prepared them? We, the pastors did not do anything special, anything different except praying more together and asking people to pray about finding the will of God. All these confessions gave us a sense of the need of many parishioners. So many came to confess a dark secret, a deep wound or a sin they had never been able to confess before. Many mentioned a difficult family situation or a painful workplace. A few shared newly found peace, a sense of intimacy with God. Many tears of joy and repentance!

Why God is doing all this in our parish? Usually, when God pours out his graces to someone, he is calling him or her to a special mission. When God pours out his graces to a group of people, he calls them to a special mission. What is he calling you to do? What is he calling St. Mary's to do? Do not be afraid! His missions are life giving. And he is a great communicator! He is more than willing to tell us what he wants if only we ask him sincerely and regularly. Let us listen to him, in prayer and silence. Be watchful. Look for his invitations. Use those "dead times" during the day, when you are waiting for a green traffic light, for an elevator, or in a line-up for a cashier. At home or in the bus, read the bible, pray the rosary. Share your questions and answers with your pastors and with some trust worthy friends. God Bless you all. *Fr. Pierre*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 21:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex)
2:00pm YM Open Gym (School Gym)
- Mon. Jan. 22:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Jan. 23:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen Prep (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Jan. 24:**  6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:30pm Elementary Prep (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Library)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jan. 25:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Jan. 26:**  3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:00pm YM Faith in Action (Church Basement)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm K of C Council (School Seminar)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jan. 27:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
10:00am Legion of Mary (Rectory Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 28:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

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

CWL - NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to invite all newly registered parishioners to our first informal "Welcome Reception" on **Feb. 11**, 2.00 - 5pm, at the Church basement. Light refreshments will be served. We encourage all new registered parishioners to attend, it's a great opportunity for you to meet other parishioners and learn more about the parish. A sign up sheet is available at one of the desks in the Church foyer. So, please come and join us for a fun gathering!

PARISH EVENTS

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS :

Monthly Open Gym

It's game time! Join us in our monthly Open Gym on **Sun. Jan. 21 from 2pm to 5pm** in the School Gym. Come and enjoy lots of games and sports on this fun day!



"Faith in Action"

St. Mary's Youth Ministry will have a faith and fun-filled night called **"Faith in Action"**. This event is open to youth in Grades 6 to 12. Do you want to know what this night is about? Join us in the Church Basement on **Fri. Jan. 26** from 6 - 9pm.

YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS (ages 18-39):

Bowling & Billiards Night Sat. Jan. 27, meeting @ 7:30pm in the parking lot for carpooling purpose. We'll be bowling at the Town N Country Bowl (Marine Dr. @ Fraser St.).

Approx. cost: \$20. Please r.s.v.p. us at smyac_team@yahoo.ca

Coffee Night Fri. Feb. 2, 8:30pm. Rectory basement. All young adults are invited to join SMYAC for a fruitful Catholic discussion based on the topic "Evangelization & Apologetics". All are welcome!



Snow Day Sun. Feb. 4, meeting @ 9am in the parking lot for carpooling purpose. Destination: Cypress Bowl. Three activities to choose from (with approx. cost of each: Snowboarding (about \$80); Cross Country (\$40); Downhill (\$100). For more info, please e-mail smyac_team@yahoo.ca.



ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are an outreach group who strive to provide friendship and spiritual support to vulnerable women in the lower mainland. The needs of our ministry is growing and we would like to recruit volunteers to help us in these areas: "Friends on Wheels" (i.e. drivers), baby-sitting, celebrations and events, newsletter, program development & training, informatics & coordination, spreadsheet, and other future programs for the homeless. To find out more or to join us, pick up an info sheet and/or fill in the "Call for Volunteer" form at the foyer.

ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY – WATER PICK DRIVE

We give flowers to the street working women on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. We are in need of water picks for cut flowers. If you have any spare ones, please drop them off at the Church foyer next week. Thank you very much!

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEMBERS

We would like to thank all the parishioners for making our "Giving Christmas Tree" and "Winter Socks, Mitts, Toques and Scarves Drive" a great success. With your overwhelming response, we were able to help 10 families as well as the Christmas Bureau. The items collected were given to the homeless at Main & Hastings as part of our outreach program. It was amazing to see the appreciation from all of them. Thanks for helping all those in need. God Bless You.

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 ([visit www.ndrs.org](http://www.ndrs.org))

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:jugglers@ndrs.org.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE COUNCIL MEETING

The Vancouver Diocesan Council CCOOP, first council meeting of the year will be at 7:30pm on **Wed. Jan. 24** at St. Mary's (5251 Joyce Street, Vancouver) in the rectory basement.

ST. MARY'S DEVELOPMENT & PEACE COMMITTEE INFO SESSION

Sun. Jan. 28 from 2-5pm in the Church Basement. Ted Alcuitas, a member of D & P, was on a fact finding mission to the Philippines last November with a group from Canada. He will present an account of his experiences there. Discussion will follow. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome! No Charge.

THE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

29 June - 1 July, Vancouver, BC. Keynote speaker: Fr. Laurence Freeman. Theme: Food for the Journey - Great Spiritual Teachers of the Contemplative Tradition. Register by **February 1st for a 10% discount.** All registration in by March 1st. Venue: University of British Columbia. To register contact the coordinator joycerogers@telus.net or www.meditatio.ca

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOCAL ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE TEACHERS SHARE THEIR MISSION EXPERIENCE - An inspiring and informative evening.

Tue. Jan. 23 at 7pm Mr. David & Serena Mattiazzo will give our community a presentation on their experiences in Nairobi, Kenya this past summer. The presentation specifically will touch on working in an orphanage and school in the slums of Nairobi. It promises to be an educational and spiritual event, a refreshment social will follow. STMC students will also have some displays of ongoing projects such as feeding the homeless, mission trips, clothing drives and how this raised awareness benefits them as youth. Please join us at St. Thomas More Collegiate at 1750 12th Ave, Burnaby.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES-OLGCS Annual General Meeting

Jan. 25, 7:00pm @ Immaculate Conception, 8842 - 119th St. Delta. Guest Speaker: Shashi Assanand, Executive Director, Vanc. & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services.

NORTH SHORE CATHOLIC SEMINAR SERIES

Rights Talk, Rights Revolution & Catholic Teaching by Dr. David Klassen at Christ the Redeemer Parish (599 Keith Road, West Vancouver) on **Fri. Jan. 26**, 7:30-9:30pm. \$5.50 per person. For more info, contact 778.839.4884 or www.nscdg.ca.

TAIZE PRAYER NIGHT

St. Mark's College is hosting a Taizé Prayer Night. Join us for reflection through song, beauty, and prayer at St. Mark's College Chapel (5935 Iona Drive at UBC) on **Fri. Jan. 26**, 6-7pm.

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.

VOCATION LIVE-IN

Feb. 16 - 18 for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission BC. For more information, call 604-826-8715.

WCDWA VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISING DANCE

West Coast Domestic Worker's Association invites you to our Annual Valentine's Fundraising Dance! **Sat. Feb.17**, 8pm-1am at ANZA Club, 3 West 8th Ave./Ontario St.. Tickets \$15 for current or former caregivers, \$20 for community members. Music by DJ Star Mobile. Silent Auction, food, games & prizes. Tickets are available at the office: 604-669-4482/ at the door.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT REQUIRED AT 150 ROBSON ST. A part-time Office Assistant is needed for the Chancery Office to process marriage documents in compliance with canon law, perform centralized filing services for the Chancery Office, and other duties. Consideration will only be given to those applicants with demonstrated computer skills in Microsoft Office (specifically Access), the ability to type 40 wpm, & experience with office practices and procedures and e-mail. Some familiarity with canon law would be an asset. Deadline for applications is Jan. 26. Further details including how to apply are available on the Archdiocesan website (www.rcav.org).

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