



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 20, 2009 - 4th Sunday of Advent

VISITATION

It was summer in 2006. Once a month, I would go to a women's jail in Abbotsford to celebrate Mass. Mildred Moy, from St. Mary's Street Ministry (now Sister Mildred, I.O.L.), was with me. We made our way to the prison chapel. Nobody was there! The inmate in charge of the mass had forgotten to announce it. She was not there herself. It was not possible to gather the women who were all dispersed. We thought of going back to Vancouver right away. A strange idea crossed my mind. "Why not celebrate mass here anyway, just the two of us? At least Christ will be present in the midst of this jail, and then we will have an hour of adoration. Maybe some women will see us through the chapel's windows and join us." But nobody came.

After the mass, Mildred had one of her bold ideas. "Why not go on the grounds and to the different buildings and try to find the women who were usually attending mass?" I thought it was not safe and maybe forbidden. We did not have any authorization to do this. Her idea was to give communion to each of them one by one and pray personally with each of them. Believe it or not, it happened! We found one who was mowing the lawn, another was going to the "sweat lodge", some who were chatting. Christ came to each one of them, to all those who were able and willing to receive Him. Even the doors of super-maximum security opened for us! I was thrilled!!

That is Visitation! That is today's gospel. God, and His Son, do not stand at a distance, waiting for us to come to Him. God instead comes all the way to us, even behind the bars of a prison within a prison -- the super maximum security area.

This miracle happens again and again. Every week someone comes to the confessional to witness that God has reached him/her where he/she was. Jesus started to reach out to people even before he was born! Mary was only three months pregnant when she carried Him in her womb to the country where John the Baptist's mother was. It is not John the Baptist who went to Jesus. It is Jesus who went to John the Baptist, before their births!

.... (con't)

Pastor's corner (con't)

Now, you are called to be like Mary — to bring Jesus with you every where you go. You are to knock at the door of their hearts, at the walls of their inner jail. Bring Jesus to your people.

God Bless You!! *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PHOTO PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

This directory is available for pick after all Masses this weekend. Your copy is free if you had your photo taken in May. Please pick up your copy **in the foyer today** as we do not know if/when we can accommodate another distribution date. An adult member in the picture will have to sign for the directory. A few copies will be available for sale in the parish office **in the new year** for \$10. First come, first served (**in the new year**).

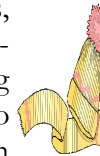
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Youth Ministry invites all youth (grades 6 to 12) to our Christmas Party. If you have been to a YM event before you know we'll have lots of fun and if you have never joined us before, this is your chance. Even if you don't know anybody all you have to do is show-up and you will have a great time. Come and join us for music, food, games, dancing and much more. **This is a potluck event so please bring a dish. When: Monday, December 21 at 6:30pm Where: Church Basement.**



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.



GRACE THAT REIGNS

Jacqueline Loh of Grace that Reigns would like to warmly thank Fr. Pierre and the people of St. Mary's who attended her mission. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. Jacqueline has received such wonderful testimonies that have touched her heart. She will keep St. Mary's in her prayers for the Christmas Season.

PARISH NEWS

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 as there will not be any books on display in the foyer during the month of December.



2010 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

Sunday envelopes for 2010 are now available for pickup from the Church Basement. Please help this endeavour run smoothly by doing the following

- Please take time to go downstairs and **get your box today**
- **Do not open or use your new box before Jan 1, 2010.** The number on your box this year is different than last year so we do not want to accidentally credit someone else for your donation.
- When 2009 is over, **please destroy (recycle) any Sunday envelopes dated 2009 or older.** By doing this you will not be tempted to use an old number which leads to inaccurate posting.
- If the label on your box has corrections to be made (spelling or address) **please note the info to be corrected** on the yellow sheet on the table by the boxes.
- When you begin to use your new set of envelopes, please write your name and address on at least the first four or five envelopes you use. **Note: the name you write down has to be the same as the name on the label.** i.e) someone else in your household, or a visitor to your home should not be "borrowing" a numbered envelope from you.
- **If you have looked for your new box and cannot find it,** please put your name and phone number on the blue sheet so that we can arrange to get a set ready for you.

QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Notice to all participants of the Great Adventure Bible Study that started on October 31: Please be advised that **videos of Sessions 1 - 4 will be replayed on Saturday January 2, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the school gym.** This time will be purely for viewing the videos for those who missed the past sessions and for whoever wishes to get a review. There will be no discussion and no refreshments, please bring your own snacks and drinks. **Regular sessions will resume on January 9, from 12:45pm - 3:00 pm in the church basement.**

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24, 2009 -- Christmas Eve Masses
5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm and Midnight (all are anticipation)

Friday, December 25, 2009 -- Christmas Day
9:30am, 11:15am, and 1:00pm

Saturday, December 26, 2009 -- Boxing Day
12:00 noon and anticipation Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 27, 2009
Usual Mass Times (see PARISH INFO on back of bulletin)

Thursday, December 31, 2009 -- New Year's Eve
5:00pm and 11:30pm (both are anticipation Masses)
Adoration: 10:00pm - 11:15pm

Friday, January 1, 2010 -- New Year's Day
9:30am, 11:15am, and 1:00pm

Saturday, January 2 and Sunday January 3, 2010
Usual Mass Times (see PARISH INFO on back of bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

The parish office is closed from **3:00pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 until 9:00am Tuesday the 29th.**

TAI CHI NEWS

Saturday morning Tai Chi group resumes meeting on **January 9.**

HANDS OF VERONICA

If a loved one is a patient at Burnaby hospital and would like a visit from a member of the Hands of Veronica Ministry, please contact the Parish Office with the patient's name/room number

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Christmas and New Year mass schedules for EMs and the January schedule for lectors are available in the lectors rooms.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

SIMBANG GABI AT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH & MISA DE GALLO AT ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

These two novenas began on **December 15 and will finish up on December 23.** The sessions start at 7:00pm on weekdays and at 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. (except Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's is at 4:30pm)

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Stuck for Christmas ideas? How about scheduling a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to each other on **April 9 - 11, 2010.** Contact Steve or Mary at sbohn@interchange.ubc.ca or call 604-876-7298.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Dec. 20: 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)

Mon. Dec. 21: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living)

Tue. Dec 22: 6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
Bible Sharing (**postponed until January 5**)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

Wed. Dec. 23: 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00am Regular Weekday Mass (church)
5:00pm Christmas Mass (church)
7:00pm Christmas Mass (church)
9:30pm Christmas Mass (church)
12:00am Christmas Mass (church)

Fri. Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY (Office Closed)
9:30am Christmas Mass (church)
11:15am Christmas Mass (church)
1:00pm Christmas Mass (church)
Divine Mercy (**will resume Jan 8**)

Sat. Dec. 26: 12:40pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining Room)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:15pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

Sun. Dec. 27: 9:45am Willingdon Liturgy (4435 Grange Street)
2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)



MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE
BABY JESUS BE WITH YOU

THROUGHOUT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSSES:

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.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.
Assistant Pastor: Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu
Office Manager: Ossie Fernandes
Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon