



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday, February 18th, 2007

How to forgive?

Dear Parishioners, I have started making a list of people that I need to forgive from the bottom of my heart. Starting from year 2007, I went backward in time but did not get very far. The list was too long! Try it for yourself! You may find that the most difficult hurts to forgive were the ones that came from a spouse, a parent, a family member. These hurts stick in our unconscious memory. The daily frustrations of life trigger the hidden resentment surrounding these wounds. We explode against innocent people who happen to be in our path. Constant forgiveness from the bottom of our heart is to be practiced daily. But how?

First, if Christ asks us to forgive even our worst enemy, it must be possible, with his grace. What is impossible to man alone is possible with God. Pray everyday for the grace to forgive completely everyone from the bottom of your heart but don't hate yourself if you cannot succeed at it right way.

When you cannot forgive, look at Jesus on the cross. Read the Passion. He forgave his executioners while they were still torturing him. He is now interceding for you at the right side of the Father, that his mercy be passed on to you so that you may forgive with his heart. Remember how many times he had to forgive you! Remember that he is actually loving and forgiving your enemy. He is not loving the wrongs that your enemy did to you but he does love him.

Now, you might say: I want to forgive but still feel a lot of resentment. I cannot make it go away. Well, God does not ask you to feel good about your enemies. He is asking you to do good to them. To forgive is an act of the will, a commitment to do something about the issue. Slowly, in due time, the feelings of anger will dissolve. Pray for your enemies everyday even if at first, you cannot really mean it. Say the prayer from the top of your lips, slowly it will go down to your heart.


You might object: what to do when the offender continues to abuse me? The answer is that God does not want you to approve any abuse, neither to deny it or make believe it does not hurt. God wants you to protect yourself and to love yourself as much as he loves you. He wants you to forgive the offender, not to approve the offense. He wants you to be free of the bitterness that is hurting you.

I pray to you, Lord do not let the Evil one lead us to hate one another. Do not let anger destroy our souls, our families, our nation. Help us to take the first step towards the offender. Help us to forgive, that we may be forgiven. In your name.

God Bless you, Fr. Pierre.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 18:** 2:00pm St Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)
2:15pm Choir Leaders Meeting (Choir Area)
- Mon. Feb. 19:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory)
7:00pm Mary Help of Christians (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 20:** 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)
7:30pm #3 of 4-Part Faith Series (Church)
7:30pm PEC Meeting (Rectory Library)
- Wed. Feb. 21:** **ASH WEDNESDAY-Fast and Abstinence**
8:00am Mass with administering of Ashes
9:30am Mass with administering of Ashes
6:45pm Mass with administering of Ashes followed by Adoration
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm CWL Meeting (Church Basement)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 22:** 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing (School Gym)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
- Fri. Feb. 23:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church) 
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
6:45pm Line Dancing (School Gym)
6:45pm YM Faith in Action (Church Basement)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm K of C Council (school seminar room)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 24:** 8:00am Tai Chi & Qi Gong (School Gym)
10:00am Confirmation Retreat (School Gym)
10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
10:00am Christopher Leadership (Church Bsmt)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 25:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
11:30am PREP Special Class (School)
2:00pm Open Gym for Teens (School Gym)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

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

PARISH EVENTS

YM FAITH IN ACTION

Join us in another faith and fun-filled night on **Fri. Feb. 23, from 6:45pm to 9pm** in the Church Basement. Open for all youth in Grades 6 to 12.

TEENS' MINISTRY OPEN GYM - ONLY for youth in Gr. 9 to 12

The new Teens' Ministry will have their first ever Open Gym next **Sun. Feb. 25, 2pm-5pm** - School Gym. See you there!

SMYAC KRISPY KREME FUNDRAISER

Have you had your donut yet? SMYAC is having its annual Krispy Kreme fundraiser downstairs in the Church basement after all Sunday morning and afternoon Masses this weekend. Have a delicious donut or two! We want to thank you in advance for the support!



THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY 4-PART FAITH SERIES, Part III

Tue. Feb. 20, 7:30pm in the Church. Come and learn Pope John Paul II's landmark integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit. For details please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca. All parishioners are welcome!

SKATING WITH THE SMYAC STARS

Fri. Feb 23, meet in the Church parking lot at 7:30pm for carpooling purposes. Venue: Burnaby 8-rinks on Sprott St., Burnaby. Actual time: 8:00-9:15pm (or can be extended to 10:45pm, may cost an extra \$4.25). Admission: \$4.25; skate rental: \$2.75.



MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Evening of **Sat. Feb 24**. For actual time and other important details, please refer to the posters in the Church foyer.

HEALING MASS WITH FR. FERNANDO SUAREZ

Thu. Mar. 1, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Church. All are welcome!

TALENT SHOW 2007 AUDITIONS

Have a talent that you would like to showcase? SMYAC will be hosting a Talent Show to be held on **Apr. 28**. Audition dates for the show will be held on Mar. 3, 10, and 17 from 2pm to 5pm in the Church Basement. The theme for this year is Broadway. All talents and ages welcome. Limit 5 minutes per audition. For more information or if you would like to be a volunteer contact: Joyce Azarcon 778-855-3137 email smyactalent2007@gmail.com.

ST. MARY'S PARISH RETREAT

Mark your calendars! Fr. Silvester D'Souza, Carmelite Order of Priests, from Goa, India, will be preaching this years lenten retreat from **Tue. Mar. 6 - Thu. Mar. 8**. The retreat will start with Mass at 6:30pm on all 3 days. Make a Lenten commitment!

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Feb. The Library Resource Centre will be open for 1/2 an hour after the 9:30am and 11:15am Masses only. Come! Take a book to read and pray during Lent. More volunteers are still needed. *Sr. Katherine.*



NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL: GR.8 PLACEMENT TEST

Thu. Feb. 22 at 12noon - 3pm, in the auditorium. All students must pre-register in order to write the test. Fee \$25. For more info call 604-255-5454, or jugglers@ndrs.org or www.ndrs.org.

DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND

For men interested in exploring a vocation with the Dominicans of Vancouver, you are invited to a Dominican "Come and See" Weekend to be held from **5pm Fri. Feb. 23 to 12pm Sun. Feb. 25.** The event will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 5251 Joyce St., Vancouver, BC. Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at frmarkhoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on the church bulletin board.



LENTEN VIGIL FOR THE SILENCED

Wednesdays 12noon to 1pm. **Begins Ash Wednesday Feb. 21 through Mar.28**, Robson St. at the Vancouver Art Gallery. We stand in solidarity with those with whom Jesus identified - the poor, the homeless, the shunned, the aged, the sick, the foreigners, the criminal outcasts - THE SILENCED. We represent various Christian communities. During these six weeks of Lent, we prepare for Easter, a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus who we confess to be the Christ, God's anointed One.

CATHEDRAL YOUTH OUTREACH- YOUTH DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Sat. Mar. 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pre-registration is required by Feb. 20. Holy Rosary Cathedral (650 Richards St., Vancouver) Sponsored by Cathedral Youth Outreach (CYO). Refreshments and lunch are provided. Event is free.

CHRISTIAN SACRED ART THROUGH THE AGES

With Rev. Lawrence Donnelly. Come and see beauty - artists painting for the love of God. This is a rich visual presentation of the beautiful sacred art of Churches from across history. Come be inspired. **Sun. Mar. 4**, 7pm at St. Augustine's Parish Hall, 2028 W. 7th Ave.(near Arbutus & Broadway), Vcr. Admission by donation. STAAC Faith Presentation Series: See www.staac.ca for more details. For more info. Contact Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 or hwaldock@yahoo.ca.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CARE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

To register call Catholic Family Services at 604-443-3220:

Women's Groups: Mondays starting **Feb. 19** at St. Nicholas Parish, Langley. **Men's Group:** Wednesdays starting **Feb. 21** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Surrey.

BLESSED SACRAMENT FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

Applications are being accepted for children entering Kindergarten in Sep. 2007. We offer only Catholic French Immersion program. Address: Heather St./14th Ave., Van. Please call 604-876-7211 for more info. Few spaces are also available in Gr. 1 - 7 for students already attending a French Immersion School.

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. All registrations in by Mar. 1. Venue: University of British Columbia. To register contact the coordinator joycerogers@telus.net. or www.meditatio.ca

LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18 -35)

"JESUS IS GOD! HE LOVES YOU!" Come and join us for a Day of Reflection and Inspiration presented by Fr. Chris Byrnes and the Cathedral Youth Outreach Team on **Sat. Mar. 3**, 9:00am to 5:00pm at the HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL HALL, 650 Richards Street, Van. Refreshments/lunch provided. To sign up, call the Cathedral office, 604-682-6774, ext. 5 (by Feb.20), or email: hrc@shaw.ca

DISTANCE EDUCATION FOR PERSONAL FAITH FORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, offers several programs. You are invited to attend an informal information session to find out more: **Sun. Mar. 4 @ 3:00 pm Saint Francis de Sales Parish Hall, 6610 Balmoral St., Burnaby.** Or drop by our booth at the Catholic Educators' Conference, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre, **Feb 28. & Mar. 1**, to speak to our representative. Call for details toll free @ 1-877-867-5561 or visit www.stfx.ca/academic/continuing/ministry.html

TALK ON "DIVINE MERCY : THE HEART OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH"

By Dr. Robert Stackpole, **Mar. 31**, 10am - 3pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 8842 119 St., Delta. Free Admission - Light lunch. For info : Sharmila 604-588-5777, Theresa 604-589-3908, Ruby 604- 507-0657.

ATTENTION ENGAGED & MARRIED COUPLES

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Feb. 23-25. Helping engaged couples understand the Sacrament of Marriage and their vocation. To Register call 604-451-3300 or www.cewest.com.

ATTENTION ALL MARRIED COUPLES!!!!

You deserve a weekend to enhance your relationship. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend in the Vancouver Archdiocese will be held **Mar. 30-Apr. 1.** The weekend is a great gift that you can give to each other. For info or to register contact Steve & Mary Bohnen 604-876-7298/sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca/www.wmcanada.org for more information.

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
Youth and PREP Coordinator : Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes