



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday February 10, 2008



Dear Parishioners, the question may arise for some of you as to why we try to *fast* and *abstain* during the time of Lent. Today's Gospel of Matthew that relates our Lord's temptation in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11), gives us good reasons why we are called to do so. First, notice in today's Gospel the three forms of temptations that Jesus himself was subjected to: temptation to food, temptation to putting God to the test, and temptation to power. Jesus fasted and abstained from all these three temptations.

Jesus fasting and abstaining from food in spite of his hunger was his way of saying "no" to the hunger of the flesh to be satisfied by material things. His "no" was to remind us that in the end, material things will not satisfy our deepest hunger but will only leave us spiritually starved. Pope Benedict, commenting on this passage in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, notes, *The aid offered by the West to developing countries has been purely technically and materially based, and not only has left God out of the picture, but has driven men away from God... The idea was that we could turn stones into bread; instead, our 'aid' has only given stones in place of bread.*

Jesus abstaining from putting God to the test was his way of saying "no" to our tendency to submit God to our own standards and criteria for concluding whether he cares for us or whether he even exists. Pope Benedict notes, *The arrogance that would make God an object and impose our laboratory conditions upon him is incapable of finding him. For it already implies that we deny God as God by placing ourselves above him, by discarding the whole dimension of love, of interior listening; by no longer acknowledging as real anything but what we can experimentally test and grasp. To think like that is to make oneself God. And to do that is to abase not only God, but the world and oneself, too.*

Finally, Jesus fasting and abstaining from power is his refrain from "power" to achieve his goals. Instead, he chooses to submit himself to God, and to worship God, trusting that it is God who will provide. Again, Pope Benedict notes, Jesus has not brought us "power" for us to worship, but rather, *Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny...* (Contd...)

(Pastors corner contd ..) *It is only because of our hardness of heart that we think this is too little. Yes, indeed, God's power works quietly in this world, but it is the true and lasting power. Again and again, God's cause seems to be in its death throes. Yet over and over again it proves to be the thing that truly endures and saves.*

As we enter into this Lenten Season on this First Sunday of Lent, let us then take concrete steps to fast and abstain from certain material things, from testing God when things don't go our way, and from relying on "power" rather than God to provide for our needs. And, may these fasts and abstentions of ours during this Lenten Season teach each, just a little more, to follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless, Fr Mark.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 10:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
New: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 11:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 12:** 6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Feb. 13:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange Street)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:30pm SMYAC Leaders Meeting (Rectory Dining)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 14:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 15:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (CANCELLED)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 16:** 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Bsmt)
9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
6:30pm Celebrant Singers Concert (Church)
- Sun. Feb. 17:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)
2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)



PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S PARISH MISSION RETREAT : FEB. 25 - FEB. 27

The theme for this year is "Treasure In Heaven" and will be preached by Fr. Mark Goring, who was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 at age 26, with the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, Ontario. A frequent speaker at conferences and retreats, Fr. Mark brings energy and enthusiasm to the gospel message, combining straightforward and humorous delivery with an inspiring depth of faith in Christ. He is a priest in love with the Lord, devoted to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother and deeply committed to living a life of faith. He also works in the area of youth evangelization. Fr. Mark will be preaching the homilies at all the masses on Sun. Feb. 24. Retreat topics: **Mon. Feb. 25 - "David & Goliath", Tue. Feb. 26 - "7 Principles of the Desert" and Wed. Feb. 27 - "Power From On High"** Venue: Church @ 7pm with mass on Wed.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Everyone is invited to join members of our Respect Life Group to help give out valentines beginning at 2pm, **Thu. Feb. 14** to patients at Willingdon Park and St. Michael's hospitals. This usually takes less than one hour.



THE CELEBRANT SINGERS VISIT NEXT WEEKEND: INVITING ALL TALENTED MUSICIANS & SINGERS FOR AN AUDITION!!!

The CELEBRANT SINGERS with their founding leader Jon Stemkoski will visit St. Mary's on the weekend of **Feb. 16 & 17**. Since **Jon Stemkoski** founded the group in 1977, they have grown to seven full-time teams that travel throughout North America and overseas. They also have a summer internship program called the "Summer Celebrants". Each summer several new members join their internship program or their full time teams. This year they are expanding again by launching a new ministry called REPRISE! composed of "mature adults" (over 40) who will travel and minister internationally for three weeks. Following their **concert on Sat. Feb. 16 at 6:30pm in the church**, The Celebrants will host **auditions** for any talented musicians & singers who may be interested in joining their ministry. If you would like to travel **and** share your talent at the same time, do consider auditioning. Concert admission will be by donation and CDs will be on sale. Any inquiries - please contact: **Aprille McCauley at 604-435-4776 or email: aprille@telus.net**



PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

SMYAC BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mon. Feb. 11, 7:30pm - 9pm Rectory Library. (Note the change in date). We will discuss chapters 9 & 10 of Mother Teresa's book, *Come Be My Light*.



