



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

January 11, 2009

LOSER OR BELOVED?

Dear Parishioners,

A famous coach at the National League level gave a talk at the Catholic Teachers Convention in Vancouver. He told us that he made a major discovery in his coaching method some years ago. Instead of pointing out the mistakes of the players while watching the slow-motion playback of a major game, he would emphasise the good things every player did at one point or another. Within a few years his team went from loser to top gun, and won the Cup. The coach proposed to us, (priests, teachers, religious educators, parents, bosses, co-workers) to do the same.

I wonder how many of us have applied his advice since that convention, especially with our family members? Why is it so hard to affirm other people and build them up? The ultimate cause goes back to Adam and Eve's original sin and the ultimate solution is to enter into Jesus' baptism, and paschal mystery.

Here is how it works. It starts with our childhood. When I was a kid, and later a teenager, my mom would ask me in exasperation, "What are we going to do with you?" or "Why are you not like your big brother?" Maybe for yourself the refrain was "You will never amount to anything" or "You don't have what it takes!" or "Why can't you just do it?". These words of condemnation may be still coming at you from spouses, relatives, teachers, coaches or employers. You are probably voicing the same criticisms to your children, relative and co-workers. Being unaffirmed ourselves, we are unable to affirm others. "Oh! Deliver us, Lord, from the desire of being preferred to others!"

Originally it started with Adam and Eve. The Evil One put into their hearts that they did not have what it took to fulfill their dreams. The basic, original lie of the Evil One was and still is, "God played a trick on you and set you up for failure. You need to trick Him back, disobey Him and grab the forbidden fruit." Adam and Eve swallowed the fruit and with it the lie of the Evil One as Neal Lozano said. They believed they were losers and that they had to put down others to lift themselves up.

Pastor's Corner (con't)

"It is her fault" Adam said to God about Eve and in retaliation, Eve said the same about Adam. This kind of dialogue is still going on. Lies and accusations became a way of life, a pattern of interpersonal relationships.

Today, on the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, we celebrate Christ's victory over the original lie, the original sin. When Jesus went into the waters, He left in it all our sins, and washed away that big, fat lie that we are unworthy, unlovable, incapable. As he emerged from the water, fresh like a new-born, the heavens that were shut since the original sin, opened up, the Spirit came down, and the Father said to Him (and to each of who is baptized in Him) "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Since that moment, we received the power to exercise **authority** the way the Father does, (not the way of the Evil One) by being an "author", one who creates, one who **authorizes**, or gives permission to create, gives birth to others.

"Rise up to who you are, and fill the position I have given you. Claim your place as a sibling of my beloved Son."

God Bless You, Fr Pierre

PARISH NEWS

REST AND REFLECTION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE STUDIES

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

I am writing you a brief little note to say that I will be gone for a period of 6 months - no, not for another pilgrimage - though that thought certainly appeals to me at present - but for some needed rest, and reflection on the possibility for further studies. This development was reached upon discussion with my Provincial, Fr. Yvon Pomerleau, OP and the Community of Friars of St. Mary's. I ask for your prayers during this time of rest and discernment. God bless, Fr. Mark.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY THANKS YOU

We would like to thank all the parishioners for making our giving tree and sock drive a great success. We were able to brighten up Christmas morning for a number of underprivileged families with children, as well as to assist other charitable organizations like the Christmas Bureau with the toys collected from the giving tree. The socks, mitts and toques contributions were overwhelming, as we are still giving them out to the homeless at Main and Hastings as part of our outreach program. We thank you again on their behalf and God Bless you for your generosity

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 11:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 2:30pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Jan. 12:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 7:00pm Catholic History Seminar (Church Bsmt)
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Jan. 13:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:00pm Christian Mediation (Rectory Basement)
- NOTE: NEW DAY:**
- Wed. Jan. 14:** 2:00pm 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)
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Thu. Jan. 15: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Fri. Jan. 16: 9:00am Bible Sharing for Moms (Rect. Bsmt.)
 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/ Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Sat. Jan. 17: 10:00am Echoes (Church Basement)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 18:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (741 Sussex Street)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Visit the Echoes display board in the foyer to obtain information about the Echoes program. Echoes is a program intended for those who are, or who want to be, involved in parish or family catechesis (the action of sharing our Catholic Faith with others). It is designed for anyone handing on faith to adults or children. It teaches key knowledge and skills needed, and embodies a rounded formation in the central aspects of the Catholic Faith. Echoes is a great way to explore the Catholic Faith in a deeper way.

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU FROM STREET MINISTRY

St. Mary's Street Ministry would like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Sleeping bags for the Homeless" emergency project. **We raised \$2800!!** Winter sleeping bags and bivy sacks were purchased and given out to the homeless just in time to keep them alive. Also, thanks to the Mountain Equipment Coop Vancouver store for giving us a 5% discount. Jesus said "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you did it to me." God bless you all!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2008-2009 CHARITY APPEAL TICKETS.

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will continue to sell their remaining tickets after all Sunday masses on January 10/11, 17/18, and 24/25 for the Final Main Draw on February 7, 2009. Proceeds from this sale will be donated by the Council to various registered BC & Yukon Territories charities.

PLEASE USE 2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

We ask your cooperation in helping to make the processing of Sunday envelopes as efficient as possible. For this to happen, only use envelopes from the 2009 boxes to help ensure accuracy in posting. There are still 610 unclaimed boxes in the church basement. **Boxes not picked up by the end of January will be removed and reassigned to new parishioners.**

YOU CAN HELP US IF YOU PLEASE.....

- 1) **inform us of any changes to be made to your label.**
- 2) **inform us if you cannot find your envelope.** Once you have informed us, give us a couple of weeks to get one and then look again. They will be in alphabetical order in a separate section from where the original boxes were first put out
- 3) **write your name/address on the first few you use.**
- 4) **use only envelopes dated 2009.**

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.

PARISH/ DIOCESAN NEWS

"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 10am - 12 noon, and runs every Saturday until March 28. Everyone is welcome.**

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD)

Single? Divorced? Separated? Widowed? Join us in our upcoming Christian Life Program (CLP). The CLP brings forth a personal relationship with God and renewed faith in Jesus. It will be on Saturdays starting on February 7 at 10:00am in the Gym. The sessions consist of teachings, group discussions, and fellowship with refreshments. This program is free! For more info: Tess De Ocampo at 778-231-6906; Theresa Vale at thersavale@gmail.com; Yolly Montefalcon 604-728-4635 or Yolly-montefacon@yahoo.com; Mila Zipagan at 604-728-4635.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

In recognition of Worldwide Marriage Encounter World Council, **Archbishop Roussin** will celebrate Mass at Good Shepherd Church (2280 - 150 Street, Surrey) on **Saturday, January 17 at 5:00pm.** All are welcome.



VOCATION LIVE-IN

On the weekend of **February 13 - 15** there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life at the **Seminary of Christ the King**, in Mission, BC. For more information call 604.826.8715.

3- DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO PORTLAND OREGON

GROTTO OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER, FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2009

Rev. Father Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP of St. Mary's Parish Vancouver will be the Retreat Master. We begin with Holy Mass at 8:00am on Feb. 27th. at St. Mary's Parish and then depart for Portland. A Mass has been booked for the Group on Feb. 28th at the Grotto followed by the Stations of the Cross. In the afternoon we visit Mount Angel, a Benedictine Abbey for Adoration, pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet ending with Benediction.. Tour price is \$278.00 including Motorcoach, hotel accommodation, and breakfast. More info: Sampaguita Travel Bureau at 604 -874-9533 local 105 or Lennie 604-594-7296.

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)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

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