



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

May 10, 2009

THE MOTHER SHEEP, MOTHER MARY AND OUR MOTHERS

In ancient time, and today still, in isolated regions, the shepherd takes away the new-born lamb from his mother, and carries it in his arms for a full day. In this way the new-born lamb bonds with the shepherd as if he was his true mother. The lamb identifies with the smell of the shepherd, with the sound of his voice, with the feel of his skin. The shepherd does so in order that the sheep will follow him and trust him for the rest of his life.

We, human beings, are a bit like the sheep. We identify and even fuse with our mother very early in life. Our mother gives us a sense of belonging, a sense of oneness with reality, a sense of trust. Thank you Mom, for bringing me this sense of oneness with God and with the world. My faith would have been dry and cerebral without your contributions to my earthly life. You paid a big price to bring me this gift. You gave up many nights of sleep. You gave up your youthful look and your freedom.

Psychologists say that the father has to break up the fusion between mother and child so that the child may be able to open up to the world and engage in it. Where mother brings a sense of oneness, the father brings a sense of separation (with the mother). In this way, the child may differentiate himself and become the unique person he is called to be by relating to the vastness of being, to the whole world. The mother brings the roots, the security and the belonging. The father brings the personal identity and the mission of the child.

A good mother is able to bring both of these two different components. The following true story illustrates my point. In Israel, an American pilgrim was watching a shepherd and his flock. They had to cross a brook to find pasture. The shepherd crossed first, wading through shallow waters. The sheep stood still, afraid to walk across the little river. *(con't next page)*

(Pastor's Corner—con't)

The shepherd crossed back to where the sheep were, took a little lamb in his arms, and crossed again to the other side of the river. When the mother sheep saw her little baby on the other bank, she got enough courage to wade across the river to reach her baby lamb. Then all the other sheep followed her across.

Thank you Mom, for taking risks for me. You did what our blessed Mother Mary did for Jesus when she gave him a little push into his world-wide mission, in Cana. "Son, they have no more wine! Do something!" ----- "No, Mom, it is not yet my time!" ----- "Yes it is my son! Go! I know they will persecute you, but the Father will be with you." This was the first day of Jesus' mission. Mary, help me to follow Jesus wherever he goes. Mary, help all the mothers to lead their children into the footsteps of Jesus. God Bless the mothers. **Fr. Pierre**

PARISH NEWS

JR YOUTH MINISTRY -- (Grades 6 - 8)

The Holy Mass is the ultimate worship of our Lord, yet sometimes we might feel like it is a burden to go to Mass every Sunday. How can we change that? Come and join the Jr. Youth Ministry as we learn more about what the Holy Mass is about. **When: Monday, May 11 @ 6:30pm in the Church Basement.**

PROJECT ADVANCE -- UPDATE

Please take a moment to read the 2009 Project Advance brochures that are available in the foyer. It outlines in detail the causes that will be supported by the campaign and a sample of a monthly gift plan. Parishioners who contributed in the past were mailed pledge cards two weeks ago. Committee members will be in the foyer to collect completed pledge cards or register new donors AFTER each mass from now until the end of June. Thank you in advance for your generous support and participation in this important event.

2009/2010 PREP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Registration forms for the 09/10 catechism year are available. Registration fees will be **discounted ONLY during the month of May** and then regular registrations will resume in August. Register early to save \$\$ and to be assured of a spot for next year. These forms are available in the Parish Office, school office (during PREP nights --Tue and Wed) and in the Church foyer.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PICTURE DIRECTORY-- Say "Cheese"

We need **your family** photo to make The Parish Picture Directory a success. There is no cost to have pictures taken and remember that every participating family gets a **free directory!** If you don't have a family, individual photos are just as important. Photos will be taken in the **church basement, from May 19-May 30. Mon-Fri 2:30pm-8:30pm, & Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm.** If no one is in the foyer after Mass today to help you book your appointment, please **e-mail tamisiano@yahoo.ca.** Please indicate your date and time preference and she will try her best to accommodate the request. Please note that **Saturday appointments are all full.** *Thank you for building a stronger parish community*

ANNUAL SPRING DANCE

Our Knights of Columbus will have their Annual Spring Dinner and Dance Party on **Saturday, May 23** in the St. Mary's School Gym. All proceeds will go to Birth Right Program. For tickets call Bro. Rene Montilla at 604-454-9679, Bro Joe. Pellingon at 604-438-3821 or Bro. Manny Mendoza at 604-430-3647

MUSICIANS WANTED

Can you sing or can you play the drums, the guitar or the keyboard? **Youth Ministry needs you.** We want to start a band to lead the Youth Ministry in praise and worship. This is the ultimate opportunity for minimal commitment with maximum fun. If you are interested please call Arda at 604-435-9611 ext 6

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL HAS OPENINGS

St. Mary's School has openings for September 2009 in **Grades 4 and 7.** If you are interested, please contact the school for an application package. Telephone number is 604-437-1312.

DO YOU OWN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ENVELOPE NUMBERS?

Sixth Request. Please contact the parish office if you use the following envelope numbers:124; 165; 166; 180; 245; 283; 284; 340; 474; 809; 879; 1093; 1215; 1308; 1398; 1456; 1652; 1695; 1719; 1747; 1809; 2034

THANK YOU FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection of coins into the HUGE jar in the foyer during the months of February and March. The Knights of Columbus Charity Foundation was able to donate \$910.50 to the Office of Vocations.

MONDAY MASS -- SOON TO SWITCH TIMES

Beginning on Monday June 1, the Monday daily Mass will return to its regular time of 8:00am and there will no longer be a 7:00pm Mass.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Hands of Veronica brings the presence of God to the sick. Members attend masses one a month at the three nursing homes within our parish boundaries. We also provide a Eucharistic or ecumenical service once a month. Our volunteers wheel residents from their rooms to masses or services. Our team of Eucharistic Ministers distribute holy communion at nursing homes and also to shut-ins. We also have Ministry of Friendship volunteers who visit with residents who have no one to visit them. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact Clare at 604-437-4819.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Knights of Columbus Council 14459 is organizing a bus trip to Victoria on **Thursday, May 14, 2009**. Departure is at 7:00am from St. Casmir's Parish (1187 East 27th Avenue, Van). Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew Cathedral at noon and then a walk to the Parliament Buildings. Bus will return to Vancouver at approximately 7:00pm. BC Gold Card holders will be exempt from ferry fees. Total cost per person is \$55. More info: Jan Bottcher (604-327-2909)/St. Casmir's parish(604-876-3194).

WHAT IS A GREAT MARRIAGE?

It is never too late (or too early) to get practical suggestions on how to help enrich your relationship. **Denis Boyd, R.Psych** will present two (independent of each other) sessions: **Tuesday, May 26 at St. Nicholas Parish in Langley and Monday, June 1, here at St. Mary's. Both from 7:00-10:00pm.** Cost is \$20 per person which includes handouts and refreshments. To pre-register and pre-pay, call Denis Boyd & Associates at 604-931-7211 by May 19 (Langley) and by May 25 (St. Mary's) The poster in the foyer has more info about Denis Boyd and topics.

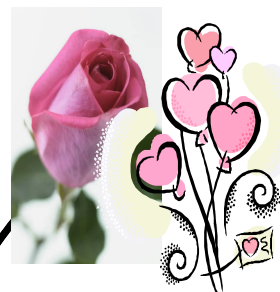
CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES -- HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Catholic Family Services, the professional counseling agency of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, offers counseling as follows: **Individual, couples or families; CARE** for Separated and Divorced Men and Women; **Beyond Power & Control** for men in relationships; **Reclaiming Self** for women healing from abusive relationships; **Project Rachel** services for those touched by abortion. Counselor Sr. Cecilia Hong is fluent in English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin and Shanghainese. Catholic Family Services is located in the Archdiocesan Office at 150 Robson Street. The telephone number is 604-683-0281.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. May 10: 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

HAPPY



MOTHERS DAY

Mon. May 11: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:00pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)

Tue. May 12: 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Prep Seminar (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

Wed. May 13: 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. May 14: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Young Adult Community (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)



Fri. May 15: 9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (cancelled)
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)



Sat. May 16: 12:40pm Bible Study & Sharing (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining)
3:00pm K of C Executive (Church Basement)
7:00pm Singles for Christ (Church Basement)
7:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (School Gym)

Sun. May 17: 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES : Monday 7:00pm
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) & 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 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:

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)

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.saintmarysyoung.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..

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon