



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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 EMAIL : stmarys@telus.net
 WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Pastor's
Corner

December 6, 2009 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP....
PARTY 'TIL YOU CRASH

The Knights of Columbus gave us the slogan "Keep Christ in Christmas". But this will not happen until we prepare for Christmas with a month of Advent. If we party two times a week during the four weeks of Advent, and spend one day of preparation for each party, trying to figure out what we will wear for that occasion and what gift to bring to the hosts, and then one more day to shop for these clothes and stuff, Advent will not prepare us for Christmas. In fact, by the time we get to Christmas, we are pretty sick and tired of parties, and we just think of taking down the Christmas tree after that is the mad dash for boxing day, which now lasts a week including the Holy Family Sunday. (It is called boxing week!)

Now, if you are an active parishioner, your situation is worse than those who have no religion. On top of your usual Christmas parties at the work place, and with relatives and buddies, you must add the choir party, the CFC party, the Young Adult party, the K of C party, the CWL party etc. With 45 ministries and groups in the parish you will not have enough days in Advent to cover them. There was a time when even the priests of East Vancouver had their party, and St. Mary's parish staff too. Am I forgetting the school kids' party and the school staff dinner? Who needs Christmas after that? By the time Christmas comes, we have no desire to party, even less to pray. We are ready for Advent!

Advent is a time of desert! John the Baptist calls us to the desert. The desert, wrote Madeleine Debré, *is a situation or a place "where man is handed over to God, stripped bare of his country, his friends, his fields, his home. In the desert, a person neither possesses what he loves, nor is he possessed by those who love him; he is totally submitted to God in an immense and intimate encounter. That is why in every age the Holy Spirit has compelled all lovers to seek the desert"*.

Until we find a better way to celebrate Christmas and prepare it by a more peaceful Advent, let us practice the desert by being patient and kind, even in Metrotown and on the Sky train.

God Bless You *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

DOMINICAN SISTERS APPRECIATE OUR SUPPORT

Christmas cards made by our very own Dominican Sisters of Queen of Peace Monastery in Langley, will be on sale in the foyer after all masses this weekend. The cards help support the Sisters in their life of prayer for the diocese, the Church and the world. They are grateful for your support and prayers.

******* CHANGE IN MASS TIME FOR NEXT SATURDAY*******

Mass **next Saturday** is at 11:30am instead of 12:00 noon. The Seniors Christmas Luncheon follows this Mass of Anointing.

SR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 8-12) – GAMES NIGHT

All Work And No Play Makes Jack A Dull Boy. Because we know that you have been working soooo hard doing your school work, we want to reward you. Come and join the Sr. Youth Ministry as we have a night of fun, playing all sorts of different games and make new friends. **When: Monday, December 7 @ 6:30pm Where: Rectory Basement.**



JR. & SR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6-12) – MOVIE NIGHT

Who stole Christmas? Did you steal Christmas? Yes, you guessed it right; Youth Ministry Movie of the Month is "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". Join us on **Saturday, December 12 at 3:00pm** in the rectory basement. Bring a friend if you can.



ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society, is once again coordinating a Giving Tree. The branches will be covered with gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16 years old. Please bring the **unwrapped** gift and place it under the tree during the weeks of **December 5/6 or December 12/13**. We, along with other interested ministries in St. Mary's will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you again for helping these loved ones. Your generosity will make this another successful Xmas.



SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

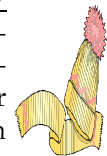
All Parishioners, **65 years or older**, are invited to attend the annual Seniors Christmas Lunch next **Saturday, December 12** The lunch will follow the 11:30am Mass where anointing of the sick will take place. We want to make sure we prepare enough food, so **you must register to attend**, (the number of people who have called so far is lower than previous years). **Do not forget to call** Margherita in the parish office at 604-435-9611.



PARISH NEWS

SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES & TOQUES FOR THE HOMELESS

During the month of December, St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **NEW** socks, gloves, scarves and toques as part of our outreach program for the homeless. They will be distributed during this Christmas season when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings and Main with our sandwich truck. Drop your donations into the box marked "**Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques**". **Please note that we are NOT collecting any other clothing at this time.** Again we thank you in advance on behalf of the poor. With your generosity we will have another great year.



2010 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

We are selling 2010 church calendars this weekend after all Masses. The calendars have been published and printed by St. Mary's Parish and list all feast days and all of our mass times. We ask for a minimum donation of \$3 per copy and would like each family to have one calendar. Your purchase will support Catholic Missions in Canada and St. Mary's Street Ministry.

PARISH LIBRARY -- WE'RE OPEN TO SERVE YOU

For the month of December we are open for 30 minutes after 5:00pm Saturday and all Sunday masses (except 7:00pm). We will not be open on Dec. 26/27 or Jan. 2/3. Please come and visit us in the church basement. There will not be any books on display in the foyer during the month of December.



MESSAGE FROM MILDRED MOY

I would like to send my love to everyone at St. Mary's. It has been over a month since I joined the Intercessors of the Lamb community in Omaha. God has been sending me lots of blessings and consolations through my silent prayer, the beautiful weather, and the sisters here. The brothers and sisters here are very loving and joyful. There are times that I am homesick. But God has given me tremendous peace and joy to overcome my homesickness. I have been praying for all of you and your prayer requests. I have also put all your prayer requests in the heart of the Lamb for communal prayer at mass every day. I still need lots of prayers. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you! To contact me, write: Mildred Moy, 11811 Calhoun Road, Omaha NE 68152 USA God Bless! Merry Christmas!

Sr. Mildred, IOL

2010 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

New Sunday envelopes will be available for pickup from the Church Basement **next Sunday December 13**. **PLEASE** pick them before December 31 & **PLEASE** do not open until Jan 1.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS "SANTA'S WORKSHOP"
Notre Dame's Music and Drama departments present **Santa's Workshop** on **Monday December 7 at 7:00pm**. Cost is \$10.

A **FREE matinee** for seniors will be presented at **12:00 noon**. Others are welcome to attend and cost will be \$5. Notre Dame is located at 2855 Parker Street (at Renfrew). Come out to enjoy and support the efforts of the students at our Regional High School. The performances are always great!!!

L'ARCHE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FREE admission to this concert featuring the Corpus Christi College Chamber Choir. Venue: St. Margaret's Cedar Cottage (1530 East 22nd Avenue) on Dec 11, 2009. Jazz prelude begins at 7:00pm followed by the concert at 7:30pm.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Madonna House as we look at "The Dignity and Vocation of Women in the Church". This takes place on **Saturday, December 12 from 9:30am - 3:30pm** at St. John the Apostle Parish hall at 5457 Trafalgar St. Register at madonna02@shaw.ca or call 604-267-1757. Lunch will be served and cost is by donation.

RAISING CHASTE TEENS -- A TALK BY JASON EVERT

Before children can come to treasure the pure life, parents must first understand the challenges they face. In this **free** session, Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary educators of their children. **When: Tue. Dec. 15 at 6:30pm. Where: St. Jude School Gym (15th and Renfrew).**

"SET FREE TO LIVE AND LOVE" -- A SPIRITUAL HEALING RETREAT

On December 18 - 20, Fr. Elias Vella from Malta and Diana Mascarenhas from India will present a Spiritual Healing Retreat at Rosemary Heights, Surrey. In order to obtain the maximum benefit, the live-in option is suggested. However, there will be some space reserved for the commuters. To register, visit www.eliasvella.org or call Bertha at 604-936-4669 or Rozalia at 604-944-1554. The capacity is limited to 200 places, so early registration is important. Topics include: Understanding types of Healing — Spiritual, Psychological and Physical, Healing of Memories, Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Healing and deliverance, Healing through the Sacraments, Healing through God's word, God's plan for Healing of the Family.

MISA DE GALLO // SIMBANG GABI

See the bulletin board in the foyer for information about the Misa de Gallo at Saint Patrick's Parish and for Simbang Gabi at Corpus Christi Parish. Both events are from December 15 - 23.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Dec. 06: 4:30pm Youth for Christ (Church Bsmt)

Mon. Dec. 07: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:00pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Lay Apostles (church)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living)

Tue. Dec 08: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1:15pm St. Mary's School Mass (Church)
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 Mass (Church)

Wed. Dec. 09: 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. Dec. 10: 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Living)
7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

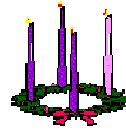
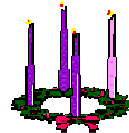
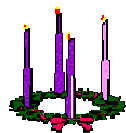


Fri. Dec. 11: 9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study (Rec. Bsmt)
10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Avenue)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:00pm Youth Band Rehearsal (Church Basement)
7:00pm SMYAC (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)



Sat. Dec. 12: 11:30am Mass - with anointing (church)
12:40pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
2:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:00pm K of C Family Xmas Party (Church Bsmt)
6:15pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
6:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (Church Basement)

Sun. Dec. 13: 2:00pm Couples For Christ (Church Basement)



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

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

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & 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 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm
Benediction: 9:00pm

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

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

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)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis
Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.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.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon