



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

January 4, 2009

“Gift and gifts”

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate **the Feast of Epiphany, the Feast of Three Kings**, we are reminded that like these three kings, we too have the opportunity to bring gifts to the infant Jesus. And, what are the best gifts to bring to the infant Jesus, especially in this new year of 2009, if not our personal gifts of self, and of the family?

You see, on Christmas day, God came freely as *the* gift to us through his birth as the infant Jesus. And, out of sheer love for us and without ever forcing himself upon us, the infant Jesus awaits ever so patiently for us to give our personal gifts of self and family to him.

When the gifts of self and family are given to him, the infant Jesus freely showers upon us even more gifts than we can ever imagine, gifts that we may have never even thought of asking, as well as gifts that we will always hold dear and central to our lives. And what are some of these gifts?

An ever growing personal love and thirst for God.

An ever growing inner peace and joy in God that none can ever take away from us.

An ever growing love for members of our family and those outside the family.

An ever growing love and unity arising within the family.




An ever growing peace and joy within the family.

On this **Feast of Epiphany, this Feast of Three Kings, this New Year 2009**, let us then bring ourselves individually and as a family as gifts to be offered to the infant Jesus. And, let us do so out of love and gratitude for God who has given himself as a free gift to us, simply out of sheer love for us.

That an ever growing love, peace and joy may then grow within each of our lives, and within the lives of our family.

On behalf of Fr. Pierre and the parish community of St. Mary's, may I wish each of you a happy Feast of the Epiphany, and a happy New Year, 2009!
God bless, Fr. Mark.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 04:** 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. Jan. 05:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Catholic History Seminar (Church Bsmt)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Jan. 06:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
6:30pm K of C Executive (Church Basement)
- Wed. Jan. 07:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
7:00pm Street Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Thu. Jan. 08: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Hands of Veronica (Rectory Library)
7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
8:00pm LMC (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Fri. Jan. 09:
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)
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Sat. Jan. 10: 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
1:00pm Free Throw Competition (see bulletin ad)
3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 11:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

PARISH NEWS

NEW BISHOP FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER!!!!

On Friday January 2, 2009 all priests received the following information: *Today the Holy Father accepted the resignation of Archbishop Raymond Roussin, S.M., as Archbishop of Vancouver. It was presented in accord with Canon 401 & 2 of the Code of Canon Law. He is succeeded by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, C.S.B., as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.*



WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THIS WITH YOU

Several school students sent us poems for Christmas. This year we want to share this one with you. **It was written by Camille Porcioncula, in grade seven at St. Mary's School.**

Let us put aside all presents
and the fancy celebration
Let us take time to reflect and think
and praise our Lord in humble adoration

This Christmas must we not forget
what the day is truly worth
To share in this glorious miracle
of our dear Lord Saviour's birth

All happenings that distract us
we lose sight of Christ not knowing
Too busy finding the perfect gift
we forget the true Christmas meaning

Instead let's reach out to those with nothing
help them in their needs
Take their hands in times of trial
caring with good deeds

This Christmas let us remember
to give with all the heart
To show what Christ has taught us
showing peace may never part.

Let us not measure the value of Christmas
for what we receive this season
But to count the many blessings
remembering Jesus is the reason.

PARISH NEWS / COMMUNITY

IT'S 2009!! PLEASE USE 2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

We are officially in the year 2009 so all envelope boxes for 2009 ideally should have been picked up from the church basement by now. **There are still 680 boxes that have not been picked up.** -- any boxes that are not picked up by the end of January will be removed and reassigned to new parishioners. **Please pick yours up ASAP**

NOTE THE FOLLOWING. PLEASE.....

- 1) **inform us of any changes to be made to your label** -- name, address or postal code;
- 2) **inform us if you cannot find your envelope** after having looked for it downstairs;
- 3) **write your name and addresses on the first few envelopes you use this year** -- numbers have changed and we want to ensure that parishioners have picked up the correct box
- 4) **only use envelopes dated 2009.** Because numbers change, from year to year, it is more difficult to ensure the correct family is getting credit for the donation. Unless you use a current envelope assigned to you, and put your name on it, we cannot be absolutely sure of accuracy.
- 5) **If you have notified us that you could not find your box,** there will be one available either this weekend or next. They will be in alphabetical order in a separate section from the original boxes that were first put out.

YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LUKE 15 HOUSE

Three weeks ago, Fr. Mark and I (Fr. Pierre) made a suggestion for those who want to make a gift to the pastors. We told you that we always receive way too many cookies and chocolates since most of us are on a diet. We proposed that instead of gifts to us, you might want to share something with Luke 15 which is the Catholic recovery house for men with addictions. I have received \$270 from individuals and \$300 from parish groups. We will forward this to Luke 15.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - YOUTH FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

All youth ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2009 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held Saturday January 10, 2009 from 1:00pm - 5:00pm at St. Mary's Parish School Gym.. The Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms and more information call Ryan at rbauzon@gmail.com or 604-603-8870.

DIOCESAN/ COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

"ECHOES" IS COMING TO OUR PARISH FOR THE 1ST TIME.

Do you want to share your Catholic Faith with others? Many of us want to hand on the message of our Catholic Faith but don't know how or lack the training. Echoes is a program designed to provide the key knowledge and skills needed to understand and hand-on the Catholic Faith in a knowledgeable manner. The Echoes program is now to be offered for the 1st time to St. Mary's parish and consists of eleven, 1½ hour sessions that **begins Saturday, January 17th from 10 am to 12 noon, and runs every Saturday through to March 28.** Everyone is welcome.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver is seeking a Manager for Catholic Charities, Men's Hostel. The Catholic Charities Men's Hostel provides shelter for over 100 transient or destitute men in the caring spirit of Jesus Christ. In addition to offering beds, the Hostel also provides access to food services and other life necessities to address patron needs. The Manager of Emergency Shelter is responsible for the caring, concise and orderly oversight and supervision of all emergency men's shelter patrons, staff and related operations and functions. Full details are available at www.rcav.org

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Did you miss out on getting a gift for your spouse? How about a great weekend for the two of you. Next Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 27—29, 2009. Contact Steve or Mary at sbohen@interchange.ubc.ca



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSSES

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.saintmarysyouth.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