

St. Mary's Parish

Vancouver, BC



"For it is in giving that you receive."
St. Francis of Assisi

Ministry Booklet

2013



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

When God created you, He had a purpose for you. He wanted you to bring something unique to His people. What is the message God is asking you to deliver? What is the special act of love God is expecting from you? What's your role in the unfolding of God's plan in this world and in this parish?

By volunteering in the parish, you could find the answer to these questions. You could experience the joy of becoming the person you were called to be. You could experience the joy of being closer to God and closer to the parish community.

God has already blessed this parish community abundantly. By becoming one of its active members, you will share personally in these blessings and we will be blessed by your contributions.

God bless you,

Fr. Pierre Leblond

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

2000 HAIL MARYS

2000 Hail Marys prays to the Blessed Mother asking for her true and powerful intercession. Participants gather from 9am to 7pm on the first Saturday of the month in the rectory dining room to pray the 4 mysteries of the Holy Rosary and the 20 petitions. For every petition, 100 Hail Mary's are prayed with an offering of one white rose and a candle. Everyone is invited to join once a month to pray to our Blessed Mother. Those who cannot commit to the whole day are still welcome to join and stay for however long they can.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are an integral part of the Mass. Good, attentive altar servers enrich the celebration and provide important assistance to their pastor. This ministry is open to young people from grade 6 and up. Special training seminars are provided for those who would like to join this ministry.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptism preparation sessions are held for parents of babies who want their children to be baptized at St. Mary's. The sessions are every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Church. As a volunteer in this ministry, you may be expected to assist the pastor at this session and also at the baptism, either on the first or last Saturday of the month.

BIBLE STUDY

The goal of the Bible Study is to help participants grow in their knowledge of God. Here, the participants learn eye-opening insights into the history, cultural context, and meaning of the Bible. The more we know about God and His Word, the more we see God's love for us thereby bringing us into a closer relationship with Him. The study references texts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that teach us to interpret Scriptures within the heart of the Church. This awakens a deeper appreciation of our Catholic faith. Coming to the study also gives a chance for fellowship with others by sharing life events and personal viewpoints in a supportive environment. Please check the weekly parish bulletin for times. All are welcome.

BINGO

Bingo takes place every Monday night in the school gym. Volunteers are required to work every 3rd week (17 Mondays a year) for an approximate 4 hour shift. Some volunteers start as early as 2pm, while others may start as late as 6pm. Volunteers perform various duties such as staffing counters, tills,

microphones, a desk, or selling cards in a friendly atmosphere. All workers are trained before commencing duties.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)

Rooted in gospel values, the Catholic Women's League (CWL) is dedicated to the preservation of the Christian family values and the sanctity of life and to uphold human dignity by working to make life better for all people, especially the disadvantaged. Membership is open to women, 16 years or older, who want to experience spiritual enrichment, personal growth and leadership development. CWL is active in fundraising in support of various charities, and parish-building events. There is an annual membership fee of \$23 and the meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm. Join CWL not only for the fun and camaraderie, but to share your talents and skills and, in turn, be richly rewarded in your life journey –spiritually, socially and in parish/community building.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation is a group that meditates and practices contemplative prayer as passed on through the teaching of John Main OSB. Rooted in Christian tradition from the earliest times, meditation is a way of simplicity in which we quiet the mind and become still and attentive to God. It is a prayer of silence, which takes us beyond words, thoughts and images to experience the presence of Christ within us. The meetings are every Tuesday at 7pm in the rectory basement. The session lasts for an hour and consists of listening to an inspirational talk on meditation, followed by 25 minutes of silent meditation. There is also a time of sharing and questions if needed.

CLOISTER OF ST. PETER

Cloister of St. Peter looks after general church housekeeping such as maintaining flower arrangements, watering plants, cleaning the candle holders, replacing the candles and keeping the pews tidy. No experience is necessary as training is provided.

