



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5251 JOYCE STREET
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Pastor's
Corner

August 23 2009

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU BECAUSE YOUR WORK
AND YOUR PRESENCE ARE FOOD FOR OUR LIVES**

"Father, I have some questions about some teachings of Jesus. Can I still go to communion even if I am questioning some aspects of the Catholic Church's teaching?"

I tend to answer that it is normal to have questions. Even Mary, at the Annunciation asked the Angel of the Lord: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" She was greatly troubled by the apparition of the Angel. She pondered this mystery: How can I conceive a child without knowing a man?

The Apostles too were perplexed sometimes. In today's Gospel, they are saying: "We cannot understand how your flesh can be a spiritual food for ourselves. But since you will not back off on this teaching about the living bread, we are going to follow you anyway and we will believe it because you said it. We prefer to follow you with some questions to be resolved later, than to leave you because we do not understand all that you say. What we have experienced with you and through you, is Life, so much Life that we will not let you go away just because there is still some mystery left in your teaching. With no one else have we come so close to touch God, to hear God and to love Him".

There is a time in our faith journey when we have understood and felt enough of the Truth that we can give total adhesion to all that Christ and his Church teach even if we do not understand everything. We know that God exists, that He is the Father of Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus told us to listen to the Apostles as if he were speaking Himself. Therefore we believe and obey the Church. The peace and joy we find in this act of faith and obedience confirms to us beyond measure, that we did make the right decision.

"Two harmful excesses are to be avoided: excluding reason, and admitting nothing but reason" (Blaise Pascal)

God Bless You, *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

PREP REGISTRATION -- LAST CHANCE !!

Our initial "Early Bird" registration closed at the end of May. We have now made three more dates available and we will **ONLY** accept registrations from **Friday, August 28 through Sunday, August 30**. The time available on each of these three days is 3:00pm to 7:00pm. The forms are available in the church foyer and you must take them to the school (upstairs in the school office). Please ring the buzzer at the front door of the school for entry.

RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for

- A) Adult inquirers: the non-baptized or baptized in other faiths who wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic.
- B) Adult Catholics: baptized but not catechized, and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (Communion and/or Confirmation);
- C) All others are welcome.

So, if you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know someone who is, the RCIA program is the answer! You may register for RCIA classes which begin this coming September. For more information, please contact Michael McGrath at 604-431-6076 or mikejudy@telus.net.

PARISH LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Parish Library starting this fall. Volunteers will have to stay 30 minutes after the Saturday anticipated mass or one of the Sunday masses. Need more info? Contact Wendy at stmarysbooks@yahoo.ca or fill in a Volunteer Form at the Registration Desk.

OPENINGS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School has openings for this coming school year. The spots available are in Grades 1, 4 and 7. Please contact the school at 604-437-1312 to inquire about getting a registration package.

ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY - CANDY DRIVE BOX IN THE FOYER

We have run out of candies! Please support us by donating individually-wrapped candies and chocolates as well as juice boxes for the street people. (NO CLOTHES PLEASE). Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH NEWS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

Come and join the Greater Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Group as they host an intercessory prayer meeting here at St. Mary's on **Saturday, August 29**. The evening beings at 7:30pm with intercessory prayers and is followed by Adoration and Benediction ending at 9:00pm.

WAITING FOR SUNDAY ENVELOPES?

Thank you to all who have been **patiently** waiting for Sunday envelopes. We have been swamped with new registration over the last few months and have been reissuing boxes that were never picked up by those to whom they were originally issued. **Many new boxes have been put out this weekend.** Please check for yours. **The rest should be out by next weekend.** If you are still waiting, please sign the form beside the envelope boxes at the registration table so we can make sure that we have received your registration form. Until you receive your own box, please bring a plain envelope from home or use one of the pink visitor envelopes. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. Thank you.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

Very often it is several weeks, even a few months or sometimes a couple of years before the parish office is informed of a change to parishioner information. If you move (to another parish or stay within St. Mary's) PLEASE let us know ASAP. The best way to inform us is by filling in a Parish Registration Form and tick off the box that says "Already Registered -- please update records". When you inform us by writing your new address on your Sunday envelope, we do not know if any other information has to be updated such as phone number.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Greeters is a group of volunteers in the Hospitality Ministry. As the name suggests, we greet and welcome parishioners as they come to church, hand out bulletins and other reading material that the parish provides, answer parishioners queries and concerns or direct them to whoever in the Parish can best provide the answer. We also make sure that a group of parishioners has been picked for the offertory procession, to bring the wine and water, bread, and the gifts to the altar. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 604-435-9611.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

THE FALL 2009 SESSION OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

"The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians", plus "Philippians" and "Colossians", -time permitting- will be held at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Vancouver, **Fri. to Sat., Sept. 11, 12, 13.** The presenter is Fr. Jim Nesbit, the noted Bible scholar from Spreckles, California. All info on the Seminar is contained in the Flyer/Registration Forms at the entrance of the church. Please register now. Call Gerry/Zela Maingot at the Centre for Jesus & Mary at 604-882-9205.

A DAY OF HEALING

Experience a day of healing on **Sat. Sept. 12** at Immaculate Conception Parish in Delta. The day will begin in the school gym from 9:00am to 5:00pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm. Linda Schubert, author of the famous *Miracle Hour* book, will guide us through a day of Healing, through the *Welcome of the Father*, the *Listening Heart of Jesus* and the *Power of the Holy Spirit*. Tickets: \$20 each (including lunch) will be available after all Masses today. For more info please call 604-594-7296.

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped Tens of Thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deeper misery. For confidential information about to register for the program beginning with a weekend on the **18th of September**, email 1009@retrouvaille.org OR call 604-530-6710 OR visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

LIVING THE MESSAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

September 19, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Bryan Thatcher, 10 am - 4 pm, St. Bernadette's Parish, 6543-132 Street Surrey Pls. call Ruby to register -(604) 507-0657.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Back by popular demand, Deacon Alex Jones will be at this year's Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Conference, **September 25 & 26, 2009 at Broadway Church**, 2700 East Broadway. Encourage other to attend. Tickets are \$10. Call Lennie at 604-597-8227 or go to www.vccrs.ca under Events.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Aug. 23: 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)

1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)

Mon. Aug. 24: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)

Tue. Aug. 25: 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)

7:30pm Installation of K of C Officers (Church)

Wed. Aug. 26: 8:30am Respect Life (Rectory Dining Room)



7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Church)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Thu. Aug. 27: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)



7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Fri. Aug. 28: 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)



6:00pm Youth Band Practice (Church Basement)

7:00pm Mass/ Adoration /Confession (Church)

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Church)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Sat. Aug. 29: 12:40pm Bible Study & Sharing (Church Basement)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)

3:15pm Baptisms (Church)

Sun. Aug. 30: 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 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 is **Anticipation Mass**

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am) & After all Masses

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm

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: Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

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

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (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..

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon