



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday December 2, 2007

'Shop till you drop?'



Dear Parishioners,

December already! It is the time of the year when I feel good about being single. I am joking! I feel good about my vocation every season of the year. Yet, during this month of December, I feel spared of much of the hassle that you are going through. Kids harassing you with the ever growing wish list of Christmas gifts! Shopping every night! Wondering how you will pay for it! Fearing "Tita" will not be pleased with her present. Having to clean all the house, even under the bed, because your mother-in-law will come and examine every square-inch of the apartment. And then, all those "official" parties at the office, at the parish and with relatives.

Meanwhile, Advent is supposed to be a season of quiet waiting and praying, of fasting, almsgiving and penance! Feeling guilty? Don't! There is a way for us Catholics to fulfill all our family obligations and civic duties and yet prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is to do everything with love. I don't mean you should love waiting to be served in overcrowded shopping centers. I mean that whatever you do, running, cleaning, cooking, buying, paying, waiting, do it for the love of those you are serving, and for the love of God himself. You may not love what you are actually doing, but you can love why you are doing it! Make love the real motivation for all your activities. And when you do not love enough the kids and the relatives to sustain peacefully all that activity, do it for the love of God. Saint Leo the Great, pope, wrote, "For the man who loves God it is sufficient to please the one he loves; and there is no greater recompense to be sought than the loving itself; for love is from God by the very fact that God himself is love."

How ready am I to put myself lovingly at God's service for whatever God may ask me to do?

God bless you all,

Fr. Pierre



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 2:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
6:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
- Mon. Dec. 3:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Lay Apostles of Jesus Mtg (see announcement)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Dec. 4:** 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 K of C Executive Meeting (School Gym)
- Wed. Dec. 5:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Ave)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Library)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Exodus Ministry (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec. 6:** 1:30pm St. Mary's School Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec. 7: FIRST FRIDAY**
8:00am Mass followed by Adoration all Day
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm YM Faith in Action (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
8:30pm SMYAC Coffee Night (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec. 8:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
11:30am Mass of Anointing (Church)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
1:00pm Seniors Luncheon (School Gym)
7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. Dec. 9:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ Mtg (Church Basement)
6:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)

PARISH NEWS

SCHEDULE OF ADVENT PARISH RECONCILIATION

- Sat. Dec. 08:** 2 - 4:00pm St. Francis Xavier's Parish
- Wed. Dec. 12:** 8:00pm St. Joseph's Parish
- Mon. Dec. 17:** 7:00pm St. Jude's Parish & St. Helen's Parish
- Tue. Dec. 18:** 7:00pm St. Theresa's Parish & OL of Sorrows
- Wed. Dec. 19:** 7:00pm Our Lady of Fatima & Holy Cross
- Thu. Dec. 20:** 6:30pm Corpus Christi & 7pm St. Casimir
- Fri. Dec. 21:** 7:00pm St. Francis of Assisi Parish
7:30pm St. Mary's Parish

YOUTH MASS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults who would like to be involved in service. As we take on this major project, we will need YOUR help. If you have the talent or the skills to read, lead, sing, play an instrument, or you just like to help in the Youth Masses in your own simple way, please contact Eli Bautista at (604) 435-9611 ext 6 or via stmarys_ym@yahoo.com. Let us work together to make this fruitful.

SMYAC BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mon. Dec. 3, 7:30-9:00pm. Rectory. We will discuss Ch. 3 & 4 of Mother Teresa's book, "Come Be My Light". If you don't have a copy of the book, you are still more than welcome to join us in discussion, as we learn more about this modern-day saint!

YM FAITH IN ACTION

It's 1st Friday again. Join us in our monthly Faith in Action. We will meet in the Church Basement at 6:30pm. This will be on **Dec. 7th, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.**

DOMINICAN NUNS' CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

If you have missed out on the Christmas cards sale last week, here is your chance! We'll be selling Christmas cards homemade with love by the Dominican nuns after mass. All proceeds will go to the Queen of Peace Monastery in Langley. Please support the nuns who have devoted their whole lives to pray for us! God Bless!

SMYAC COFFEE NIGHT MONTHLY FAITH FORUM

Fri. Dec. 7, 8:30pm, Rectory Bsmt. In honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec 8, we will be showing the movie "The Song of Bernadette", which is a movie of about the Lourdes apparition and the Immaculate Conception. There will be a brief discussion following the movie. Light Refreshments will also be served. For more info on the movie, please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sat. Dec. 8 -- A special Christmas Luncheon will be hosted in honour of all our St. Mary's Seniors **(65 years and above)** by **reservations only**. Lunch will be served at approximately 1:00pm in the school gym, following the 11:30am Mass of Anointing. For reservations call John Rudland at 604-433-0884 or Margherita (Ext.3) at the Parish Office.

THE LAY APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST: The Returning King Prayer Group

Mon. Dec. 3, 7pm – St. Mary's Church. The Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ, The Returning King Prayer Group will be hosting a monthly prayer group at which the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary will be recited, as well as a reading of the monthly message. All are invited to attend. For more information call Karen 778-990-0123. <http://www.directionforourtimes.com>

NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND DANCE

As we approach the end of year 2007, St Mary's will hold their annual Potluck Dinner and Dance. A deposit of \$10.00 per person is required to reserve your spot. This money will be returned upon your arrival at the hall. Children are free (ages 1-12). For more info please call Lita Blanco: 604-451-5720, Rosie Ambrosio: 604-436-3024 or Letty Schmidiger: 604-521-6355.

LOST AND FOUND

Please note that all items in the Lost and Found will be on display, in the foyer, this weekend and next (Dec 1, 2, 8, 9). Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

THE ANNUAL GIVING (CHRISTMAS) TREE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

The branches are covered with gift tags. Please select one or more to indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16 years. Please bring the unwrapped gift (along with the gift tag showing gender and age of child) and place it under the tree at any time during the weekday or weekend masses (December 8/9 through to December 15/16) We will then forward these donations to an organization that will distribute them to children who would otherwise be without a gift at Christmas. Thanks for helping the children. God Bless.

COLLINGWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE BREAD DELIVERY

One hour per month (either Tue. or Fri. evening, 6pm pick up (takes an hour total). Currently there is a need for younger people to help lift the bins. Tasks: 1) take bread from shelves and put it in bins and 2) drive the bread down to Collingwood community center. A great way to meet some new people and help out the community! If you would like to help out, or if you like more info, please contact Stefan at stefan.spicer@gmail.com!

PARISH/ COMMUNITY NEWS

PROJECT ADVANCE 2007

Kudos to all parishioners of St. Mary's who contributed to this year's campaign! Your generous donations made it possible for us to achieve our parish's goal of \$72,000. To date the contribution is at \$76,782, enables the parish to cover the administrative expenses as well as receiving a rebate for the effort of the parish. This year's participation rate is 18.7% which is slightly higher than last year's. We would be certainly delighted to see a higher percentage of 20 to 25% of all parishioners at the Project Advance 2008. All rebates will be contributed towards the building fund of Notre Dame Secondary School. Thanks again for your generosity and participation. *Project Advance Committee*

V.I.P. (VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS)

We invite single Catholic men (ages 17 & up) to join us as we look at **"Temptations and the call to holiness through Scripture."** The meeting will be held on **Sun. Dec. 02 at St. Andrew Parish, 480 E. 47 Ave. Vcr.** (between Fraser & Main St.) at **7:30pm**, in the Luminous Hall. For more info, please call Father Hien Nguyen or Fr. Tom Smith at the Vocations Office (604) 443-3254. Or visit our website at: www.vocationsvan-couver.com *Your questions are Very Important to us.*

ST. ANDREWS PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

Fr. Lucien Larre will give a Parish Advent Retreat on **Dec. 8** at 5pm, **Dec. 9** at 8:30am, 10am & 12pm & on weekday evening Masses **Dec. 10-13** at 7pm. All are welcome! For details call 604-327-2824.

FEAST CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Rosary Cathedral - Triduum Novena t 7pm on **Dec. 9 - 11** with Fr. Fred Buttner, Msgr. Pedro Lopez-Gallo and Fr. Luis Moreno. Concelebrated Holy Mass at 5pm on **Dec. 12** led by Archbishop Coadjutor Michael Miller. Pot Luck supper with Mariachis in the hall.

DRAMA - PRODUCTION

The Little Flower Academy Drama Department presents Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" on **Fri. Dec.13 and Sat. Dec. 14** at 7pm. This touching story will surely get you in the holiday spirit. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale now at LFA. For tickets and more information please call 604-738-9016 ext. 323 or email: mislangm@lfabc.org.

A VIGIL CELEBRATING JOHN MAIN'S LIFE & LEGACY

Dec. 30, 7:00pm, at St. Augustine's Church, 2028 W. 7th Ave., Vcr. 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of John Main's death, a Benedictine monk who revived the practice of Christian Meditation. Join us for prayers, reflection, readings from the work of John Main, Taize chant & Christian Silent Meditation. Presented by the B.C. Christian Meditation Community. All are welcome!

COMMUNITY NEWS

CARING FOR SEAFARERS AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas is a special time. It gives us a chance to point our seafarers to the true gift of Christmas, which is the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. The Mission to Seafarers asks for your participation in providing a gift for our Seafarers who will be away from their homes and families during Christmas. We ask you to enclose a Christmas card with your personal greeting. The items are provided in a shoe box. Please pick up a flier from the foyer for more details.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00pm
Wed. - Fri. 7:00pm followed by Adoration & Benediction at 9:15pm

Saturday - 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday - 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION

Sunday & Weekdays - Before and after all Masses.
Saturday - 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;

(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
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: 9:15pm

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)

Leader: Jonquil Francis and Joseph D'silva
Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca
YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyoung.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