

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



### **SUNDAY JAN 4: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Seminar Room)  
1:30pm CFC (School Gym)  
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)

### **MONDAY JAN 5:**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)  
7:30pm Lay Apostle (Church)

### **TUESDAY JAN 6:**

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)  
7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church basement)

### **WEDNESDAY JAN 7: ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE**

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

### **THURSDAY JAN 8:**

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

### **FRIDAY JAN 9:**

6:30pm Dev & Peace (Rectory Dining)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying room)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **SATURDAY JAN 10:**

9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Seminar Room)  
9:15am DNA Men's Group (Rectory basement)  
10:00am Liturgy Committee (Rectory Dining)  
1:30pm CFC Youth (Church basement)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)  
3:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (Rectory basement)  
5:00pm Knights of Columbus 9Seminar Room)  
6:00pm CFC-FFL (School Gym)

### **SUNDAY JAN 11: BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)  
1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)  
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)  
6:15pm Bible Study (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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**JANUARY 4, 2015**

*Pastor's  
Corner*

### **I WAS LOST, I AM FOUND**

It sometime feels awkward, in the Canadian Caucasian culture, to admit that you are a member of a religious institution like the Catholic Church. You may be asked if you really believe all that the Church teaches. Or "Why don't you choose for yourself what you want to believe?" Fr. Barron said that "Many people today, if they are religious at all, would rather be identified as 'seekers' rather than "believers." They are independent spiritual 'operators' rather than members of a church. They are spiritual rather than religious. Some of them will say, "Well look! My work or my vocation, or nature...amount to religion since they find God there."

Of course, there is much good to be said for "spirituality" in this sense. I, myself, when I was a teenager rebelling against the Church, found God in nature, in science studies, in psychology, even in my "achievements." But I wasn't really aware that the best of my "personal" religion, was taken out of the Church teachings and the Bible, and then, severed, cut out from the context which gave it meaning; I mean, the context of a dialogue between God, who reveals Himself through the Living Christ, and us who are seeking Him.

I was then seeking God and spirituality in my own terms, by using "techniques" and practices and wisdom borrowed from psychology, science, yoga, Christianity and other religions. I was trying to extract from my superficial knowledge and personal experience a basic set of spiritual convictions and intuitions that would fit my needs, and help me to become more aware of the beauty and goodness of the Universe. The added bonus would be, I wrongly thought, that I would avoid being limited by any specific church institutions that can be seen as arrogant in their claims to be the absolute and unique truth. What I did not understand is that the price of all that was to lose God Himself and remain

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

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alone, with my search for Him. I would worship only a God that I could understand, or a God that would be useful. And "that" would no longer be God, but a reflection of my own search. I would never meet the God who can address me, make a demand on me, love me, forgive me. I would only justify myself, love myself, decide for myself what is good and bad, right or wrong. I would never meet God as another Person. And this, would remain true, no matter how many Gospel quotes I would put in my "bible." In that type of spirituality without religion, so common today, God is like a passive mountain to be chartered and conquered, not an interactive Person. I do the seeking, God is only discovered or rather inferred at the end of my journey! I cannot reach into God's mind, God's heart, God' purpose in that type of spirituality without revelation.

"It is something like the way we come to know a person from the outside, taking in our impressions, drawing the person into our frame of reference, before we actually listen to him or her." (Fr. Barron) You meet somebody, you kind of size him up from the outside, you take in what you can, you understand him according to your category... Then, that person speaks, that person reveals something about himself or herself, and it just blows you away, it just overwhelms the categories that you had in mind. Your expectations are overwhelmed.

Apply this experience to God now. If we cannot understand a finite, limited human person without listening to him speaking to us about himself, then how much more can we not understand God, if we don't let Him speak to us. The Bible is called the Revelation of God about Himself and about us, about His purpose for us. The peculiar biblical conviction is that God is not a distant, hiding force, but a Person who speaks and acts in the world, in history. Someone who reveals to us His mind and purpose.

Yes we are spiritual seekers. But above all God is a seeker. God is someone who passionately seeks us out. And we would have never invented such a God by ourselves without His own Personal Disclosure. We would not have come up with a God who takes on a human nature, is born in straw poverty, became a carpenter, a healer, a forgiver, and finally dies on the cross to resurrect and bring us to the Father. A God who gives us His Spirit, as though we can search His mind and Purposes.

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

And yet a God who did not create us because He needed us, but out of pure, exuberant, overflowing love.

Today's Epiphany Magi symbolize all the spiritual seekers of the world who go out on their own to find God and finally meet the God of the Jews, the Messiah, and enter into the mind and heart of God, who is the baby in the manger. They worship the One who has been seeking them since the foundation of the world. All that the spiritual seekers in the world are looking for can be found in Christ, in that baby born in straw poverty. He is "the manifestation (epiphany) of the Divine Love, which made the whole Universe, and which seeks us out with the passion of a mother or a father." Finally, it's not our seeking that matters so much. Finally, it is the fact that "we are sought by a God who hunts us down, a God who breaks open His own heart for us. We must surrender and allow ourselves to be found." (Fr Barron)

Do you want to be found by God?

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

*p.s. See Fr. Barron Homily Epiphany 2009*

## PARISH NEWS

### **THANK YOU!**

Fr. Pierre and Fr. Gabriel wish to express their gratitude for the many gifts and words of affirmation received over Christmas. We wish you every blessing in the New Year 2015.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE PETITION**

Development and Peace or CCDOP is seeking everyone to sign up the petition to the Canadian Government House of Commons demanding respect for the right of small-scale family farmers to preserve, exchange and use seeds. We need to support small scale farmers specially in the poor countries of the world and recognize their vital role in the struggle against hunger and poverty. D&P members will be in the foyer to ask for your signatures. Please take the time to sign the petition and help spread the Good News of the Gospels especially to the poor and marginalized.

### **8:00AM SUNDAY CHOIR – MUSICIANS WANTED**

We are in need of musicians- pianist, guitarist, violinist or other musical instruments that will complement our music at the 8am Mass. Musicians should have good sight reading skills and be able to commit to this Mass each week. We practice for directly following the 8am Mass. Please contact Amalie at 778-836-4187 or [amalie.livera@telus.net](mailto:amalie.livera@telus.net).

## PARISH NEWS

### **PROJECT ADVANCE 2014**

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to this year's campaign. Contributions to date are \$154,151 or 77% of our parish goal. Our parish rebate will go to our Parish Building Fund. Thanks again for your generosity and participation!

### **2015 ENVELOPES**

The 2015 envelopes are ready to be picked up from the Church basement. Please DO NOT use 2014 envelopes going forward, as each year the envelopes numbers change.

## DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

### **VANCOUVER COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE**

We invite all applicants and their families to attend the Annual Open House on Tuesday, January 13 from 6:30-8:30pm.

### **ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE OPEN HOUSE**

Open House will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30pm. More info [www.stmc.bc.ca](http://www.stmc.bc.ca).

### **CHRISTIAN UNITY: HAVE WE ANSWERED THE CALL?**

Archdiocese of Vancouver will mark the 50th anniversary of Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism. Keynote speakers: Fr. Tom Rosica and Sr. Donna Geernaert. Topics: Canadian and worldwide overview of ecumenism, importance of dialogue, and practical ideas on how to start ecumenical cooperation. Saturday, Jan. 17, St. Francis Xavier Church, Vancouver. For more info [rcav.org/christian-unity-have-we-answered-the-call](http://rcav.org/christian-unity-have-we-answered-the-call).

### **WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES MASS**

Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Miller on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3pm at Our Lady of Sorrows, Vancouver. Everyone is welcome.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN WINTER INSTITUTE**

Offers one-day faith formation and ministry training for adults. Topics include: Spiritual Discernment and Basics of the Faith. Ministry training offered for RCIA, PREP & Youth Ministry. Also available are two workshops for those in music ministry and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10am-4pm. St. Patrick Secondary School, Vancouver. Cost \$35 (before Jan.16), includes lunch. To register, visit: [www.rcav.org/oc-winter-institute](http://www.rcav.org/oc-winter-institute).

### **RED LIGHT/GREEN LIGHT**

You are invited to the free screening of the documentary film Red Light/Green Light at Corpus Christi Parish on Saturday, January 31 from 2-4pm.

