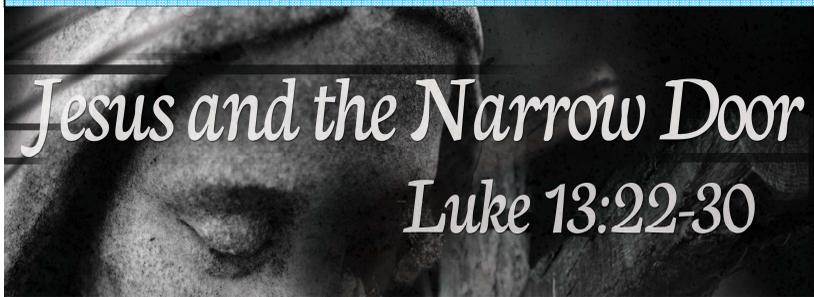


THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



**SUNDAY AUG 25: 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)

**MONDAY AUG 26:**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

**TUESDAY AUG 27: ST. MONICA**

7:30pm Ablaze (Church Basement)

**WEDNESDAY AUG 28: ST. AUGUSTINE**

7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)

7:40pm YOUCAT (Church Basement)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**THURSDAY AUG 29: PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

9:00am Youth in the Spirit Seminar (Church Basement)

7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**FRIDAY AUG 30:**

7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

**SATURDAY AUG 31:**

10:00am Handmaids (Seminar Room)

12:00pm YM Basketball (School Gym)

2:30pm Baptism (Church)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)

6:30pm CFC (Church)

**SUNDAY SEP 1: 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2:00pm Int'l Festival Volunteers Meeting (Church Basement)



**St. Mary's INTERNATIONAL Festival**

Sept 6, 7 & 8, 2013

**FRIDAY, SEPT 6**  
8pm - Procession  
"A Walk with Mary"  
- Witness the "Floating Rosary Balloon"  
Collingwood Park, Van, BC

**SATURDAY, SEPT 7**  
8:30am - Mass  
10am - Festival Official Opening  
by Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.  
10am-5pm - Talent Show Director: Rocelyn Catris  
6pm-12am - GALA NIGHT  
Award/Renognition, Choir Music Rendition  
Dinner Dance

**SUNDAY SEPT 8**  
8am - Food Concession  
- 4pm  
1-4pm - Cultural Show  
Directors: Riz Geronimo  
Neila Guerrero

Coordinator: Lynda Quezon Tamayo Tel: 604-563-5262 Email: lyndaqtamayo@yahoo.com

Food Concession • Beer Garden • Senior Chalet • Diner's Chalet • Face Painting • Cotton Candy • Auction-Auction

PARISH INFORMATION

**WEEKDAY MORNING MASS:** Monday - Friday: 8:00am

Weekday Morning Rosary 7:00am / Weekday Morning Lauds 7:30am

**WEEKDAY EVENING MASS:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7pm followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm

**SATURDAY MASS:** Our Lady's Mass 8:30am

**SUNDAY MASS:** Anticipated Mass Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am / 9:30am / 11:15am / 1:00pm / 5:00pm / 7:00pm

FILIPINO MASS: every 2nd & 4th Sunday 3:00pm

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:**

Wednesday 6:00pm

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:**

Thursday: 8:00am & Saturday: 8:30am

**DIVINE MERCY:** Friday 3:00pm & 6:15pm

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Adoration throughout the day after morning Mass  
**CONFESSION:**

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 9:00am-9:30am, 4:15pm- 4:55pm, 6:10pm- 7:00pm

Sunday: Before & After all Masses

An appointment for confession may be made through the Parish Office

**HOLY COMMUNION:** Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

**BAPTISM:** To register your child, see website or contact Parish Office.

**MARRIAGE:** One of the couple must be Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish before requesting the sacrament of marriage. Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course.

**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz

Email:rcia.smarv@rcav.org.

**PREP/TEEN PREP:** Catechism Program for children attending public schools on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm/ Teen Prep Tuesdays only

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz

E-mail: prep.smarv@rcav.org.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris

Email: youth.smarv@rcav.org

Website: www.marysyouth.com

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff

Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Phone: (604) 437-1312

Fax: (604) 437-1193

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday: 8:45am to 6:00pm

Phone: (604) 435-9611

Fax: (604) 439-9413

E-mail: parish.smarv@rcav.org

Website: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

**PASTORS & STAFF**

**Pastor:** Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. (ext. 6)

**Assistant Pastor:** Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P. (ext. 3)

**Pastoral Assistant:** Vesna Jankovic (ext. 6)

**Finance & Property Manager:** Ossie Fernandes (ext. 7)

**Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Rocelyn Catris (ext. 247)

**RCIA/PREP Coordinator:** Edwin Cruz (ext. 5)

**Reception:** Edwin Cruz (ext. 0)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5251 Joyce Street

Vancouver BC V5R 4G8

tel: (604) 435-9611 fax: (604) 439-9413

email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

AUGUST 25, 2013

Pastor's Corner

HEAVEN IS NOT AN ARBITRARY REWARD

How many will go to heaven? Many? Most? Only a few? Will I be saved? Will he or she be saved? St. Augustine, one of the great theologians of all time said, "Really, only a comparative handful will be saved. Most of us will be damned." Origin of Alexandria, on the other hand, speculated that all will be saved. Jesus never answers that question! He never suggests any percentage, any numbers. He says "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." Why does Jesus avoid to answer directly that question? Maybe because when we ask this question, we tend to compare ourselves with others. "Are there many who will be saved?" Behind this question, we may think "I am pretty sure that I will be saved, but I would be secretly delighted, if you told me, Lord, that the vast majority of all those others are not going to be saved." So behind this question, "How many will be saved?" could lie this false assumption, "I wonder whether he is saved. I wonder whether she is saved? And frankly I would rather doubt it!" So behind the questions, there may be a form of gossiping: we are trying to use Jesus and our Catholic faith to condemn others, thereby legitimizing our gossiping. A true disciple of Christ wants to bring as many people as he can to heaven.

Now is there a positive reason why Jesus answers, in today's Gospel. "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." Why the gate? Why is it narrow? Remember in John 10, Jesus said, I am the gate of the sheepfold." The sheep enters into the sheepfold, by the gate. The sheepfold means the Kingdom of God, where we share the very Life of God and find the fulfillment of our true desires. The gate is where we must pass to enter there, and this gate is Jesus Christ. "I am the gate" "I am the shepherd." So if we want to enter into heaven, we must enter into Christ, become like Him, through a real personal relationship with Him. In today's Gospel, those who are not allowed to enter in the banquet of heaven,

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

the wedding banquet of God's Son with us, are those to whom Christ says, "I do not know you," meaning those who never allowed Him to be known and loved by Him. Do we make a place for Him, in ourselves? Do we give Him the first place, before ourselves? Do we surrender totally to Him like Mary? "I am your handmaid. Let it be done to me according to your will." Lord, I give you my talents, my time, my treasure. Take whatever you want and give me whatever you want. I will receive from you whatever you please to give me and give you back whatever you want...my heart, my mind, my body, my will. I want to do that, Lord, because I trust you more than I trust my own mother and father. And I know that when you ask me to give you my very self, it is so that you may give yourselves to me. Then I will be like you and I will receive, in this life and in the next...I will get rid of my ego and live by you and for you eternally.

Now we understand why the gate is narrow. It is because it is Christ. Like Him, we have to renounce our ego, and choose God. This is called the daily cross, that we need to take everyday. We learn from Him, to see as He sees, to love as He loves, to forgive as He forgives. We think, will, and act as HE acts. Then we are conformed into Him, And that is what heaven means, what salvation is. The gate is in the shape of Christ. And I have to be conformed into Him, to pass the gate. You have to fit your carry-on luggage into that little container.

Fr. Barron said in his homily #34, "Heaven is not a reward for having performed well at a kind of arbitrary game...as though God sets up some arbitrary rules in this life, 'Now if you follow these things, just because I said so...you jump to the right hoops and so on...you get the reward at the end of the day.'" Many of us think that way about heaven. No, heaven is living out of the very life of God, enjoying His bliss, because we have become like Him.

Can we ever be ready for heaven? With God's grace, yes. One last image about the gate of the sheepfold. It is narrow so that the sheep can go through only one by one, giving to the shepherd the time to feel the sheep and heal the hidden wounds under the fur. That is called purgatory. Purgatory is the foyer of heaven, within the gate.

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

Everyday, we pass in and out of the gate, as we choose between God and sin.

## PARISH NEWS



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"A Walk with Mary"  
Witness the "Floating Rosary Balloon"  
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Award Recognition, Choir Music Rendition  
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Directors: Riz Geronimo, Nelia Guerrero

Coordinator: Lynda Quezon Tamayo Tel: 604-563-5262 Email: lyndaqtamayo@yahoo.com

Food Concession • Beer Garden • Senior Chalet • Diner's Chalet • Face Painting • Cotton Candy • Auction-Auction

**WELCOME EVERYONE!!!**

**\$1.00** ONE TICKET FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL MARIAN PROCESSION

All ministries, please pick up your banners in the Sacristy for the upcoming procession on Friday, Sept.6 at 8pm. All ministries are requested to join in the procession with their respective banners. Ladies, please wear a white dress with a tint of blue. Men, a white shirt or white barong tagalog for Filipinos.

### CALLING THE CHILDREN!

Children who had their First Communion last May, please join the procession. You will be seated in the first row during the 7pm Mass on Sept 6, and you will walk ahead of the Virgin Mary.

### MINISTRY PHOTOS

All ministries, please submit your group pictures for the souvenir magazine no later than Mon. Aug. 26th.

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SALES

We have long black veils and souvenir fans for sale in the foyer after Mass, along with tickets for the Gala Dance.

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are still in need of volunteers, this is the last weekend to sign up in the foyer, thank you!

### SOUVENIR BOOK PHOTOS

The photos ordered of all the Mass personnel have arrived and are ready for pick up in the foyer after Mass.

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER MEETING

There will be a meeting for ALL volunteers on Sunday, Sept 1 at 2pm in the Church basement.

### YOUCAT

This Wednesday, August 28, in EXPLORING YOUCAT, we will learn the many different *Ways to Pray*, why it is important to enter into conversation with God and to make it a part of our everyday routine. Join us in the Church basement Wednesday evenings after Mass.

## PARISH NEWS

### YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Come and be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit! Experience His power and healing on Thurs. Aug 29, 9am-9pm in the Church basement. Admission is free and meals are provided. There will be games, lots of singing and new friends. Please register with Rocelyn at 604-435-9611 ext. 247 or email mmoy\_ca@yahoo.com.

### PRAYER INTERCESSORS NEEDED

We invite people to commit at least one hour of prayer on Aug 29 either in the designated prayer room, or from a distance, for the success of the Youth in the Spirit Seminar. Time slots are available from 9am-9pm. Please sign up with Youth Coordinator Rocelyn.

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

There are still some spaces available for the 2013-2014 school year. Please inquire at the school office.



### STREET MINISTRY RETREAT

St. Mary's Street Ministry will be holding a retreat on Sat Aug 31 from 9:30am-3:30pm in the Church basement. All volunteers, prayer partners and those who are interested are welcome. Fr. Gabriel will be the retreat director. Please bring your bible. For more info, contact Mildred at 778-885-9611 or mmoy\_ca@yahoo.com.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION AUG 31/SEPT 1

Next weekend's second collection is for St. Vincent de Paul Society. Much of this collection goes to those who are considered the "working poor", who are temporally unemployed and need help. Others are on disability assistance and have difficulties making ends meet. You may be surprised to know that some are parishioners from St. Mary's. Please give generously. Your help and support is greatly appreciated by the people we serve, God Bless you!

## COMMUNITY AND DIOCESAN NEWS

### DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR YOUNG WOMEN

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia would like to invite you to join us for a day of recollection for young women- Mass, Adoration, prayer, Reconciliation, spiritual talks and reflections, and vocation discernment on Saturday, Sept 21 at Rosemary Heights from 9am-8:30pm. RSVP Sister Mary Jacinta at smjli@op-tn.org or call 604-475-4122.