

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

JOY!

SUNDAY DEC 14: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
 1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)
 6:15pm Bible Study (Church Basement)

MONDAY DEC 15:

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)

TUESDAY DEC 16:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 7:00pm Catholic Forum (Church)
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory basement)

WEDNESDAY DEC 17:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 7:00pm Mass/Adoration/ Confession (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
 9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 18:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
 7:30pm Prayer for Priests (Church)
 9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 19:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 6:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church basement)
 6:00pm CFC-SFL/YFL (School Gym)
 7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm PENITENTIAL SERVICE (Church)
 9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 20:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 11:00am Legion of Mary (Church basement)
 2:00pm Migrant Ministry (Rectory basement)
 3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
 4:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)
 7:30pm ARC (Church)

SUNDAY DEC 21: 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
 12:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
 1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)
 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: Theresa De Ocampo (ext. 0)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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DECEMBER 14, 2014

*Pastor's
 Corner*

CHRISTMAS: JOY OR EXCITEMENT?

We saw, during the last two Sundays of Advent, that sin is like an addiction that we cannot overcome by our own strength. We need to surrender our very life to God. We need to invite Him, to give Him permission to take on Himself our sinfulness and to fill us with His power, with His love. Out of that, joy will come. But does it come? When it comes, does it last? What can we do to remain joyful?

Yes, joy needs our cooperation! It is a gift from God and yet we must constantly reopen ourselves to receive anew that gift. Let us face it, we often conceive joy as excitement! That is how the world conceives joy. It is not so. Do you see in the Gospel, Jesus being excited? Do you see Him trying to create excitement in the people, in His disciples? Never. In fact He doesn't trust the crowds who are seeking to be amazed at signs and wonders. And it is something that has happened too often in the charismatic communities and preachers. It has been a cause of its downfall. Yes it is ok to have high expectations, but it is not ok to remain at the level of excitement. Yes it is ok to hope beyond all hope, but is not ok to try to manufacture joy. More so joy should not be sought in itself. It is a byproduct of true love, of our fidelity to our mission.

When an old lady takes care of her husband who is affected by Alzheimer's day after day, 24/7, does she experience excitement? No. But if she does it out of true love, not necessarily emotional love, she feels a deep peace in her heart. She knows she is doing what God wants her to do. She knows she is fulfilling her mission and that gives her peace, the peace that the world cannot give, and that peace flowers into joy, from time to time, unexpectedly and graciously.

So how can we receive the gift of joy? How can we prepare ourselves for it? Don't just wait passively for joy.

Pastor's Corner Continued...

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Act! Love! St. Paul commands us to rejoice always. Love is a choice: saying no to sadness, to the bitterness that feeds our rebellion against God and/or our selfishness. Start your day by this prayer, "Today, Lord Jesus, in your name, I renounce sadness and bitterness. Today I will choose to receive your deep joy. Amen." He will answer your prayer, He who said, "I came that you may have life, and have it to the full." "I give you my peace, my joy, not like the peace and joy the world gives, but my joy." The joy of God comes from that great act of letting go of oneself. That is what Father, Son, and Holy Spirit keep doing among themselves. And we are called to enter into their joy by letting go of ourselves, in love for God, and for the other as other, whether or not we are rewarded with good feelings, good ideas, excitement. Then we access the joy that is permanent, that the world cannot take away.

Not easy to do, but easy to understand! Not easy because of the negative consequences of sins in our culture, in our workplace, in our shopping centers, in our family and relatives and friends and even more so within ourselves. Let us face it: the new culture is hostile to joy because joy requires commitment and surrendering of self in love. Joy is believed to be naïve. But we are afraid not to be in control, we seek self-sufficiency. We value the critical attitude, the skeptic stance. We want to grasp and possess. But all we can grasp is the elusive pleasure of sin. So we soon fall into hopelessness and rebellion toward God and life. We fall into the culture of death and fake excitement, conceited, fabricated excitement. But God wants to give us His joy. At the end of our life, may we hear God say to us, "Enter into the joy of your Master, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

So just start by doing a simple act of love: caring, serving, smiling, listening, praying, giving thanks. You will have a "preview" of the joy to come.

And be mindful of the presence of God, inspiring you to do this act of love.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

p.s. Excitement is good, we see excitement in the children at Christmas and it is beautiful. Sometime joy bubbles over into excitement, and this can be good, but joy cannot be reduced to excitement.

PARISH NEWS

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 **Dec 13/14**. We will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

SPECIAL COLLECTION - PROJECT ADVANCE

Our total to date is \$133,802 or 67% of our parish goal. We need a final push to try to reach our goal of \$200,000, so we will have a special second collection next weekend, Dec 20/21 for Project Advance. Please give generously! You may also donate online at rcav.org.

FLAME (GR. 8-12) - CHRISTMAS PARTY

During the Advent season, we have the opportunity to reflect on the gifts God gives us through the birth of Jesus. Join us Sunday, Dec 14 from 6:30-9pm in the Church basement to experience a fun and faith-filled event with authentic fellowship. Please feel free to bring food to share.

SPARK (GR. 6-8) - CHRISTMAS PARTY

The year is almost over, but more fun activities are just about to start! Don't miss out on Monday, Dec 15 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement for games, laughter and friendship. Please bring food to share and invite your friends!

YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT (GR.6-10)-OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS

Celebrate an outdoor Christmas at Burnaby Village Museum on Thursday, Dec 18. Meeting time is at 5:30pm in front of St. Mary's School. Permission forms are required and available at the website marysyouth.com, YM board, or parish office. Please bring \$5 for 2 rounds of carousel rides. For info, contact Rocelyn 604-355-9611.

YOUTH BALL (GR. 8-12) - CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

If you are interested in practicing your basketball skills and get to know others who are passionate for this sport, come on Saturday, Dec 20 from 10am-1pm in the school gym and bring food to share.

GRACE THAT REIGNS: PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Please join us to pray for our priests of the Fraser Valley West Deanery on Thursday, Dec 18 after the 7pm Mass in the Church.

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

This Friday Dec 19 at 7:40pm, will be our Parish Penitential Service. There will be 8 priests available to hear your confession. Please avail yourselves of this opportunity and don't wait for the last minute!



DEANERY ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Dec 15 @ 7pm Our Lady of Sorrows 555 S. Slocan St. Van.

Dec 16 @ 7pm Corpus Christi 6350 Nanaimo St. Van.

Dec 17 @ 7pm Holy Cross 1450 Delta Ave. Bby.

Dec 19 @ 7pm St. Francis of Assisi 2025 Napier St. Van.

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.

2015 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

The 2015 envelopes are now ready to be picked up from the Church basement.

LOVE WORKS CHARITY

Love Works Charity humbly asks for your support in our fundraising effort to provide for the surgery needed for a 3 year old girl name Heny Hidalgo, born with medical condition called meningocele, a tumour on her face. After all Masses on Dec 13/14. we will be selling religious articles, the proceeds of which will be used for her surgery and milk. Thank you for your contributions and generosity.

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. Info: <http://dominicanlaity.ca/forum>, or contact Dr. Paul Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy email: ve7cld@shaw.ca.

ARC ADORATION NIGHT



Join in ARC Adoration night with Youth Praise & Worship on Saturday Dec 20 from 7:30-9:30pm in the Church. Adoration, Confession and Healing Prayer Ministry. This event is organized by the Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Renewal. All are welcome!

ADORATION WITH TAIZE CHANTS

Come join us Sat Dec 27 from 7-8pm in Adoration to pray for the homeless, the street people, an end to sex trafficking, and for all the parish volunteers and loved ones.