



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's Corner

Sunday December 16, 2007



Dear Parishioners, on this 3rd Sunday of Advent, we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday or Sunday of *Rejoicing*. And, on this Sunday, many priests the world over, mark this day by opting to wear *rose* coloured vestments instead of the *violet* or *purple* coloured ones of Advent. And, they do so to remind us of the joyful anticipation of our Lord's coming - not so much His coming at Christmas, as Christmas has already come and gone some 2000 years ago, but more so, to mark our Lord's coming once and for all. A coming that is meant to heal our broken humanity and broken creation, and to bring all back to God, healed, whole and entire.

But, meanwhile, during this Advent season, we wait...

And, even as Christmas nears, and as Christmas music fills the air, and as Christmas decorations and Christmas lights appear all around..., even as we feel the Christmas rush setting in upon us in the hustle and bustle of our surroundings, still, we wait...

And, when the waiting seems ever so unbearable, then, let us be reminded of this little prayer left to us by the late Henri Nouwen for this time of betwixt and between, for this time of Advent, so as to give us pause, and to remind ourselves what this season of Advent ultimately implies for each of us, and for the whole of creation...

*Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do,
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
Look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
Long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking light.
To you we say, Come Lord Jesus.... Amen.*


God bless, Fr. Mark



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 16:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)
6:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
- Mon. Dec. 17:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Dec. 18:** 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. Dec. 19:** 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec. 20:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec. 21:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm YM Christmas Party (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Advent Confessions (Church)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Dec. 22:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Dec. 23:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St.)

SCHEDULE OF PARISHES ADVENT CONFESSIONS

- Mon. Dec. 17:** 7:00pm St. Jude's & 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:** 7:30pm St. Mary's Parish

PARISH NEWS

THIS SAT./SUN. DEC.15/16 IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



To all Volunteers of St. Mary's Parish – May God Bless You and your families for the sacrifice of contributing your time and talents for the greater glory of God at St. Mary's. Dear parishioners, if you see your neighbour wearing a volunteer tag today please shake their hands and Thank them in recognition of the tremendous assistance and support provided by them for our Parish. Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



A BIG THANK YOU! to John Rudland and his team

for all their hard work in arranging to set up the Seniors Christmas Luncheon on Sat. Dec. 8. More than a 100 hundred seniors enjoyed the delicious preparations, goodies and carol singing by the St. Mary's school choir. God Bless you all.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT 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 initiative, we will need YOUR help. If you have the talent or the skills to read, lead, sing, play an instrument, or if 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 at **stmarys_ym@yahoo.com**. Let us work together to make this fruitful.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mon. Dec. 17, 7:30-9:00pm. Rectory. We will discuss Ch. 5 & 6 of Mother Teresa's book, "Come Be My Light". Even if you don't have a copy of the book, you are still welcome to join us in discussion, as we learn more about this modern-day saint!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



"The Miraculous Christmas Wish Radio Show"

There will be two matinees on **Tue. Dec. 18** at 1:30pm and **Thu. Dec. 20** at 10:30am in the church basement.

Everyone is welcome, admission is FREE.

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Join us in a night of celebration and gift-giving. Please bring a non-perishable item (or more than 1 is good too) and that will be your "entrance fee" to this year's YM Christmas Party. We will donate all goods collected to a local food bank so we can share the Christmas joy. This will be on **Fri. Dec. 21, 6:30pm in the Church Basement.**

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.

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

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 this weekend's masses (**Dec. 15/16**). The donations will be forwarded to an organization for distribution to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. God Bless you for helping the children.



NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND DANCE

St Mary's annual Potluck Dinner Dance on **Dec. 31** in the school gym. Doors open 6pm, Dinner will be served at 7pm followed by DJ dancing music until 1am Jan. 1, 2008. A refundable deposit of \$10.00 per family is required to reserve your spot and will be returned upon your arrival at the hall. Tickets will be available after the 9:30am, 11:15am & 1:00pm Sunday masses only. For more info call Lita : 604-451-5720, Rosie: 604-436-3024, Letty : 604-521-6355.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - YOUTH FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held **Sat. Jan. 12, from 2pm-5pm at St. Mary's Parish School Gym.** The Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. Last year more than 179,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3000 local competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional info. contact: **Ryan at rbauzon@gmail.com or 604-603-8870.**



NOTRE DAME REG. SECONDARY SCHOOL'S CHOIR CONCERT

Come enjoy a Christmas celebration on **Mon. Dec. 17**. Free senior's matinee from 12noon - 3pm. Beverages & goodies are also free! The evening performance at 7:30pm is \$7 per person. Fr. Joe Cuddy Auditorium, 2855 Parker St., Vcr. For info call Sue Cirillo 604-255-5454. Hope to see you there!

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

Dec. 31 at Holy Family Parish Hall (4851 Beatrice St. Vancouver). Doors open at 8:30 pm, dancing 9:00 pm-1:00 am. \$35 members/\$40 non-members, payment due by December 15. Call Barry 604-327-5425 or Tina 604-438-7618.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HELP THE DOOR BE OPEN!

Would you like to help the poor find a haven from the streets at Christmastime and throughout the year? The Door is Open, the Archdiocese of Vancouver's drop-in centre (www.thedoorisopen.ca) located in the heart of the Downtown Eastside, provides a warm and safe environment for men and women. Through the generosity of parishes, Catholic schools, youth groups, individuals, and businesses, Christmas gifts and dinners are provided to all who knock at this open door. Financial help is also needed. A gift of \$35 funds the drop-in centre for one hour, \$20 will buy coffee for an entire day of welcome and safe shelter, while \$10 is all it costs to help serve a sit-down lunch to the weekly seniors' group. Please contribute through The Door is Open, 150 Robson Street, Vancouver BC, V6B 2A7 or call 604-443-3220 to charge your donation to Visa.

CHRISTMAS CARD & CALENDARS WANTED

The inmates and chaplains in the Federal Prisons within the Archdiocese have appreciated greatly in past years the generous donations of calendars and blank Christmas cards. The Christmas season can be an especially lonely time for those in prison, and the cards assist the inmates to keep in touch with their loved ones, and the calendars are a timely reminder that they are not without the faith community's prayers as they journey toward reformation and restoration. This year, donations of calendars and blank Christmas cards are once again being sought. Please mail to Maureen Donegan, Catholic Charities Justice Services c/o St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 8909 Mary St, Chilliwack BC, V2P 4J4.

ATTENTION: LATONA ALUMNI !!!

Are you a former Camp Latona camper or staff member? Help us share the magic with the next generation....Latona is back! We are the Latona Society Organizing Committee and we're hosting a reunion party and official re-launch of the new Camp Latona! Come and join us and learn about our vision for Latona 08 and how you can get involved in making it the best Latona experience for the youth of today. **Sun. Dec. 30 - 2:00-4:00PM** Van Duesen Gardens Floral Room 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC Catch up with old friends, Bring the family--camp crafts table for the kids, Share some great memories, Learn more about new opportunities and how to be involved in the future of Latona! For more info call: Justin Malczewski @ 604-868-0267.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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!

RETREAT INFO

Ignatian Retreats of 4 days, 8 days, or Retreat in Daily Living will be held during **Jan. 2008**. For information call Mary Lynn at 604-267-1757.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
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.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