COFFEE / SOCIAL GROUP

Coffee /Social Group promote friendship among parishioners by serving refreshments after certain weekend masses in the Church basement. Different teams are assigned to serve coffee each weekend for approximately 2 hrs, led by a team leader. Summer break is from July to August.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC)

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a Vatican-recognized lay community dedicated to the renewal of the Christian family. CFC's mission statement is "Building the Church of the Home, Building the Church of the Poor." Every member belongs to a household, which is a group of 4–6 married couples who support one another spiritually. CFC members meet in their homes weekly for household prayer meetings, as well as monthly as a large group on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Church basement. Key elements of CFC spirituality include charismatic worship, frequent group sharing and intercessory prayer, intergenerational faith building, and a special love for the poor.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST – FFL (CFC-FFL)

CFC Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) is an evangelistic and missionary community. Membership is open to any validly married Catholic couple, and to other individuals through its Family and Special Ministries. Those who want to join go through a Christian Life Seminar (CLS) for adults or a Youth Camp for young adults and are made part of a small cell group called a household. The household members meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement in the Christian life. Household meetings, normally in the members' home on rotation basis, usually involves a time for prayer, sharing or discussion and fellowship. As part of the larger family of CFC-FFL, a global family of many different nationalities and culture, we are an integral part of the Catholic Church. We submit to our bishops and to the Pope and make ourselves available to serve our parishes and dioceses, especially in the areas of family and life.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. The organization encourages Canadians to act in solidarity with the poor through education, advocacy, personal choices and financial assistance to the projects and programs of its overseas partners. At St. Mary's, two events are held every year: the Fall Action Campaign and the Share Lent Campaign. Volunteers distribute literature, show videos, set up displays in the foyer and give talks during masses informing parishioners about what the campaign is all about. In the fall, the volunteers encourage everyone to sign petition cards lobbying the Canadian government for specific policy changes. The lent campaign is mainly a fundraising event through the Share Lent Collection. During this time the volunteers encourage every parishioner to give generously to support our partners in their work for peace, justice and development. There are no regular monthly meetings but meetings are scheduled before and after these campaigns.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

The Divine Mercy group tries to spread devotion to the Divine Mercy. All are welcome every Friday at 3pm and 6:15pm in the Church (all year round).

DNA MEN'S GROUP

DNA Men's Group (discipleship and accountability) is a ministry for men only. DNA meets on a regular basis, every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month starting with the 8:30am morning Mass in the church (optional) and then moving to the rectory basement for the rest of the program which includes praying the Rosary, Lectio Divina, teaching, small group discussion and lunch. The goal and hope is for members to surrender to the Power and Grace of God in order to be transformed into godly disciples of Jesus Christ, strong in faith, hope and love. One of the dimensions of the meetings is to experience the joy of brotherhood in Christ between men. By opening up to one another and sharing the joys and difficulties in living out with integrity and passion our demanding call as Catholic men, the participants aim at becoming joyful witnesses of our Catholic Faith, heroes, champions and spiritual leaders, ready to lay down our lives for those who have been entrusted to them. Our greatest desire is to be the saints that the Risen Lord Jesus wants us to be, by allowing the Gift of our Baptism to flourish in our lives as men. The minimum age is 18.

DOMINICAN LAITY (MYSTERIA LUCIS CHAPTER)

Are you being called to a deeper relationship with God, in the spirit of St. Dominic? Mysteria Lucis chapter is the lay Dominican community in Vancouver. As a branch of the Order of Preachers, the community shares the charism encapsulated by St. Thomas Aquinas as "to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of that contemplation". The pillars of lay Dominican life include prayer, study, community and mission, the mission of evangelization, sharing the Truth. The group meets in the rectory basement, usually on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 9:15am until noon. Inquirers explore their vocation through formation on Dominican spirituality, saints and lay Dominican life, including the Rule and Statutes, and participate in prayer and ongoing formation with the entire community. There are periodic retreats and Dominican Family celebrations with the friars, nuns or sisters, and the group also organizes the quarterly Catholic Forum at St. Mary's. You can visit www.dominicanlaity.ca for more information.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion assists the pastor and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion to the community. Though voluntary in nature, names of volunteers are submitted to the pastor for approval. The list of EMs is then submitted to the Archdiocese of Vancouver. EMs are commissioned and appointed every two years.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The volunteers in this ministry provide flower arrangements in the church to enhance and beautify our place of worship. Duties include picking up flowers and supplies and preparing the arrangements. The meetings are in the church basement every Friday at 9am (with the exception of first Fridays, when the meeting is on Thursdays). Anyone with a passion for flowers is welcome!

GRACE THAT REIGNS

Grace that Reigns (www.GracethatReigns) is a catholic ministry for the intercession for our priests, evangelization and healing. The mission is to promote prayers for our priests, unity in prayer, and the power of the sacraments - especially the Holy Eucharist. It is a work of love and encouragement for all. The goal is to highlight the collaborative spirit of intercessory prayer among priests and lay faithful, that unites us into One Voice: One Body in Christ. The intercession is based on the belief that our prayers for ourselves and for the priesthood are powerful. The meetings are on a bi-monthly basis for fellowship and prayer. Prayers for our priests take place every 4th Thursday of the month after the 7pm evening mass.

GREETERS

Greeters welcome parishioners as they enter the church for weekend masses and provide them with a bulletin. They answer basic questions or direct parishioners to the appropriate sources for information. There is no regular meeting and it is a perfect opportunity for those who want to volunteer when they attend Sunday Mass. The average commitment is thirty minutes before mass starts. Greeters must present a modest appearance, be friendly and be able and willing to assist other hospitality ministries, such as Ushers and at the Registration Desk as needed.

HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD

Handmaids of the Lord believe that God wants us to rise up in defense of His work. Handmaids is a creation of God distinctively called to the mission of

personal renewal, of seeking out other mature women and helping them into a renewed life in the Lord and of wholehearted service to God's people.

Handmaids are called to uphold the God given dignity and true worth of women as seen in the light of the Word of God. Single mature women, widows, separated or divorced, single parents, wives of overseas workers, and those whose husbands are unavailable are invited to join the community through a Christian Life Program. This is a series of teachings about our faith and how we can deepen our relationship with the Lord. There are retreats, conferences, teachings and fellowships all year round. Handmaids are active in the parish as volunteer lectors, mass coordinators and collectors, Eucharistic Ministers in our quest to be closer to our faith.

Handmaids are an integral part of Couples for Christ (CFC) and are called to be God's co-workers, to participate in the Church's work of global evangelization and renewal. The participants pledge to live an evangelistic lifestyle, and to support God's work with their time, talents and treasure.

In submission to God's holy will, The Handmaids commit themselves to the mission of serving wherever God brings, trusting only in His guidance and His power. Just like Mary the woman, our very being and essence of being a woman proclaim the greatness and glory of our God as we joyously proclaim: "I am the Handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word".

HANDS OF VERONICA

This ministry brings the presence of God to the sick. Members attend masses once a month at the three nursing homes within our parish boundaries. We also provide a Eucharistic or ecumenical service once a month. Volunteers wheel residents from their rooms to masses or services. Team of Eucharistic Ministers distributes Holy Communion at nursing homes and also to shut-ins. In addition, the Ministry of Friendship volunteers visit with residents who have no one to visit them. These members are required to have a police check and a Tuberculosis check. There are three meetings a year. There is a great need to increase the membership. There is a particular need for more Eucharistic Ministers.

HEALING MINISTRY

Healing Ministry is a group of men and women who are dedicated to praying with those in need of healing. The Healing Ministry consists of prayer teams who make themselves available during adoration every Wednesday and Friday from 7:45 -9pm in the Church crying room and/or in the sacristy. Healing may be sought for physical or emotional injuries, painful memories or loss, anger, despair or other concerns. Individual prayer sessions using the Unbound (deliverance) model are available by appointment. The Healing Ministry prayer team also

includes volunteers who are willing to act as intercessors or prayer warriors. They pray over written prayer petitions and supplications. Other intercessors are charged with praying for the prayer team and the supplicants during the regular prayer sessions.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Are you concerned with the Church, community and would you and your family like to share in wholesome fraternity and fellowship? If the answer is YES, then it is time for you to become a proud member of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights strive to grow spiritually while responding to those who need their help: the disabled, unborn, orphans, youth, widows, the Church and more. Give generously of yourself, your time and talent, while building self-esteem and satisfaction by socializing with new friends. Strengthen family life through various family activities such as Rosary night, family bowling, family picnic, memorial mass, Christmas party, etc. Insurance for the protection of your family is also available. Optional and flexible benefits are conceived to meet any of your needs. Now is the time to join the Knights. You need to be a practicing Catholic gentleman, 18 years or older, willing to get involved and help the Church and community.

LAY APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Several years ago, "Anne" a wife and mother of six, started receiving messages from God the Father, Jesus, Mary and the Saints. These messages, received in the form of inner locution, are spoken with divine love, clarity and authority. Anne has received permission from her bishop to publish the works. Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ meets every first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the church to pray the luminous mysteries of the Rosary and to read the monthly message. All are welcome. The messages known as The Volumes and The Heaven Speaks booklets are available free to download from: www.directionforourtimes.com

LECTORS / READERS

The lector ministry is active at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Those involved in this ministry assist the priest by proclaiming the First and Second readings and reading the Prayers of the Faithful. Though a person may volunteer for this ministry, there may not be an immediate opening. However, all volunteers will be contacted, and a training session will be set up as new lectors are needed. Commitment to this ministry involves attending a training session and a yearly meeting, preparing for readings in advance, and arriving fifteen minutes before mass on assigned days. A clear, well-paced voice is an asset.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on 7 September 1921. It is a lay catholic organization whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work. Legion of Mary is a group of lay people committed to work hand in hand with the Blessed Virgin Mary; to do Christ works of mercy with love for God Almighty and for the salvation of souls. Legionaries can either be active or auxiliary. Active members perform the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy, visit the well and the sick residents in the hospitals and nursing homes, give communion, pray the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. Every two weeks, we bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue to requesting families. We distribute rosaries and rosary guides, teach them how to pray the rosary, listen to their concerns regarding confessions and Holy Eucharist. Auxiliary members pray daily the TESERA (prayer card of the Legion). The group meets every Saturday at 3:00pm in the church basement and/or rectory dining room.

LIGHT OF JESUS COMMUNITY

Light of Jesus Family (LOJ) was founded by renowned international Catholic lay evangelist Bo Sanchez in Manila, Philippines more than three decades ago. LOJ Family wants to help its members to become all that God wants them to be. LOJ Family wants to see its members blessed in every area of their life- spiritual, family, physical health, career, business, and financial life. LOJ welcomes everyone with open arms, especially those who feel far from God. The mission of LOJ is to make disciples and the vision is the dream of 1000 Feasts all over the world. The community meets and celebrates The Feast every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (and 5th Sunday) at St. Mary's Parish school gym from 2pm to 4:30pm.

LINE DANCING

Line dancing at St Mary's continues to build community spirit through fun exercise and fellowship. Participants learn popular line dances which can be used at dances everywhere. Beginners welcome. Dancing is held most Fridays 6:45 to 9pm October through April. Drop in fee of \$4 is donated to charity at the end of the season.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word with Children is celebrated during the 9:30am mass every Sunday during the school year. Children from Kindergarten to grade 5 are invited to the church basement during the Liturgy of the Word to hear the readings of the day which are proclaimed in language that the children can easily understand. Volunteers can choose to be presiders or helpers/supervisors and commit to approximately one Sunday every six weeks. No experience is necessary and training will be provided.

METRO VANCOUVER ALLIANCE

Are you looking for a way to make your parish more present in the community? Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) is an alliance of community groups, faith, labor and educational institutions, working together for the common good. As a new member of MVA, St. Mary's is in the process of putting together a team of people who are interested in developing programs that will work on those issues that concretely matter most to the community. Members develop leadership skills and learn "the art of politics" through active engagement and participation. More information is available at www.iafnw.org/canada/metrovancouveralliance

MIGRANT WORKERS AND FAMILIES' OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Migrant Workers and Families' Outreach Program of St. Mary's Parish is a welcoming, safe and compassionate church community based on respect, trust and confidentiality, that bears witness to God's love under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and protection of the Holy Family. It is facilitated by a group of volunteers committed to actively reach out to migrant individuals and families who need support from a faith-based community. The mission is carried out through Word and Worship (teachings, prayer groups, bible study, retreats), Work (Moral Values Re-orientation Program, Family Enrichment Programs, Social Awareness programs and referrals to agencies in the community) and Wellbeing (counseling referrals and fellowship).

MISSION ABLAZE

Mission statement: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing." - Luke 12:49

Mission Ablaze is not just another prayer meeting. It meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:30pm in the Church basement to praise and worship the Lord, to listen to teachings from the priests and core group, to share the Scriptures through the various sanctifying and charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit,

and to receive healing prayer ministry. But Mission Ablaze is also and more significantly an action prayer group, a pastoral group that prays for evangelization in our parish and archdiocese and seek direction and motivation from the Lord. Mission Ablaze core group or the leaders group – is mandated by the pastors and with the pastors to initiate and organize evangelization activities, faith education workshops and conferences, community building events and fundraising for the needy. These initiatives provide avenues for participants to discover their gifts and use them to accomplish God's will and build up God's Kingdom. All Catholics and God's seekers from the Archdiocese of Vancouver are welcome.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The primary function of music ministry is to enhance the liturgical celebrations by leading the assembly in song and praise. The goal is to encourage full, conscious and active participation. Seven choirs serve the 7 weekend masses and all practice at various times and days during the week. Singing skills are essential and qualified musicians and instrumentalists may be accepted, depending on the choir's need. All members are expected to attend choir practices as scheduled.

Sat 5pm choir practices every Saturday at 3:30pm.

Sun 8am choir practices every Sunday at 9:am.

Sun 9:30am choir practices every 1st, 2nd & 4th Saturday at 6:30pm.

Sun 11:15am choir practices every Saturday at 6:30pm.

Sun 1pm choir practices every Sunday at 11am.

Sun 5pm choir practices every Sunday at 3pm.

Sun 7pm choir practices every Sunday at 8:15pm.

PARISH LIBRARY

The Library is a great place to satisfy readers of every kind. It has a variety of books on many subjects, including an extensive collection of Christian books, Catholic Documents and Church literature, and also non-fiction, general fiction, audio and video tapes, and much more. Anyone can borrow the library materials. The Library is located in the church basement and is usually open for 1/2 hour after the Saturday anticipated and Sunday masses during coffee and snacks time. Library volunteers assist individuals who want to check out the materials and help out during the 1/2 hour after mass.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Elementary P.R.E.P. offers weekly catechism sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 pm for public school students in grades

one to seven. Teen P.R.E.P. is for public school students in grades eight to twelve. Both programs prepare students to receive the sacraments of initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. Our staff of thirty or more volunteer catechists teaches and guides the children in matters of the faith. This classroom catechesis supplements the religious education that parents provide for their children at home.

PARISH VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Our mission is to foster awareness of vocations to the priesthood & consecrated life. Our purpose is to help nurture vocations by reminding the faithful to respond to God's call in their lives, especially the call to ordained ministry & consecrated life. The committee pursues this mission through initiatives of education, prayer, promotion, and invitation. We offer support & encouragement to the priests and religious in the parish. Through prayer, committee members pray daily for vocations and organize opportunities for parishioners to pray for this intention. We strive to create and foster a pro-vocation culture in the parish, giving special attention to formation of vocations in children, youth & young adult. We aim to identify potential candidates for the priesthood & consecrated life, and extend a personal invitation to each person to consider their vocation.

PRISON OUTREACH

Prison Outreach aims to connect with and befriend those who have been in conflict with the law. Currently the volunteers visit the youth in the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre (BYCC). Led by the priest, the volunteers celebrate Mass (with music) once a month in the prison. There is a need for young musicians who can participate in the Mass, as well as the "Catholic Jam" program at the BYCC on a Friday evening where music is the "meeting place". There is ample opportunity to minister on an individual basis as well. The volunteers try to learn about, understand and incorporate the principles and values of Restorative Justice. Prison Outreach also supports, as a group, worthy causes related to the ministry in our parish and in our communities.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Project Advance is much more than an annual fundraising event. Donations help to ensure that the Archdiocese has the resources to purchase land for churches and to build and maintain high schools that provide a Catholic education for our teenagers. They also assist in less visible needs of our youth, our seniors and our disadvantaged ones especially the hungry and the imprisoned. Responsible stewardship is required in order to respond effectively to these needs. Meetings

occur in the beginning of spring. Volunteers are needed after each mass to collect pledges.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK

This ministry welcomes people with a friendly and courteous manner helping register new parishioners and answer any questions. Volunteers are required to be at the Registration desk in the Church foyer 20 minutes before mass and usually for 10 minutes after mass, or, until all inquiries have been dealt with. Patience in dealing with the public and general knowledge of the parish and the ministries are an asset. Training is provided.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This program is designed for:

- Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/ baptized in other faiths who wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic.
- For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation).
- Also all who are interested in learning or re-learning the Catholic Faith are welcome.

Committed team members are needed to help with various tasks and sponsors are needed to be role models for the inquirers seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith. Both team members and sponsors need to be committed to the whole program. Sponsors need to be confirmed Catholics over the age of 18 that are faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. You can register for RCIA, or apply to be a sponsor/team member before August.

