



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
 Corner

December 25, 2009 - CHRISTMAS

Anyone who has really understood
 that God became human
 can never speak and act
 in an inhuman way (Karl Barth)

Dear parishioners,

Our cribs and our images of baby Jesus are so rosy that we cannot connect Jesus with our own humanity and sufferings. When we look at Jesus in the crib, we are moved by the humility of God but we cannot connect our own suffering childhood with His. We refuse to recognize that Jesus' birth was painful, that he cried and suffered like each one of us. It is very hard to be born, to be a powerless baby, full of fears and needs, totally vulnerable. You cannot remember it of course. But those who gave birth, those who are young mothers and fathers, experience it through their own children.



God did not become human to "show off" his humility but to take upon Himself our sufferings from womb to tomb. Because of that, our sufferings do not go "down the drain". They are not lost. We can live them in union with Him, in union with His passionate love for the world. Our sufferings become redemptive for ourselves, our families, the parish, the workplace, the world.

Our sufferings become lighter too. Christ said "Come to me, you who are carrying heavy burden. For my yoke is gentle and my burden is light." Yes, in Christ, God has a tender vulnerable human heart and the weight-bearing shoulders of a giant, shoulders of a God! Cling to Christ on the cross! Cling to baby Jesus in the crib! Cling to the mature Christ at Cana's wedding! He will absorb your sufferings and release back a pure life, a joyful, even though difficult life.

Merry Christmas *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE CANCELLED

Last week, I accepted a request to have a dinner/dance here at St. Mary's on New Year's Eve. I asked the person in charge that it would stop at 11:30pm so that they could then join the midnight mass. But, I was told that they wanted to have the midnight countdown and to continue the party. Therefore, they chose to cancel the dance rather than meet my request.

Can you imagine having a **parish** dinner/dance while the midnight Christmas Mass is being celebrated? Of course not. It is not wrong for Catholics to choose to attend the daytime mass on Christmas and New Year in order to have a party at home or elsewhere on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. But, they should not expect the **parish itself** to offer a dinner/dance in the church basement **while** there is a midnight mass being celebrated upstairs. This is what had been happening from 2004 to 2006. We could hear the party music while celebrating the 11:30pm mass on New Year's Eve. In 2007 or 2008, the dance moved to the school gym. But, this creates another problem. Having a big crowd of people, many not from the parish, consuming alcohol from 7:00pm on New Year's Eve until 1:00am, is not a good idea -- especially when children are around. There is a **liability** issue, even a **legal** issue. And... a moral issue: inappropriate behaviour can happen in the building, in the parking lot, and on the way home.

Maybe a New Year dinner/dance is possible -- but in the church basement without alcohol, where it is easier to control the smaller crowd and to be geared to parish families, then ending with the mass. If we are a Christian community, we should not have a problem mixing family fun and prayer. After all, we do it for the annual parish picnic.

God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre*

NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION AND MASSES

Many parishes have chosen to bridge the old year with the new one by mass and adoration. It is a great way to celebrate together the passing of a year, giving thanks for 2009 and asking for a holy and healthy 2010. **Come and join us on December 31 at 10:00pm for adoration and at 11:30pm for Mass.**



PARISH NEWS

PARISH LIBRARY -- REOPENS ON JANUARY 9/10

We will not be open on Dec. 26/27 or Jan. 2/3. Please watch for library hours when the library reopens in the New Year and then come and visit us in the church basement. On occasion we will also be featuring books on display in the foyer.



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

January schedules for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors are available for pick up in the lectors room.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

On **December 28**, come to the Archbishop's annual Mass for Life on the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The celebration is at **Holy Rosary Cathedral** and starts with the Rosary at 11:30am followed by Mass at Noon. Please bring some goodies to share and drop off at the hall before Mass. All are welcome.

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 sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca or call 604-876-7298.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

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)

Mon. Dec. 28: **Statutory Holiday (Office Closed)**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Bsmt)
Marian Prayer (not today - resumes Jan 4)

Tue. Dec 29: Bible Sharing (not today - resumes Jan 5)

Wed. Dec. 30: 7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Dining)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Thu. Dec. 31: **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

8:00am Regular Weekday Mass (Church)
5:00pm New Year's Mass (Church)
10:00pm Adoration until 11:30pm (Church)
11:30pm New Year's Mass (Church)

Fri. Jan. 01: **NEW YEAR'S DAY (Office Closed)**

9:30am New Year's Mass (Church)
11:15am New Year's Mass (Church)
1:00pm New Year's Mass (Church)
Divine Mercy (not today - resumes Jan 8)

Sat. Jan. 02: 9:00am 2000 Hail Marys Group (Rectory Dining)
12:40pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
1:00pm Great Adventure Bible Study (school gym)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
6:15pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

Sun. Jan. 03: 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)

*FROM ALL PRIESTS AND STAFF
WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS*

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.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