

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



### **SUNDAY NOV 30: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

6:15pm Bible Study (Church basement)

### **MONDAY DEC 1:**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)

7:30pm Lay Apostle (Church)

### **TUESDAY DEC 2:**

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory basement)

7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Basement)

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 3: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

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

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **THURSDAY DEC 4:**

6:00pm Knights of Columbus (School Gym)

7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)

7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **FRIDAY DEC 5: FIRST FRIDAY (All day Adoration)**

6:00pm CFC Youth (Rectory Basement)

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

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Church)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **SATURDAY DEC 6:**

8:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory Dining)

**1:00pm PRAISEFEST (School Gym)**

2:30pm Baptism (Church)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)

**7:00pm PRAISEFEST (School Gym)**

### **SUNDAY DEC 7: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)

1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)

1:30pm CFC (School Gym)

6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)

## 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 Sunday 3pm

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

Wednesday 6pm

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

Thursday: 7:20am & Saturday: 8am

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

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Adoration from 9am-9pm

**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. Email the Parish Office: parish.smarv@rcav.org **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 5pm

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:** (ext. 0)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**NOVEMBER 30, 2014**

*Pastor's  
Corner*

### **I WOULD LOVE TO...BUT I CAN'T...**

At a certain point in life, sooner or later, depending on each individual, the deep desires and cravings of our heart reach a critical point of crisis in us. It could be the need to be affirmed, to be recognized with our gifts and talents, through our accomplishments; or simply the need to be loved through and through unconditionally. Whatever it is, we become aware, at the same time, that we cannot bring about what we want. "We do not have inside us what is needed to fulfill and satisfy our longings." (Magnificat, November 2014, p. 412.)

We look for another— or many others, or for other things, to satisfy us. But these other persons are themselves feeling un-affirmed or unloved. They cannot give us what they don't have within themselves. We could go around the world searching for the "right" person and never find him/her. The person that can satisfy us must be at our level so that he or she can communicate with us; yet this person must be from "another" world, not sharing our limitations and our selfishness, but Infinite by nature. There is only one such person= **Jesus Christ!**

A comparison will help to grasp this: the dysfunctional family. It may have started with one member of the family having a serious addiction problem. All the siblings, or children, or spouse of that person will slowly become dysfunctional, selfish or hurtful because they have been victims of verbal, emotional, financial, and spiritual abuse. The more they try to get out of that, the more they sink into it. It is like quicksand. They cannot get out of it by using their mind and their will because both have been weakened or twisted by the abuse. Forever...unless they seek help from outside, from a healthy and living person. Ultimately, only Jesus Christ can be that person.

Let us now apply this comparison to the world of sin, which leads to a spiritual dysfunctions and as a consequence...

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

Pastor's Corner Continued...

to other forms of mental, emotional, physical dysfunction. In the world of addiction, two "preliminary" steps must be taken. The first step= is to recognize that I have a problem, stop denying it! The second step= I recognize that I cannot overcome it by myself. This step may become possible only after I have hit rock bottom, or when I go through a near death experience...In any case, grace has to come powerfully in my heart, yet I must cooperate with it. The experience of hitting rock bottom can be losing your job, your marriage, break up or your kids get alienated from you, they hate you, or a financial bankruptcy, or a combination of the above. You know that you don't just have a problem, but that the problem has you. Say you have the sin of pride, all of us have it! You are telling yourself, "I would love not to be self-preoccupied, I would love not to be so defensive. I would love not to have to cling to my prerogative at every turn, but somehow I cannot avoid it. I cannot stop this addiction of pride. Pride has me." What about envy? "I would love not to be preoccupied with someone else's success. I would love it if I didn't look around and say "I wish I had this, I wish I had that." How about greed? "I'd love to be free of this, I'd love to be satisfied with the material things that I have, but somehow I am always looking for the bigger house, more money, more prestigious job." You could go on with each capital sin.

Now, how foolish it would be to say, "Ok, no problem, I know I am a person of pride, but I can stop it whenever I want. When I will set myself to it." Even confessing your sins regularly is not enough, if you don't beg the Lord everyday to help you take away your sin. Yes, you must pray for that grace, relentlessly, with all your heart and mind. And it will happen! There will always be temptations. But they won't turn you away from God. He is the potter, we are the clay. Let Him shape you day after day, into the person you are called to be.

Three advices from Fr. Barron for Advent:

- 1) Do an examination of conscience regularly, maybe every week, ask the grace to become aware of your root sins.
- 2) Ask forgiveness from the persons you have hurt because of your sin, whenever it is possible.
- 3) Pray! Whichever way is suitable to you. Reading the Bible, one chapter a day. Or Rosary. Or Mass, Meditation, Adoration, etc.

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

*p.s. see Fr. Barron's Homily 2002 First Sunday of Advent*

## PARISH NEWS

### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Monday, Dec 8 we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception and our Parish Feast Day with Mass at 6pm, followed by the Living Rosary at 7pm in the Church. Please join us.



### ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE IN CHURCH FOYER

 St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. The branches are covered with angelic gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged 5 to 16 years old. No baby or toddler items please. Please bring the unwrapped gifts and place under the tree during the weeks **Dec 6/7** and **Dec 13/14**.

We will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

### ST. NICHOLAS COOKIES

Today after Mass, Gr. 6 students will be selling St. Nicholas cookies for \$1 in honour of the beloved bishop of the early Church, the *real* Santa Claus! Buy several and surprise family members and friends on St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6.) Help Gr. 6 raise money towards supporting families in Africa.

### SPARK (GR. 6-8) FAQ PART 2

Open the Bible at a random page and you may find verses difficult to understand. This is because we should not read the Bible the same way we read most books. Learn more about the different ways of understanding the Word of God and be amazed at what you'll learn! Join us Monday, Dec 1 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement

### FLAME (GR. 8-12) ROMANCE WITHOUT REGRET

Whether you are in a relationship, looking for love, or just trying to understand God's plan for properly using the gift of sexuality He has given you, this video will hand you the tools you need in order to know the difference between love and lust and save you from heartache. Join other teens on Sunday, Dec 7 from 6:30-9pm in the Church basement for a night of faith, fellowship and popcorn!

### YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Youth are invited to attend the following potluck Christmas parties: (For Gr. 6-8) SPARK on Dec 15th from 6:30-8:30pm & YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT on Dec 11th from 4:30-6pm; (For Gr.8-12) FLAME on Dec 14th from 6:30-9pm. All events in the Church basement.

## PARISH NEWS

### ONE VOICE...ONE HEART...ONE SPIRIT

Mark your calendars! Come and enjoy a musical production hosted by the different ministries of our parish. The concert is on Saturday Dec 6, with showings at 1pm and 7pm in the School Gym. Doors open one hour before each showing. There is no reserve seating, so come early! Tickets are \$12 or \$45 for package of 4 tickets. Tickets are on sale after all Masses. There will be door prizes and food for sale before and after the performance. Come and enjoy this wonderful performance with your family and friends, and support your parish ministries!

### ST. MARY'S SENIORS - MASS & CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you are 60 or over, join us for Mass of Anointing of Seniors at 11am, followed by a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, on Saturday Dec 13 at 12:30pm in the School Gym. St Mary's School Choir will perform, and there may be a visit from the "man in red!" Contact Eileen 604-436-3655 or Nancy 604-434-7246 to reserve your spot. RSVP by Dec. 10.

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School is now accepting applications for Kindergarten & Grade 1-7 for the 2015-2016 school year. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up from the school office 8:30-4:00 M-F.

### URGENT APPEAL FROM ARCHBISHOP MILLER

You will find pamphlets for Aid to the Church in Need in the slots in your pews. Please consider supporting ACN in its good work helping the Christians in the Middle East who are persecuted because of their faith. ACN offers help in the way of shelter, food, medical support and comfort to those in need.

### PROJECT ADVANCE

Our total to date is \$129,104 or 65% of our parish goal. There are just a few weeks left to give, first to try to reach our goal of \$200,000, and second for you to be able to claim a donation on your 2014 tax return, so you need to give before Dec 31! You may donate through the Sunday collection, or online at rcav.org.

### CATHOLIC FORUM

Catholic Forum invites you to explore the theme "The Family in the Church Today", with Archbishop Miller on Tuesday, Dec 16 at 7pm in the Church. Bring your questions and friends! For info, <http://dominicanlaity.ca/forum>, or contact Dr. Paul Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy email: [ve7cld@shaw.ca](mailto:ve7cld@shaw.ca).