



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

April 12, 2009

I had thought my belief in life after death was unshakable. I was familiar with the stories of martyrs who had walked joyfully towards their death. Their death was not merely something done to them. It was their ultimate act of self-giving to God. Our own death can be shaped with the same Spirit, patterned after the death and Resurrection of Christ. We will receive the grace for this, in due time.

But, last Tuesday, at the grave of my friend Robert, looking at the dark hole about to receive his body, my assurances were shaken. That old doubt, that old question came back, fiercely. Fifty years ago, when my grandmother died, I had stopped believing in eternal life and in the goodness of God. I could not believe in a God who would let my grandma die the way she did.

As I am writing this, another Easter comes to my mind. It was forty-seven years ago, three years after my grandma's death. I had become a sixteen year old agnostic, cynical and arrogant. If there even was a God, it could not possibly be the God of the Church. It was 10:00pm on Holy Saturday. My good friend Réjean wanted to bring me to the Cathedral for the midnight Easter Mass. He knew I was not going to church anymore so he enticed me with his motorcycle. We would slice through ten kilometres of Montréal traffic at around ninety kilometre per hour. That appealed to me enough to face the long mass that would follow. So I went ... just for the motorcycle ride.

During the mass, the God of Easter became so real to me that I could hardly leave the cathedral. My friend had to pull me out. Staying in the church became better than a motorcycle ride! Forty-seven years later I still connect with this grace, and many others that came after that one. The illusion to avoid is not the belief in eternal life in and through Christ. The illusion to avoid is that the tomb is the end of all life: this is what the enemy wants us to believe, because then he could manipulate us into fear and hatred. Happy Easter *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

JR YOUTH MINISTRY -- (Grades 6 - 8)

HAPPY EASTER! Jr. Youth Ministry is on a hunt... The Easter Egg Hunt. Let's see which team will find their eggs and win the prize. And then we will decorate our own Easter Eggs and see who does it best. Add to that some delicious pizza and you get another great Jr. YM Event. Join us on **Monday, April 13 at 6:30pm in the Church Basement.**

ONE.3 - GOD OF OUR CITY

Multi-region, multi-high-school, multi-church, multi-ethnic, multi-organization, multi-denominational...multi-everything and multi-cheap (\$3). Let's unite under the one banner of Christ as we spend a great night of praise and worship with youth from other churches on **Friday, April 17.** If you want to join the fun contact Arda at 604-435-9611 ext.6

ANNUAL YARD SALE TO SUPPORT RESPECT LIFE

Respect Life annual yard sale will be next **Saturday, April 18.** The sale begins at **10:00am in our church parking lot** near the school. We have received many, many wonderful items so come early and get some great deals. We have **BARGAINS GALORE.** This is good for you ... and your support is great for St. Mary's Respect Life Ministry. Thank you in advance for your support.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION CLINIC

This info session presented by Sr. Deborah Isaacs is for those having problems sponsoring or reuniting with family members. These problems may include children, because they were not listed on the initial application form; children at risk because they are without a parent in an area that is dangerous; problems in processing that have created long delays; or need for DNA testing. Come and be informed: **Saturday, April 18 at 10:00am in the Church Basement.** Sponsored by St. Mary's Street Ministry

PROJECT ADVANCE -- CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Time sure flew by quickly, and once again this important event is drawing near. We had a successful campaign last year and with all of your support were able to reach our parish target. Total pledged amount was \$86,640 and the rebate to our parish was over \$10,000. The committee is now planning for Project Advance 2009 and we need your help and support. For parishioners who have volunteered in the past year(s), your experience is greatly needed again to make this event a successful one. For new parishioners, this is a great opportunity to meet other parish members while volunteering for a very important campaign.

Volunteer cards and a drop box for all returned cards is available at one of the tables in the Church foyer. Please return completed cards **by Sunday, April 19.** There will be a volunteer information meeting on **Thursday, April 22 at 6:00pm in the Rectory.** Come join us and make this year even more successful!

PARISH NEWS

CHANGE TO MONDAY APRIL 13 MASS TIME

Please note that on **Easter Monday April 13,** the daily mass will be at **10:00am instead of 7:00pm.**

YOUTH DAY 2009

Youth Day 2009 is coming on **Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2** at Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School in Port Coquitlam. Team up with the St Mary's Youth Ministry who will be joining hundreds of teens for an awesome weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! Register now by calling Arda at 604-435-9611 ext.6 or email him at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com. **Deadline for early registration is April 17** (you will get a free t-shirt). Don't miss this amazing weekend!

ST. MARY'S CWL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Mother's Day has a special spot in our hearts: the time to appreciate and honour all favourite special ladies. The Catholic Women's League is pleased to host this luncheon on **Sunday, May 10 in the Church Basement.** Understanding the economic crunch, they have prepared a great menu, wonderful gifts and at a very affordable price. Cost is \$15 per adult; and FREE for children 6 years and under. Don't miss the opportunity to give this "special treat". Your mother or other special lady (ladies) will thank you! Tickets will be on sale starting next week.

ANNUAL SPRING DANCE

Our Knights of Columbus will have their Annual Spring Dinner and Dance Party on **Saturday, May 23** in the St. Mary's School Gym. All proceeds will go to Birth Right Program. For tickets call Bro. Rene Montilla at 604-454-9679, Bro Joe. Pellingon at 604-438-3821 or Bro. Manny Mendoza at 604-430-3647.

DO YOU OWN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ENVELOPE NUMBERS?

Third Request. Please contact the parish office if you use the following envelope numbers:124; 165; 166; 180; 245; 283; 284; 340; 422; 474; 589; 809; 879; 1093; 1215; 1308; 1398; 1456; 1495;1652; 1693; 1695; 1719; 1747; 1784; 1809; 2034.

WEBMASTER

Have you seen the Youth Ministry web-page. Don't look now but it is sooooo.... Well let's just say it is not anything like we would like it to be. We want to bring it back to life so we need a talented web-developer to help us create a brand-new-web-site. If you have the time and skills, call Arda at 604-435-9611 ext # 6. Compensation will be in the form of thankful prayers.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Do you know that evangelization is a duty for all Christians? Yes, by your baptism you have taken on that responsibility and the **RCIA** process is here to help you fulfill that duty. RCIA is a program for adults who want to find out more about the Catholic faith where people are introduced to the life in Christ. We look for committed team members that will help us with various tasks and/or sponsors that can be role models for all those people who want to join our Church. Sponsors need to be confirmed Catholics over the age of 18 that are faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. Please contact Arda at 604-435-9611.

DIOCESAN

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Explore moral issues with a trusted expert. Take a pilgrimage for only \$35. Learn to pray with Sacred Scripture. Join us on **Saturday, April 18** for Spring Institute, and choose from a variety of half or full-day workshops at St. Patrick's Secondary in Vancouver. Pre-registration is required. For course descriptions and to register visit www.rcav.org/ore and click on "Spring Institute". Call: Office of Religious Education at 604-683-0281.

DVDs FROM THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

A series of professionally-produced DVDs capture the most important moments of last year's Congress in Quebec City, from the opening celebrations to the concluding Mass. Order online from www.ecdq.tv/en/videos.

YMO SCHOLARSHIPS

The Youth Ministry Office is pleased to once again offer two YMO scholarships this June for students exemplifying outstanding leadership in their parishes, schools, communities and home. Open to students finishing their grade 12 year, applicants will be eligible to win one of two \$500 scholarships to be applied to post-secondary schooling. Download the application at www.youthmin.com. **Application deadline is May 1.**

MULTILINGUAL CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

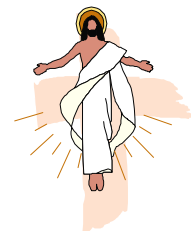
For Filipino immigrants in Vancouver who are receiving EI and are looking for a job, please contact Brenda at 604-684-2504 or brenda.alindogan@issbc.org. The Multilingual Case Management program of ISSofBC (Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia) now offers free employment and job search assistance in Tagalog.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Apr. 12: EASTER SUNDAY

He Is Risen !!

Alleluia !!!



Mon. Apr. 13: EASTER MONDAY (Office Closed)

10:00am Mass (church)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)

Tue. Apr. 14:

6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Marriage Prep Class (Church Bsmt)

Wed. Apr. 15:



6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
6:30pm Catholic Women's League (Gym)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Thu. Apr. 16:



7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Fri. Apr. 17:



9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (Rect. Bsmt)
3:00pm & 6:10pm Divine Mercy (Church)
5:30pm Eucharistic Apostolate (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Development & Peace (Rectory Bsmt)
7:00pm CFC -- Bible Series (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Sat. Apr. 18:

10:00am Family Reunification Clinic (Ch Bsmt)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
7:00pm Singles for Christ (Church Basement)

Sun. Apr. 19

1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES : Monday 7:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am & 5:00pm) & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 6:40pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: 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

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm
E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Joseph D'silva
Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyoung.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal) Website: www.stmary.bc.ca
Office Phone: (604) 437-1312 Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.
Assistant Pastor: (currently on leave) Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu
Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon