



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday January 27th, 2008



Dear Parishioners, do you sometimes feel as if there are days when you are being pulled in all directions, and you don't know which one to respond to first? Concretely speaking, isn't there always certain days when everything seems to be happening to you at one and the same time? Perhaps you may have your favourite television or radio station blaring, and the cell phone is ringing, you are trying to have a conversation with your husband or children at the top of your voice to set the table, as they sit motionless before the television and computer screens. Meanwhile you are busy stirring the pot on the stove for the family evening meal. You feel that all of these situations need attending to but you don't know which to begin first or which to focus on. Meanwhile, all of these activities occurring simultaneously around you are getting your system so overloaded that by the end of the day, you feel so wired that it is difficult to unwind...

What is the problem with this picture? The *late Henri Nouwen* reminds us that when such an overload occurs, and if they occur often and continuously, then a refocus and simplification of our lifestyle is called for – one refocused on Christ. This is what he says:

“Boredom is a sentiment of disconnectedness... The great paradox of our time is that many of us are busy and bored at the same time. While running from one event to the next, we wonder in our innermost selves if anything is really happening. While we can hardly keep up with our many tasks and obligations, we are not so sure that it would make any difference if we did nothing at all. While people keep pushing us in all directions, we doubt if anyone really cares. In short, while our lives are full, we feel unfulfilled...”

One way to express the spiritual crisis of our time is to say that most of us have an address but cannot be found there. We know where we belong, but we keep being pulled away in many directions, as if we were still homeless. ‘All these other things’ keep demanding our attention. They lead us so far from home that we eventually forget our true address, that is, the place where we can be addressed.

Jesus responds to this condition of being filled yet unfulfilled, very busy yet unconnected, all over the place yet never at home. He wants to bring us to the place where we belong. But his call to live a spiritual life can only be heard when we are willing honestly to confess our own homeless and worrying existence and recognize its fragmenting effect on our daily life. (Contd...)

(Pastors corner contd....) Only then can a desire for our true home develop. It is of this desire that Jesus speaks when he says, “Do not worry... Set your hearts on his kingdom first... and all these other things will be given you as well.” In other words, simplify and refocus on Christ. Find time for quiet places and spaces with him, and things will fall into place. There is no other solution to this contemporary problem in our lives. God Bless, Fr. Mark.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 27:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Jan. 28:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Theology of the Body (Church Basement)
- Tue. Jan. 29:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm St. Mary's Gr. 2 - 1st Reconciliation (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Jan. 30:**  8:30am Respect Life Group (Rectory Dining)
5:00pm L'Arche Mass (7401 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jan. 31:**  7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 01:**  3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church) 
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Catholic Christian Outreach (Church Bsmt)
8:30pm SMYAC Coffee (Rectory Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 02:** 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Bsmt)
10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 03:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Youth for Christ Meeting (Church Bsmt)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE (CWL) MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Would you like to become an active member of a women's ministry focused on serving and supporting the needs of our parish in a fun environment? CWL members will be available in the foyer this weekend after 5:00pm mass **Sat. Jan. 26** and after all masses **on Sun. Jan. 27**, to provide information and answer any questions about our organization. Sign up sheets will be available. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (July & August break). New Members are always welcome. The next CWL General membership meeting will be on **Feb. 20** from 7-9pm at St. Mary's School – Seminar Room.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FAITH SERIES AT ST. MARY'S

Mon. Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 7-9pm in the Church basement. Hunger for truth? For deeper meaning to your life? Did it ever occur to you that the answers to life's most important questions are stamped right in your own body & sexuality? Learn how, as St. Mary's Young Adult Community presents *Created and Redeemed*, a 4 - part faith series based on Pope John Paul II's universal teaching, Theology of the Body. This powerful and beautiful message is for everyone at any age and stage of life. It is an education on being human and offers the truth that will set you free. Suggested donation: \$5.

COFFEE NIGHT



Fri. Feb. 1, 8:30pm, Rectory basement. Join us for yet another smashing episode of Coffee Night, as the Sisters at St. Mary's will present a Vocations talk! Light refreshments will be served.

