

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY OCT 25: 30TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

1:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
1:00pm CFC-YFL (Rectory Dining)

MONDAY OCT 26:

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

TUESDAY OCT 27:

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory basement)
7:00pm CCO Faith Study (Rectory Library)
7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church basement)

WEDNESDAY OCT 28: STS. SIMON & JUDE

6:30pm Bible Study (Church basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:00pm Building Committee (Rectory Dining)
7:40pm Grace that Reigns Prayer for Priests (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY OCT 29:

7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY OCT 30:

6:00pm CFC-SFC (Church basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY OCT 31:

10:00am Youth basketball (School Gym)
2:00pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
2:30pm Youth Ministry (School Gym)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
7:00pm CFC (Church basement)
7:00pm CFC-FFL (School Gym)

SUNDAY NOV 1: ALL SAINTS

1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
1:30pm CFC (Church basement)
6:00pm CFC-FFL (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 / 3pm (**Tagalog**) / 5pm / 7pm

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 & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris

Email: youth.smarv@rcav.org

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 Chadarévian, O.P. (ext. 3)

Pastoral Assistant: Vesna Jankovic (ext. 6)

Finance & Property Manager: Ossie Fernandes (ext. 7)

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: 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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OCT 25, 2015

DO YOU HAVE BLIND SPOTS?

*Pastor's
Corner*

Today's Gospel about the healing of the blind man of Jericho, named Bartimaeus, was chosen among many thousands of miracles that Jesus did. It was chosen by St. Mark to be written down in this Gospel so that it might be handed on to us because of its universal meaning. Well, you might say, "I am not blind." Yes, but Helen Keller, who was born deaf, mute and blind, wrote, "The greatest calamity that could befall a person is to have sight and fail to see."

Are you spiritually blind? Can you see what's really the case? Are you able to take in what truly matters in your life and see the big picture in the different situations of your daily life? People who are physically blind stumble about if they don't have a guide or a cane. They don't see the obstacles they should be avoiding. If you are not spiritually blind, you can answer the following questions: • What is the goal of my life? • What are the real obstacles that prevent me from attaining the good I was created for?

The worst thing is that most of us don't know we are spiritually blind! If we could only become aware of it— and that is already a real grace— we could ask Jesus to enable us to see. Let's try to identify with Bartimaeus following today's Gospel step by step. He was from Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world, also called the city of sin. When the Israelites "invaded" their promised land, their biggest enemy was the city of Jericho. That city was far too strong for them. They won the battle by the grace of God, walking around its wall with the Ark of the Covenant, the priests and the liturgical trumpets. The walls crumbled down! That city stood for all those institutions marked by injustice and corruption. It stood for that way of organizing ourselves, that is opposed to God's way.

Bartimaeus has a great virtue. He is blind but he knows it. The other citizens of Jericho were so much focused on the 4 "P's:" Power, Prestige or honour, Possessions or

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

money, and Pleasures. It blinded them to the big picture, to God and His ways, His wisdom. Like these people of Jericho, we fall into self complacency. We say "I am ok! You are ok!" The other "virtue" of Bartimaeus is that he begs. He knows that he cannot heal himself of physical blindness, while we think we can heal ourselves of our spiritual blindness. **But we can't.** It's not a problem that we can solve, like a computer problem. Why? Because our very own mind and our very own will are the problem. Sin makes the mind blind and the will very weak. So "more mind" and "more will" cannot help. Because the mind has become blind and the will weak, we cannot rely on them. We keep getting deeper into these problems. Christianity is a salvation religion. It is meant to solve a problem that we cannot solve by ourselves.

The first step is to realize that my life is a mess in a certain area, that I cannot help myself in that dark area, because I am blind to it, and slave to it. The other step is to invite God in. "Master have mercy on me," says Bartimaeus. We said that at the very beginning of Mass. But this is not a popular stance. It's the stance of a beggar. People will try to repress that attitude in you. Today, the government doesn't financially support those recovery centers who use the 12 steps, the most effective way to recover from addiction. Why? Because in the 12 steps you need to ask God to step into your mess and put order in your life. But we are in a culture of self-sufficiency, the self-made man, the lone ranger of the far west.

So Bartimaeus hears Jesus answering his request for mercy. He is called out of Jericho, to follow Jesus up to Jerusalem. Jesus gave Bartimaeus the vision he needed to follow Him and His disciples on the arduous journey up, from the lowest place on earth, (Jericho is near the Dead Sea) to the highest city in the Holy Land, Jerusalem, the Heavenly City. What will happen there? Jesus will die to save us, and to teach us the way. That way is the path if self-giving, of self-emptying love. Only Jesus can give us that spiritual vision about our lives. "My life is not about me. It is for someone and something greater than me = God and His children." Without that spiritual vision, I cannot know the big picture, and where I am going. The 4 P's, Power, Prestige, Possessions and Pleasures will destroy me and possess me. But with that vision and that healed will, I will see and act like Jesus. When Jesus asks you, "What do you want?" What is your answer?
God bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD BIBLE STUDY

Topic on Wednesday Oct 28: Moses-Chapter 4 "Listen to Him" (*The last days of Moses and the transition of leadership to Joshua*). Ongoing Bible Study every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm in the Church basement. Everyone is welcome. No registration required. Free, including study guides!

CATHOLIC FORUM

Catholic Forum invites you to explore the topic "Depression: Professional and Pastoral Healing" with Dr. Paul Ungar. Can the power of the human spirit defeat depression? Tuesday Nov 17 at 7pm in the Church. By donation. More info: <http://dominicanlaity.ca/forum>, or contact Dr. Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy Neugebauer email ve7cld@shaw.ca.

SPARK (GR.6-8) - FAMILY POTLUCK NIGHT

Grade 6-8 youth and their family members are invited to our first Family Potluck Night this Monday, Oct 26 from 6:30-8:15pm in the Church basement. Please join this amazing night of fun, faith and fellowship.

SOCKS AND CHOCOLATE DRIVE

St. Mary's Street Ministry is asking for donation of men's socks, and also chocolates within 3 months of purchase. Please drop off your donation in the box in the foyer.

CRAFT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

St Mary's Christmas Craft Fair and Pancake Breakfast is on Sunday Nov 29 from 9am-3pm in the School Gym. Join us for a delicious and very reasonably priced pancake breakfast and start your Christmas shopping early. Table rentals \$15 or 2 for \$25. Contact Eileen 604-436-3655.

SATURDAY 5PM CHOIR

The Saturday 5pm choir would like to invite musicians to consider joining our choir to praise God through the ministry of music. We are looking for a piano or guitar player and singers who will be able to commit to this Mass each week. Please contact Catty at frozentriqui@gmail.com.

GRACE THAT REIGNS PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS

Please join us in prayer for Priests on Wednesday Oct 28 at 7:40pm in the Church.

PARISH NEWS

MIGRANT MINISTRY

St. Mary's Migrant Ministry and ISSofBC will host "Finding a Balance in Life-A Wellness Workshop" on Nov 1, 8, 15 from 1-4pm in the Seminar room; a 3-part series on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. Please register with Lenn Castro at stmarysmigrant@gmail.com or Chit Arma at resochoita.arma@issbc.org or call 604-684-7498 ext. 1666.

FIGHT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY CAMPAIGN

CWL & Street Ministry are organizing a postcard campaign for "Fight Against Pornography" next weekend Oct 31/Nov 1. Volunteers will be available in the foyer to provide and assist you with the postcards. Pornography harms everyone by affecting the brain, the heart and the world. Please join us in this crusade to convince the Federal Government and regulators to take a tougher stance on pornography. Thank you for your support.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2015

Total donations are \$113,487 or 57% of the parish goal! We encourage all parishioners to continue to return pledges or register as new donors so we may reach our parish goal before year end. Please continue to give through the Sunday collection or online at rcav.org. Blank pledge forms are available at the registration desk for first time donors. Thank you for your generous support!

ORDER OF PREACHERS 800TH YEAR

You are invited to join the Dominican Family in celebrating the Rite of Opening of the Jubilee Year on Saturday Nov 7 during 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's. The Jubilee year begins Nov 7, 2015 and concludes Jan 21, 2017. The Rite of Opening will include a message from the Master of the Order (shortly before Mass), Ritual of the Light, Mass, and Ritual of Sending. We hope you will be able to join us. Stay tuned for more events throughout the year!

PSALM 98 CONCERTS

Psalm 98 concerts will be on Saturday Nov 21 from 1-3pm and 7-9pm. Advent Talk with Fr. Tony Ricard on Saturday Nov 28 from 1-3pm and 7-9pm. Come celebrate our faith and support the Parish building fund at the same time. Tickets \$15 for both events combined.