



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

Pastor's
Corner

December 7, 2008– 2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent -- "A time of Waiting"

Dear Parishioners,

I just spoke to a high school teacher who is a coach and who is also a proud recent father of a bouncing 10 pounds 14 ounces bundle of a baby boy with the name Dominic (*Dies Domini* or Day of the Lord) – named as such because he was born last Sunday. This dedicated high school teacher is now father to 3 boys, ages 4, 2, and 1 week old - all three of whom he hopes one day to coach high-school football together! I suppose they will need to prepare themselves for the day when "father" also equals "high-school coach"!



Dominic, however was 7 days past his due date and no doubt, the waiting must have been unnerving for both father and especially mother, as they awaited the birth of their child.

Likewise, the time of Advent can be an unnerving season for many of us if we leave it at that, what with the commercialized hustle and bustle of Christmas and Christmas music in full swing. It can be so unnerving to wait at the starting line for the flag to come down, that many of us are tempted to jump the line before the proper time.

But then, does an artist force a painting to come to birth before it is due, or does she allow it to gestate within her until the time when it is meant to be put on canvas? Or does the child in the womb come into the world immediately upon conception, or is there not that time in between of the waiting that comes with it?

I think there is a reason why God provided for this time in between, inconvenient and unnerving though it may seem at times, so that through the experiences that come with it, a deepening bond is fostered between parent and child - something that does not occur if birth follows immediately upon conception.

So too, this Season of Advent, in this time of betwixt and between, in the seeming discomfort of awaiting Christmas, if we are prepared to contemplate the Christ-child and meditate on the experiences that He is awaiting to reveal us, than we will have readied ourselves once again to usher His birth in a more profound way into our lives. *God bless, Fr. Mark*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec. 07:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Dec. 08: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
 8:00am Mass (Church)
 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 7:00pm Mass (Church)
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Dec. 09:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 6:30pm CWL Meeting (Church Basement)
 6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Dec. 10:** 10:45am Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
 6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Thu. Dec. 11:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Fri. Dec. 12: NEW TIME**
 9:00am Bible Sharing for Moms (Rect. Bsmt.)
 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/ Sacristy)
 9:45pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Sat. Dec. 13:** 11:30am Mass of Anointing (Church)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 1:00pm Seniors Christmas Lunch(by reservation)
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 6:00pm K of C Xmas Party (Church Basement)
- Sun. Dec. 14:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 3:00pm RCIA (Church)
 3:30pm RCIA (continues in Rectory Basement)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

PARISH NEWS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Monday **December 8**, in addition to our regular 8:00am morning Mass we will have a **Mass at 7:00pm.**

2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES READY FOR PICK-UP

Envelope boxes for 2009 are available in the church basement. Please pick up your box ASAP -- any boxes that are not picked up by the end of January will be removed and reassigned to new parishioners. **PLEASE** inform us of any name or address changes to be made to your label. Also inform us if you have looked for your envelope and cannot find it. **Two separate sheets are provided beside the envelopes so that you can provide these pieces of information. Thank you.**

LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION

On **Sunday December 7 at 6:00pm**, the annual general reunion of all the active and auxiliary members of St. Mary's Presidium will be held at 4851 Beatrice St, Vancouver (Beatrice & 32nd)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE—CHRISTMAS POTLUCK/MEETING

St. Mary's CWL Christmas Potluck/Meeting is this **Tuesday December 9 from 6:30 - 8:30pm** in the church basement. Please note the change of time and venue. *"Tis the season for all of us to come together and celebrate this joyous occasion!"*

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SENIORS

On **Saturday December 13** a special Christmas Luncheon will be hosted in honour of all our St. Mary's Seniors (65 years and above). Following the 11:30am Mass of Anointing, lunch will be served at approximately 1:00pm in the school gym. **Don't forget to reserve your spot.** Please call John (604-433-0884) or Margherita in the Parish Office (604-435-9611 ext #3)



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The annual giving tree has been set up in the church foyer. The branches are 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 by next weekend **Dec 13/14**. We will then forward these donations to an organization(s) that will 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 Christmas.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Come and join fellow parishioners and celebrate during our **New Year's Eve Family Potluck Dinner on December 31 in the school gym.** The cost is \$15 per family (will be refunded when attending). For reservations call: Lita 604-451-5720, Becky 604-437-4965 or Beth 604-431-9945.



PARISH NEWS / COMMUNITY

CATHOLIC HISTORY

In honour of the 100 years celebration of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese, St. Mary's Young Adult Leadership team invites parishioners of all ages to attend a series on Catholic History. Topics include -- **Jan 5:** Faith and its effects on social change in the 20th century, **Jan 12:** the work of the Sisters, who taught the Japanese evacuees in the Interior during the war, **Jan 19:** The History of the Catholic Church in the Lower Mainland, **Jan 26:** Stories of Restoring historical monuments such as Holy Cross Church, "The Skookumchuck Church" Skatin, BC These talks will be in **St. Mary's church basement from 7:00 - 9:00pm**. Early bird registration: one time fee of \$5. Cost at door: \$10. Sign up or forward inquiries: smyac_team@yahoo.ca.

KEEP THE HOMELESS WARM

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **NEW** socks, gloves, scarves and toques during the month of December 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.. Please drop your donations into the box in the foyer marked "**Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques**". **PLEASE note: we are NOT collecting any other clothing at this time.** Thank you in advance on behalf of the poor. With your generosity, we will have another great year.



THANK YOU

Our Respect Life Group would like to thank everyone who supported their ministry by buying Christmas cards and cakes over the last few weeks.

YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY

This survey is for the youth, ages 11 - 18. We want to hear from you. Please pick up a survey from the Youth Ministry Board in the church foyer and tell us what you think about the Youth Ministry. This will help us to make Youth Ministry a better experience for you.

YOU ARE NEEDED

Youth Ministry is still recruiting volunteers. We need adults and young adults to join the Youth Ministry team to serve our youth. Contact Arda at 604-435-9611 extension #6 or by e-mail at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com.

HOLY LAND CARVINGS

Olive wood carvings and ornaments from Bethlehem and Jerusalem will be available for sale in the church foyer after all masses next weekend, **December 13 and 14**. The proceeds from this sale help Christian families of the Holy Land

DIOCESAN/ COMMUNITY NEWS

INVITATION FROM THE VOCATIONS OFFICE

We invite any Single Catholic man to join us as we continue to explore the gift and call of those modern heroes who have responded to God. Date: **December 7 at 7:30pm** and every **1st Sunday** at Andrew's Parish, 480 East 47th Avenue, Vancouver .

ADVENT NOVENA SPONSERED BY SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO

St. Mary's Parish will be hosting the first night of the Advent Novena on **December 15 at 7:30pm**. This novena, called SIMBANG GABI is the traditional Novena Mass in the Philippines in preparation for the birth of our Lord on Christmas. The novena continues **Dec 16** at St Jude Parish, **Dec 17** at Our Lady of Fatima in Coquitlam, **Dec 18** at Our Lady of Mercy (10th & Kingsway) in Burnaby, **Dec 19** at St. Luke's Parish in Maple Ridge, **Dec 20** at St. Ann's Parish in Abbotsford, **Dec 21** at Holy Trinity in North Vancouver, **Dec 22** at Sacred Heart in Delta and **Dec 23** at Immaculate Conception in Delta. All are welcome -- Fellowship Follows

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS—ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

'Traditions of Faith and Service' -- the first ever popular history book (200 pages) published about the Archdiocese of Vancouver, written by historian Dr. Jacqueline Gresko. It covers the Archdiocese as a whole, as well as individual parishes. Cost is \$39.00 (tax included). To order this book, contact Margherita at the Parish Office: 604-435-9611 ext #3.

MISA DE GALLO (pre-Christmas novena)

Everyone is invited to a special novena of evening masses to be celebrated at **St. Patrick's Parish (2881 Main St & 13th Ave)** from **December 15 to December 23**. Festive music, Filipino food and guest preachers will make this novena a memorable event and an ideal spiritual preparation for Christmas. Masses will be celebrated at 7:00pm Monday to Friday, 4:30pm on Saturday and 5:00pm on Sunday.

THE PATRICK WEBB ESSAY CONTEST

This competition is open to secondary school students between grade 9 and 12. There are two different topics to choose from. First prize is \$300 and second prize is \$200. For more information please contact Arda at 604-435-9611 extension #6.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver needs a person to work in our Catholic faith based office. The ideal candidate will be able to efficiently multi-task, be a good communicator, have advanced skills in Microsoft Office Suite, be conformable in a small, fast-paced office. Working knowledge of business technology is an asset. See: www.cisva.bc.ca. Fulltime begins ASAP

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Monday & 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: 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
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: Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu
Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon