



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5251 JOYCE STREET
VANCOUVER, BC, V5R 4G8
TEL: (604) 435-9611 FAX: (604) 439-9413
EMAIL: stmarys@telus.net
WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Guest
Corner

Sunday August 24, 2008

Jesus' question to his disciples in today's Gospel: "But who do YOU say that I am?" is addressed to each one of us, Catholics and God seekers at St. Mary's Parish in Vancouver. The answer we will make to this essential question cannot come from books or teachings or family environment. It has to have been thought out, reflected upon, adhered to PERSONALLY. All of us, young or young-at-hearts can no longer afford to be "cultural Catholics" or "cafeteria Catholics". We need to confess and profess clearly and boldly, with Peter and his successor the Bishop of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI, that "Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God". We cannot do this if we have not encountered Christ personally, been convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit and received Jesus as our own personal Saviour and Lord, acknowledging God to be our loving Father. This is what the Church Tradition calls CONVERSION. This experience can be sudden and dazzling or it can be quiet and progressive. St. Paul tells us: "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you WILL be saved" (Romans 10:9). However this is not enough to make an impact. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to daily change us - through prayer, Scripture meditation and the Sacraments - into radiant witnesses and ambassadors of Jesus Christ wherever we are. This is called TRANSFORMATION. St. Paul is also for us a wonderful guide: "My brothers and sisters, I beg you, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies, your whole being, as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may know what is the will of God and what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2). Only through this journey of grace will we be able to truly say with Thomas the apostle: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

God Bless, Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Aug. 24:** 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Aug. 25:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Aug. 26:** 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
- Wed. Aug. 27:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Aug. 28:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Aug. 29:** 3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Aug. 30:** 10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Bsmnt.)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:30pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining)
- Sun. Aug. 31:** 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

SCHOOL/PREP NEWS

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL VACANCY FOR GRADE 7

St. Mary's Catholic School has a vacancy in Grade 7 for this September. Families/Parents who are interested to apply may contact **Mr. Kevin Smith** at the School office: (604) 437-1312 during weekdays between 9am & 4pm.

ANOTHER NIGHT FOR TEEN PREP STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER

We have opened another night of Teen PREP. Starting this Sept, teens have a choice between Tue OR Wed nights. Teen PREP is open to all youth in Grades 8 - 12 who want to learn more about their faith, or to prepare to receive the Sacraments, or just 'hang out' with other Catholic teens. Registration is still open.



PREP REGISTRATION IS STILL ON-GOING

The registrations for our Catechism program is still on-going. Most of the Tuesday classes are already full while Wednesday classes are still open so we encourage parents and guardians to register now. Registration forms are available in the Church foyer or at the Parish Office.

PARISH NEWS

MISSION APPEAL FOR LEBANON

Father Gabriel, a Lebanese priest belonging to the Dominican Community stationed and ministering here at St. Mary's Parish will be appealing to us this weekend at all masses, to give generously to the House of Light and Hope in Lebanon. This Catholic organization is under the sponsorship of the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Tyre and relies mostly on **God's** Providence to pursue its vocation. Its Mission uses an integrated approach (spiritual, psychological, social and professional) in helping the street kids and young adults of Lebanon (drug addicts, thugs and thieves, prostitutes) to rediscover their worth in God and their place in society. Thank you in advance in the Name of our Lord Jesus for "whatever you have done to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done to me". For those who want to have a tax receipt for their donations, please write your name and envelope number on the Mission Appeal envelope found in the bulletin last week or in the pews today.

ST. MARY'S INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FAIR

The long awaited St. Mary's **International Family Fair** is just around the corner: **August 31!** It's *the* summer event that you, your family and friends can enjoy together the whole day - from **10:30am to 5:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun & games, treasure hunt, kid's corner, entertainment, silent auction sumptuous food, sales galore, and other surprises including a grand prize! The Fair is located at the back parking lot; but there is still parking available at the front and on the streets. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. This is an event you wouldn't want to miss. So make it a date: August 31!



RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for: A) Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/baptized in other faiths (if you wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic); B) for adult Catholics, who are baptized but not catechized, and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First 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 info, please contact Arda Akoglu or Carolina Prada at 604-733-9457 or aakog@yahoo.com

PARISH/COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW POSITION! YOUTH MINISTRY & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Do you have a great love & concern for the youth? Do you enjoy interacting, connecting & working with people? Then you are the one we are looking for! A new position has been created in our Parish. We need a Youth Ministry & Parish Volunteer Coordinator. This position is responsible for a.) directing & coordinating all youth-related programs, and b.) organizing & directing efforts to involve volunteers in parish ministries. Submit your resume and a cover letter to: The Hiring Committee at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com or drop them off at the Parish Office. Deadline of submission is on **Friday, Sept. 5th.**

FAREWELL & GOD BLESS TO OUR YM COORDINATOR

After 3 years of working as our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Eli Bautista is moving on. We thank him for the service and all the wonderful things that he has done in our youth programs. We know that this is not a goodbye because Eli will still be a part of St. Mary's Parish and will be involved as a Parish volunteer. God bless you Eli & your family in your new endeavour.

HOW ABOUT AN ACT OF KINDNESS TO THE HOMELESS?

St. Mary's Street Ministry invites parishioners to do an act of kindness. Take a few scripture/info cards and a candy bag at our table after mass, & give them out to the homeless people that you meet this week. Remember, Jesus said: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it unto me." -- Matthew 25:40

CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

On Sept. 12, 13 & 14 in the Church Basement. Fr. Jim Nisbet, a noted Bible scholar from California will talk about the **1st & 2nd Letters of Peter**. Registration forms are available in the foyer. Call Gerry at (604) 882-9205 for more information.

CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed:

Rita Rubben - funeral was on Friday, Aug. 22nd at St. Francis

Minerva Calusin Bugayong - funeral will be on Thursday, Aug. 28th, 10:00am at St. Mary's

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord,
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them,
May Their Souls Rest in Peace, Amen*



ARCHDIOCESE/COMMUNITY NEWS

A NEW BOOK BY FR. VINCENT TRAVERS, O.P. (On Sale Aug 31)

Each of us is a small part of something greater than ourselves. If we are to like the life we are born to live, we have to discover a life larger than self, larger than any moment in our lives, larger than our marriages, our single lives, our jobs, larger than any achievement our bodies. The story of your life and mine is still unfolding. It's the God dimension, God.com that connects our little story to the great story, and gives us the vision, and the basis for living sane, authentic, and meaningful lives, in our world today. Price is \$20.00. Proceeds from the book will go to a Catholic mission in India that provides a home for abandoned girls, five years and older.

NOTE: Fr. Vincent will be preaching at all Masses next weekend and will have his new book available for sale.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

On Sept. 26 & 27. This year's Theme is taken from 2 Tim 4:2 "...proclaim the word... be persistent..." The keynote speaker is Deacon Alex Jones from the Diocese of Detroit. Archbishop Raymond Roussin will celebrate the closing Mass. For tickets and more info, call (604) 597 8227 or email: fireblade@shaw.ca

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Executive Plaza Hotel, Coquitlam, Sept. 18th. This year's theme: "Best Practices at the End of Life". The conference includes a Mass with Archbishop Roussin and dinner at the end of the day. The registration brochure is available at chabc.bc.ca or by calling (604) 524-3427.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - HEAD CHEF/COOK

Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre. For complete details about this opening, email mruggierandrews@rcav.bc.ca or visit: www.rcav.bc.ca/employment/index.htm. Deadline for submission of applications is August 18th.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

A special Mass will be held at St. Mark's Chapel on Wed, Sept. 17 at 12:10pm. There will also be an exhibit about the work and ministries of the Daughters of Charity worldwide.

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Corpus Christi Parish in Vancouver, 7pm on Sept. 5th. Come & join the Missionaries of Charity in their Mass, celebrating the Feast of Blessed Mother Teresa and commemorating 11 years since her death. The main celebrant of this very special Mass will be Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Mondays to Fridays: 8:00am
Wed., Thurs., Fri: 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturdays: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sundays: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sundays: Before & After ALL Masses
Saturdays: 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: 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.

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

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Joseph D'silva

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca

Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)

Coordinator: Eli Bautista

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Website: www.saintmarysyouth.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

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.

YM & PREP Coordinator: Eli Bautista

Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon/Ossie Fernandes