SINGLES FOR CHRIST (CFC-SFC)

Singles for Christ (SFC) is the singles ministry of Couples for Christ (CFC) for unmarried men and women ranging in age from 20 to 40. Like CFC, SFC members meet monthly in a large group at the church and weekly for household meetings in their homes. Through community life, innovative formation, and trying out different kinds of service, SFC members are empowered to discern their individual vocations and answer them, all the while using their gifts and singlehood to give life to the Church. SFC is called, not to go against the current, but to change it entirely! For more information please visit:

www.cfcscanada.com

SINGLES FOR FAMILY AND LIFE (CFC-SFL)

CFC Singles for Family and Life (CFC-SFL) is a ministry that focuses on evangelization of unmarried (never been married) men and women age 21-40. It is one of the family ministries of Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL). It provides a support environment and aims to help young adults live a full and meaningful life with Christ at the center of it. CFC SFL exists to provide an environment for young people to HONOR God through a life of holiness, to EMPOWER them to act in humble service, to ENCOURAGE them to relate in JOY with their family, community and the Church and to TESTIFY God's love. The group meets twice or thrice a month, sometimes more. Activities would include Christian Life Seminar, monthly prayer and worship meetings, biannual weekend retreats, yearly national and world singles congresses, teaching nights, quarterly fellowships, speakers training, mission trips and music ministry congress.

ST. MARY'S STREET OUTREACH

St. Mary's Street Outreach is a group that strives to bring unconditional love and spiritual support to vulnerable women, the homeless, and the addicted in the Lower Mainland. Volunteers drive down Kingsway and Seymour streets to reach out to the prostituted women. They go to Hastings and Nanaimo, and downtown area to reach out to the homeless. They also go to the Vancouver Detox Centre to pray over the addicted patients upon request. The volunteers journey with those who have left the street or are in recovery (from addictions) by visiting them, and helping them in their needs. Volunteers have to be non-judgmental and willing to serve Jesus in the marginalized to be 'lights in the dark'.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The aim of St. Vincent de Paul Society is to bear witness to the faith in the exercise of true charity, development of charitable projects and of social justice. Some of the regular activities are the "Outreach Program" where several groups prepare sandwiches, coffee and treats on Friday afternoons and go downtown (East side) in the evening to distribute the same. Volunteers also do home visits within the parish boundaries to the needy whenever requested. Some of the volunteers help out at the Collingwood Community Center with the "Shower and Breakfast Program" on Saturday mornings. In addition, St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes toy and clothing drives, giving trees etc., during the Christmas season when the poor feel especially vulnerable and depressed.

USHERS

Ushers assist parishioners before and after mass, help seat people prior to mass and are in charge of the collection. Ushers also act as a security guard during the mass and assist during communion distribution. Volunteers may also be required to pass out the Sunday bulletin and assist at the Registration desk if needed. Ushers are asked to make a commitment and honor that commitment to serve on a regular basis at the weekend mass they usually attend. Training will be provided.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST (CFC-YFC)

Youth for Christ (YFC) is the youth ministry of Couples for Christ (CFC). Like CFC, every member belongs to a household, a group of 6 – 8 youth who support each other spiritually. YFC meet twice a month, once for a household prayer meeting, and once as a large group. All YFC activities are organized and led by the youth themselves, with the support and guidance of CFC volunteers. YFC puts a premium on the 4 F's (fun, faith, freedom, and fellowship) and empowers youth to believe and spread the word that God loves them, and He is calling them to something great. For more information please visit: www.cfcyfcanada.com.

YOUTH FOR FAMILY AND LIFE (CFC-YFL)

Youth For Family And Life (CFC-YFL) exists to provide an environment for youth ages 12 to 21 to honor God through a life of holiness, to empower them to act in humble service, to encourage them to relate in joy with their family, community and the church and to testify to God's love. Entry to CFC-YFL is through a weekend youth camp with several talks/sessions meant to promote an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus and a positive and life giving relationship with family and peers. All members participate in a continuous spiritual formation program as well as other youth oriented activities. They have monthly assemblies as well as a yearly Canada wide youth conference. There also weekly meetings. Everybody is encouraged to participate actively in all of the community's activities while allowing for schedule constraints from school, work shifts and other obligations. For more information please visit: www.cfcyfl.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mary's Youth Ministry has "Faith, Fun and Fellowship" as its motto. Different leadership opportunities are available for youth, young adults and adults who want to serve God in this amazing ministry. Becoming a leader (young adults and adults) or a facilitator (youth) will not only allow you to serve God but at the same

time help you grow in your own spiritual journey. Come and be an instrument of God to bring His light to His children in one of the three groups we have:

Junior Youth Ministry - SPARK - for youth in grades 6-8

Senior Youth Ministry - FLAME - for youth in grades 8-12

Young Adult Group for those aged 18 – 35

No experience is necessary.

If you are interested in joining any of our ministries please fill out a PARISH PARTICIPATION FORM. You can find the form either online at stmarysvancouver.ca or at the Church foyer Registration Desk. Please return the completed forms to the parish office or to an attendant at the Registration Desk.



ST. MARY'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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