ST. MARY'S YOUTH MINISTRY GOES TO FREEDOM!

FREEDOM, a well-attended Archdiocesan night of Reconciliation, prayer, skits and testimonies will be at IC Delta on Fri. Feb. 22. St. Mary's Youth Ministry is putting together a group of teens to attend this amazing event. We will take the school bus and space is therefore limited and will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. **There is no fee to join this event but pre-registration is required.** This is open to all youth in **Gr. 8 and up**. If you are interested to join us, please sign up! Registration sheets are available in the Church foyer.



UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST - CONFERENCE AT ST. MARY'S

Great opportunity! Fri. Feb. 22 & Sat. Feb. 23. St. Mary's has invited Neal Lozano, an international speaker and author of many books, to Vancouver. He has been helping people for over 30 years to achieve levels of peace and freedom in their lives, which they had never hoped to experience. He offers an understanding of the role evil plays in our Christian journey. Have you ever felt stuck, bound up, unable to move forward and experience the love and freedom you see other Christians experience? This Conference will present a sound practical road map to greater freedom from the influence of evil. Contact by email: Carolina: carolturkia@yahoo.com or Sister Marie Bouchard: smarie-bou@yahoo.com. See posters in the foyer, or purchase tickets at the parish office this week.



DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND: THE WAY OF THE PREACHER: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT DOMINIC

For men interested in exploring a vocation with the Dominicans of Vancouver, you are invited to a Dominican "Come and See" Weekend to be held from 5pm Fri. Feb. 29 - 12.30pm Sun. Mar. 2. Presenters are: Fr. Claude Noel, OP, Fr. Gabriel DeChadarevian, OP, Fr. Mark Hoo, OP, and Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP. The event will be held at the Dominican House and at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver. Deadline for registration will be Wed. Feb. 27. Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at frmarkhoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on your church bulletin board.



COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE OPEN HOUSE

Wed. Feb. 13 at 6:30pm in the school gym. Open to parents & Gr. 7 students. Our placement exam for students entering Gr. 8 in Sep.'08 is scheduled for Sat. Feb. 23, beginning at 9:30am. In order to write this exam, parents must complete an Application Form which will be available through your school or obtained from the STMC Office on school days between 8am - 4pm. For more info. Please visit our website: www.stmc.bc.ca.

VOCATIONS LIVE-IN

On the weekend of Feb. 15 - 17 there will be a Vocations Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, in Mission, For more info, call 604-826-8715.



CATHOLIC CAFÉ PRESENTATION

Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.: My Life and conversion / reversion to the Faith. A cradle Catholic's journey away from the Church and back.. then into religious life and the priesthood. Sun. Feb. 17, at 6:15pm at St. Jude's Parish Hall. Please bring approx. \$10 to cover light meal and other costs. Let us know you are coming! Call Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 or email hwaldock@yahoo.ca. For more about Catholic Café visit www.catholiccafe.ca.

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL REMINDER

The Gr. 8 PLACEMENT TEST will be held on Thu. Feb. 21 at 12noon in the Auditorium. All students must be pre-registered. (fee \$25). Parents please pick up students at 3pm. For more info call 604-255-5454 / jugglers@ndrs.org.

"LET US PRAY" RETREAT

We invite single Catholic men to join us for a discernment retreat from Fri. Feb. 22 to Sun. Feb. 24 at Westminster Abbey, Mission. Come and discover your vocation through Prayer with our guest speaker Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller. Do not wait! Register now! For more info or to register call the Vocations Office 604-443-3254 / 604-785-7088 or email: vocations@rcav.bc.ca.

PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO HOME COMING NIGHT

Calling all past pupils of DON BOSCO schools worldwide. You and your family are cordially invited to an evening of fellowship and friendship with the Salesians of the Don Bosco community of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. Sat. Feb. 23, 6:00pm at the Don Bosco Youth Centre (10460 - 140th Street Surrey, BC). Food and refreshments will be served. RSVP: Eric Coronado at eric5529coronado@yahoo.ca or Tel# 604-574-0828 no later than Feb. 18.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Tired of Hallmark? Do you want to give your Valentine something that will be remembered for a lifetime? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great Get-away for just the two of you. Register for an upcoming Weekend, Mar. 28-30. Call Steve & Mary : 604-876-7298 sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed. - Fri. 7:00pm followed by Adoration & Benediction at 9:15pm

Saturday - 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday - 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION Sunday & Weekdays - Before and after all Masses.
Saturday - 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;
(An appointment for reconciliation may be made at any time)

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL
Thursday - 8:00am; Saturday - 12:00pm

FIRST FRIDAY 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

BAPTISM 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.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP Religious education program for children attending public schools.
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)
Leader: Jonquil Francis and Joseph D'silva
Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kevin Smith (Principal)
K-Grade 7 (604) 437-1312 Fax (604) 437-1193 Website: <http://www.stmary.bc.ca>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Pastor : Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP
Assistant Pastor : Fr. Mark Hoo, OP
Youth and PREP Coordinator : Eli Bautista
Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes