

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



SUNDAY DEC 22: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
3:00pm Filipino Mass (Church)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)

MONDAY DEC 23:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church)

TUESDAY DEC 24:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
5:00pm Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
9:30pm Mass (Church)
Midnight Mass (Church)

WEDNESDAY DEC 25: NATIVITY OF THE LORD

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church)
1:00pm Mass (Church)
3:00pm Filipino Mass (Church)
5:00pm Mass (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 26: ST. STEPHEN

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

8:00am Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 27: ST. JOHN

6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 28: HOLY INNOCENTS

9:15am DNA (Rectory Basement)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
2:30pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining)
4:00pm SFC-FFL (School Gym)
7:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)

SUNDAY DEC 29: HOLY FAMILY

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)

PARISH INFORMATION

WEEKDAY MORNING MASS: Monday - Friday: 8am

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

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

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

SUNDAY MASS: Anticipated Mass Saturday 5pm

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

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

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

Wednesday 6pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:

Thursday: 8am & Saturday: 8:30am

DIVINE MERCY: Friday 3pm & 6:15pm

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning Mass

CONFESSION:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

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

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 for children attending public schools on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30pm-8pm / 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 6pm

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/Joseph Mendoza (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

DECEMBER 22, 2013

*Pastor's
Corner*

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Is there something more to Christmas than family gatherings and the sweet amazement toward a new born child? For sure these realities are great! But Christmas refers to the momentous event that is central in human history and in God's plan. St. John the evangelist resumes this in a sentence taken from the Prologue of His Gospel, which we will read on Christmas day: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Who is the Word? He is the one who was there all the time, even before the creation of time. He was, He is and He will be the perfect expression of the Father, the Word spoken by the Father, equal to the Father. In the Word, or the Son, dwells the fullness of the divinity. St. John wrote: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) So the Word is a Person distinct from the Father (He was with God) and yet is one in being, or in nature, with the Father (He was God.)

When God the Father created the world, the universe, He looked at His Son, at His Word, as an artist, He copied from a model in His mind, to create the universe. So the Universe is a reflection, a created reflection of the Son. That explains why we long to be united with Him.

Why did God create the World, the Universe? Not out of need, because He had already the infinite fullness of being in Himself, by Himself. God wasn't needy of us and that is good news for us. If He were needy of us, He would manipulate us and use us, for indeed, He would have the power to do so. It is out of His exuberant joy, out of His overflowing richness that He created us, so that He might fill us with His plenitude. Indeed the goal of God the Father in creating the Universe was the marriage of divinity and humanity, of the Infinite and finite, of the creator and His creation, a total sharing, without any confusion or absorption of or into another (as

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

is supposed to happen in a real marriage.)

There has been a great historical impediment or obstacle to this marriage. The devil, having refused God's proposal to enter into this intimacy, became angry at God. Why? Because he, the devil, became empty after refusing God's love. So the devil became jealous of the intimacy between God and His creatures, that was in the Garden of Eden. Remember that God "walked" everyday in the Garden with Adam and Eve who were naked in His presence, yet without any shame, any fear. So the devil decided to put a wedge between God and Adam and Eve, and we too who have been affected by this original sin. What did the devil do? He succeeded in making Adam and Eve doubt God's desire for intimacy with us. He basically said, "Do not trust God. He is needy of you! He forbids you to eat of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, because He, God, knows that if you eat it, you will not need Him (God) anymore. You will be gods, you will never die." Adam and Eve believed the father of lies, instead of the Father of truth and grace. As a result death and division entered into them. They wanted to decide for themselves what is good and what is bad, without any reference to God. And we still do that.

Now, why did God allow all that? He could have prevented the devil from getting out of hell. He gave permission so that He could fulfill His goal in a greater way. By sending His Son to take upon Himself a human nature, the Word became flesh. In His very person, that is in the second person of the Trinity, the marriage was sealed between humanity and Divinity. Jesus is in Himself the perfect marriage between humanity and Divinity. Of course, these two partners are unequal. So God the Son, lowered Himself to take our human nature, becoming the flesh, the Son of Mary, even to the point of dying as a slave, as an accursed, on the Cross, being made sin for us. And by this He elevated all of us to Himself giving "to all who received Him, the power to become children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13) This is what we celebrate at Christmas!

Merry Christmas, Fr. Pierre

"From Christ's fullness we have all ever seen, grace upon grace... No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made Him known."
(John 1:16-18)



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Dec 24: 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight

No confessions

**Dec 25: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm,
3pm (Filipino), 5pm**

No confessions

Dec 31: 5pm, 11:30pm

**Confessions 4:15pm- 4:45pm &
10:45pm-11:30pm**

Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm

No confessions



PARISH OFFICE HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dec 23: 8:45am-6pm

Dec 24: 8:45am-5pm

Dec 25: Closed

Dec 26: Closed

Dec 27: 10am-5pm

Dec 30: 10am-5pm

Dec 31: 10am-5pm

Jan 1: Closed

Jan 2: 10am-5pm

Jan 3: 10am-5pm



PARISH NEWS


PROJECT ADVANCE

Our latest total is \$145,600. On Dec. 22 & 29 after the 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm Masses, you may donate by debit or credit card at the Parish Library. You can also give on line at rcav.org, where you can choose to donate monthly by credit card. All donations received before Dec. 31 may be used as a charitable donation on your 2013 tax return.

PARISH LIBRARY

The Parish Library will be open on Dec. 22 & 29 after the 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm Masses. Library materials available for loan. You may also purchase the 2013 International Festival Souvenir DVD for \$19.95.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

 St. Mary's is accepting applications for Kindergarten-Grade 7 students for the 2014/15 school year. Applications are available from our website or from the school office.

NO YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT MEETING

There will be no meeting on Thursday Dec 26. The next meeting will be on Jan 9.

THANK YOU FROM SPARK TEAM

Thank you to all youth, parents, volunteers and supporters of Spark (for Gr. 6-8) for an amazing 2013! We'll see you on Jan 13 for our first 2014 event. God bless you all!

FLAME POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY (GR.8-12)

Two days after Christmas, we are still celebrating! Join the senior youth and YM leadership team in making a memorable Christmas experience on Friday Dec 27 at 6:30-9pm. Don't forget to bring food to share. Contact Rocelyn at 604-435-9611 ext.247 or email youth.smarv@rcav.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS LEADERS

Youth are the future of our Church and our world, but they need models to guide them if we desire to keep our Catholic Church for generations. We are looking for people who have the passion to bring youth closer to Christ. You must be at least 18 years old and no experience is required. Please contact Rocelyn at 604-435-9611 ext. 247 or email youth.smarv@rcav.org.

HEALING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Healing Ministry will be taking a Christmas break beginning on Friday, Dec 20 and returning on Wednesday, January 8.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ON BREAK

This is a reminder that sessions will resume on Jan 7.