



**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Pastor's  
Corner

Sunday May 25, 2008

**CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY**



Dear parishioners,

It wasn't too long ago when a guest speaker came to St. Mary's and tested our knowledge in faith-related matters. When no hands were raised in response to some of his questions, he teasingly asked whether the parish community was instructed in the faith as the pastors ought to be doing. Well, I quietly protested that this is exactly what we have been doing Sunday after Sunday in our homilies all these years! So, the question remains: why the lack of response to that guest speaker then? Could it be the reality that most of us tend not to remember what was said in a homily of a previous Sunday, and even less of homilies of previous weeks and months? Yet, such a circumstance is not meant to lead us to despair!

A study I once read noted that just by our going to Mass Sunday after Sunday, even if we don't seem to retain anything "striking" from the Sunday homily of the previous week, is already 80% of the battle won. Why? Because, as Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI tells us, in circumstances such as these, "we go to the Eucharist to stay alive," that the "Eucharist is meant to be God's regular nourishment for us, [our] daily manna to keep us alive within the desert of our lives."

Fr. Rolheiser's remark is an important reminder as it tells us that even if we don't seem to draw anything important from the homily of the week and much less of previous weeks, and even, if sometimes, we feel as if we have to drag ourselves to Sunday Mass, this is already 80% of the battle won, because we are like the pilgrims journeying in the desert, relying on the bread of life, relying on being fed by the Eucharist to help carry us through the week.

To get beyond the 80% mark however, is where persistence and perseverance in our faith life will also hopefully lead us to cultivate a routine life of prayer and relationship with Christ. This is because our faith life is not meant to remain at the mere subsistence level. For when our faith life leads into a routine life

*continued...*

of prayer and deep conversation with Christ in prayer, then from time to time in our faith journey, we will come to experience life giving waters flowing out to overflowing from the Eucharist. And, not only from the Eucharist, but also from the Word of God, and yes, even from time to time, through some of those Sunday homilies that we so quickly forget. And, this getting beyond the 80% mark then is our moving away from mere subsistence living in our spiritual life into a life of growth in holiness and saintliness in our relationship with Christ.   
*God bless, Fr. Mark.*

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- Sun. May 25:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St.)  
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)  
**5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)**
- Mon. May 26:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. May 27:** 6:30pm Teen PREP (School Seminar Room)  
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)  
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)  
7:00pm Theology of the Body (Church Basement)
- Wed. May 28:**  8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)  
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)  
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. May 29:** 7:00pm Mass & Adoration (Church)  
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)  
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. May 30:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
7:00pm Mass & Adoration (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. May 31:** 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)  
3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement, LWC Area)  
7:30pm CFC - Christian Life Program (Church Basement)
- Sun. June 1:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)  
**NEW! 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)**  
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)

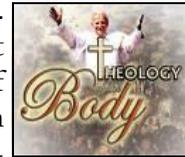
**YOUTH MINISTRY OPEN GYM**

Saturday, May 31st, at 2pm in the School Gym. Come and play sports with us. See you there.

**PARISH NEWS**

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

Come & join us for the next 4 Tuesdays (May 27, June 3, 10, 17) in the Church Basement from 7pm to 9pm. Admission is free. St. Mary's Young Adult Community will present the final 4-parts of *Created and Redeemed*, a faith series based on Pope John Paul II's universal teaching, Theology of the Body. Not to worry if you missed the first half, it is still worth coming out. Trust us, this education on being human will blow you away. Young or old come on out, it's for everyone. Don't forget your workbook. If you're new, workbooks will be available for \$7.50. See you there.



**PREP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (LAST WEEK)**

This is the last week for early registration in our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP). Last chance to avail of the reduced fees. Regular registrations will be in August. Get your registration forms from the Church foyer and in the Parish Office. Drop off your completed Registration Forms in the PREP Office on May 27 (Tues) or May 28 (Wed), from 6pm to 8pm.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARIAN PILGRIMAGE**

K of C will have their Annual Marian Pilgrimage to the Grotto in Mission on Saturday, May 31st. We are inviting parishioners to join us as there are still 25 seats available on the bus. There will be a potluck lunch at the covered park area after the Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Mark Hoo, OP. A sign-up sheet will be available on the table at the church foyer starting on Monday, May 26th. Register now!

**30-HOUR ADORATION RELAY**

The St. Mary's pilgrims will be having a 30-hour Adoration Relay in the rectory. They will be doing adoration from 3pm on Saturday, May 31 to 9pm on Sunday, June 1. Some of them will be in the foyer at the end of all Masses next week to take prayer requests, as well as donations. Funds raised will be used for their pilgrimages to the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec, and to World Youth Day in Sydney. Please support them next week! *(Both cash or cheque will be accepted.)*

**PROJECT ADVANCE**

A quick reminder that committee members and volunteers will be available after each Mass to collect pledges and register new donors until the end of June. Thank you again for everyone's support in this important endeavour!

## PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

### PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC) ELECTION

This weekend, all registered members of St. Mary's Parish 19 or older are eligible to vote after each Sunday Mass (May 24/25) in the SCHOOL GYM. The Parish Education Committee which is involved in school governance, has one vacancy for the coming year. Please take the time to vote for one of the three candidates standing for the position. A brief biography of the candidates is below.

#### Karlissa Castro Brien

I have three daughters who all started in Kindergarten, currently in grades 3,4,and 5. I have been a member of the parish since the 1980's. In March 2007 I resigned my full-time job with a bank, to help my parents with their escalating medical issues, and care for my children. I am treasurer for the St. Mary's Parent Support Group, a committee that secures and manages a yearly grant received from the BC Gaming Corporation. I am willing to take on this challenge and I believe I can help ensure our Parish and school community grow and maintain its mutual goals.

#### Lydia Callaghan

I have been a parishioner of St. Mary's for 5 years. I have 2 daughters, the older in Grade 1 at St. Mary's school. I have my own business and am working from home. I coordinated the Grade 1 Christmas Carolling which helped 4 Children's Organizations and we have sponsored a child. I look forward to your support in being a member of the PEC to bring Catholic values to our children in their education and to be a great contributor to the community. Thank you.

#### Edna Young

I have been a parishioner at St. Mary's Parish for 5 years and have a husband and two daughters; one daughter currently in grade three at St. Mary's school and the other is just two years old. Outside from being a wife and a mom, I work at a law firm four days a week and have been involved in the St. Mary's Parent group organizing functions for the school community. I am passionate, reliable, and extremely well organized and am excited at the possibility of being more involved with the school.

## PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

### SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

In just a few weeks, from June 15 to 22, Canada will welcome the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City. This great Church event will bring together thousands of pilgrims from across Canada and around the world. There will be a special collection in all Canadian parishes this weekend, the Solemnity of the Body & Blood of Our Lord (Corpus Christi) week to support the Congress. Please use the envelopes that are inserted in the Parish bulletin. The Congress organizers count on our generosity.



### DEVELOPMENT & PEACE (D&P) PLEADS FOR MYANMAR VICTIMS

D&P is asking for donations to help the victims of the devastations in Myanmar (Burma) and China. In Myanmar, D&P is working in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis and the Catholic Church in the country to distribute aid. In China, though D&P is not operating in the country as the Catholic Church is considered illegal by the government, Caritas HongKong has been able to get permission to distribute aid in the country. D&P is the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis which encompasses 162 Catholic relief agencies working in over 200 countries. Contributions can be made by telephone (1-888-664-3387) or sent by cheque (marked Emergency: Burma/and or China) at: Development and Peace 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd. West, 3rd Floor Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7

### YOUNG ADULT COFFEE NIGHT

Regaining Your Sense of Wonder: Friday, June 6, at 8pm in the Rectory Basement. There are now 6.5 billion people in this world. Among those people, God created you. You are UNIQUE. There's only one YOU in this world. God created you because HE LOVES YOU. Through a discussion on the ways that God's presence is made known through a Ministry of healing, Jacqueline Loh, a young adult will speak about the believable and powerful ways through which God's graces are made known to you. Topics will include: Grace, Discernment, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The testimonies are empowering. You will leave with the realization that the Holy Spirit is truly 'alive' and walking with you.

### ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SPRING FAIR

On May 31, Saturday, 10am - 2pm. 6656 Balmoral St, Burnaby

## PARISH INFORMATION

### MASSES

Mondays to Fridays: 8:00am  
Wed., Thurs., Fri: 7:00pm\*\*  
\*\* followed by Adoration at 8pm & Benediction at 9:15pm  
Saturdays: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)  
Sundays: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

### CONFESSIONS

Sundays: Before & After ALL Masses  
Saturdays: 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

### 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.

**HOLY COMMUNION** Available to shut-ins. Contact 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  
Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm

### ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Jonquil Francis and Joseph D'silva  
Email: smyac\_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca  
**YOUTH MINISTRY** E-mail: stmaries\_ym@yahoo.com  
Coordinator: Eli Bautista 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  
**Pastor:** Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.  
**Assistant Pastor:** Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.  
**Youth & PREP Coordinator:** Eli Bautista  
**Parish Office:** Margherita Bordignon/Ossie Fernandes