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: smariebou@yahoo.com. See posters in the foyer, or purchase tickets after the Masses this weekend.

PARISH / COMMUNITYNEWS

AWESOME LAUNCH OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MASS!!!

The Youth & Young Adults Mass launch was amazing. The church was almost full and attendees were really "into it". Join us again this **Sunday at 5pm** for another opportunity to celebrate, pray and just be together as God's young people.



SAY 'NO' TO BROTHEL DECRIMINALIZATION

Last week, St. Mary's Street Ministry and Catholic Women's League collected 420 signed postcards to voice our objection to brothel decriminalization. We ran out of postcards! If you still haven't signed one yet, copies of the postcards are available at the foyer after mass. We will send the postcards (or the copies) to your MP next week.

CELEBRANT SINGERS VISIT ST. MARY'S!!!

The CELEBRANT SINGERS have sung to over six million people around the world. One of this internationally-known group with their founding leader Jon Stemkoski, will visit **St. Mary's on Feb. 16 /17 weekend**. The Celebrant Singers will provide the music **at all our Sunday liturgies** during this weekend and also perform a **concert on Sat. Feb. 16 at 6:30pm in the church**. Admission will be by donation and their CDs will be on sale. As you know, without your help this weekend cannot take place. Thank you for your over whelming response to last weekends call for host homes & volunteers during their visit. You will be contacted as soon as we know more regarding it. Any inquiries - please contact: **Aprille McCauley at 604-435-4776 or email: aprille@telus.net**



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR - 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thanksgiving Mass at 7:30pm **Fri. Feb. 1**, Immaculate Conception Parish, 8842 - 119 St., Delta. Presider: Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB. Reception follows at the Gym. All are welcome!



CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM FOR HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD

CFC - Handmaids of the Lord would like to invite all unmarried, widowed, divorced and/or separated women ages 30+, to attend a Christian Life Program at St. Mary's Church basement starting **Feb. 2** at 10am. Topics include *God's love, Who is Jesus Christ, and What it means to be a Christian*. Music, fellowship and refreshments will follow. For more info. Please call Grace: 778-386-0884 or graceaka44@yahoo.com or Mila: 604-728-4635.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. **Sat. Feb. 2.** 9am Mass. Christ the redeemer Parish, 599 Keith Rd., West Van. Followed by Rosary at Lions Gate Hospital. Celebrant: Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Our Lady of Good Counsel Society will be offering a 10 week volunteer training course on **Monday evenings Feb. 4 to Apr. 21**, at Christ the Redeemer Parish, West Vancouver. For information or registration phone 604-640-7549.

CARE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE SEPARATED & DIVORCED

10 sessions from 7pm to 9pm. **Women's Groups:** Mondays starting **Feb. 4** at St. Patrick's Parish, Vancouver and at St. Mathew's Parish, Surrey. **Men's Group:** Wednesdays starting **Feb. 6** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Surrey. Fee \$50 total to be paid at time of registration. Call Catholic Family Services 604-443-3220.

THE CENTRE FOR JESUS AND MARY CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

In support of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City next June, a special teaching on "The Eucharist - Theology and Devotion" will be presented by Fr. Jim Nisbet of Spreckles, California, at the Spring 2008 Session. **Feb. 8 - 10** at St. Stephen's Parish, Mtn. Hwy. @ East 24th St., North Van. Registration fees: Single adults \$50, married couples \$90. Special youth and daily fees available. Flyers are at the Church entrance. Please pre-register early as space is very limited. For more info call Gerry or Zela at the Centre at 604-882-9205.

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.



"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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BC CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: FULL-TIME REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

To write news & feature stories. Superior communication skills required. A journalism degree or Diploma or an equivalent combination of education & experience required. BC driver's license necessary. **Deadline for applications Mon. Feb.4.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - MEN'S HOSTEL: 2 FULL TIME DESK CLERKS

Midnight & Afternoon shift. Please submit applications to: Marisa Ruggier Andrews, 150 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2A7. Complete details for both the opportunities are available on www.rcav.org.

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.saintmarysyoung.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