

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



Prepare
the way
of the
Lord!

SUNDAY DEC 20: 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
12:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)

MONDAY DEC 21:

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

TUESDAY DEC 22:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:00pm Penitential Service (Church)

WEDNESDAY DEC 23:

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

THURSDAY DEC 24: *Parish Office closed at 4pm

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
8:00am Mass (Church)
5:00pm Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
9:30pm Mass (Church)
Midnight: Mass (Church)



FRIDAY DEC 25: NATIVITY OF THE LORD *Parish Office closed

9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church)
1:00pm Mass (Church)
3:00pm Tagalog Mass (Church)
5:00pm Mass (Church)



SATURDAY DEC 26: ST. STEPHEN

3:00pm CFC-FFL (School Gym)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Taize/Adoration (Church)

SUNDAY DEC 27: HOLY FAMILY

10:00am Young Adults (Rectory dining)
1:00pm Light of Jesus (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

5251 Joyce Street

Vancouver BC V5R 4G8

tel: (604) 435-9611 fax: (604) 439-9413

email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysvancouver

DEC 20, 2015

**Pastor's
Corner**

WHO'S DIRECTING THIS MOVIE?

Listening to some contemporary Christian praise and worship, and also listening to prayer requests, I get the impression that for so many of us, God is a Helper that we call on only when things don't go the way we want them. We have our ideas about what our life and career should look like, and when something becomes an obstacle to that personal project, we ask God's help to remove the hindrance and to give us a push in the direction that WE have chosen. We have dreamed our life, writing the script of our life story, of our career, and the starring role we play in our ego centered "movie" about ourselves. And when we realize that it won't happen, we get resigned, bitter, or even hopeless. Mind you, there is nothing wrong in having a goal and asking God's help, but that goal and that request for divine help must ultimately be for achieving God's purpose for us.

Indeed, to become fully alive, I have to make a big change from my ego-script (or ego-movie) to the big God-script or God's Global Purpose. And I pray to find my role in that God written, God produced, God directed movie about His Wedding Plan with Humanity and the whole Universe.

You will find the divine script in the Bible, the Church Traditions and the lives of the saints. Stay tuned for that script on Christmas day. What is your incentive to abandon your ego-script and become part of the divine script? You will find the answer in today's Gospel. As soon as Mary heard from the angel Gabriel she was chosen to play a role in God's plan, she set out with haste to see Elisabeth, walking for about five days into the hill country. From now on, she will be going with purpose and energy anywhere she is wanted by God. Something has grabbed Mary's will from the outside, and given it direction. Like Mary we will really begin to live when something grabs our will from the outside; something so compels us and so fascinates us, that we want to give our

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

whole life to it. We are not just making it up on our own, deciding on our own. We have been chosen. "It's not you who have chosen me, it's I who have chosen you." That's when you really began to live.

Perhaps you are thinking, "This doesn't relate to me! I am not the Mother of God, I am not a priest or a prophet. I am not chosen to play a particular role!" Yes you are. St. Paul said that we (you) have been chosen before the foundation of the world. From all eternity, you were in God's mind and heart. You had your special, unique role in the big script of God. In fact you were created and shaped and gifted to find joy and fulfilment in accomplishing that unique role. It doesn't matter that this role is big or small, as long as it is truly yours, it will give you the very joy of God. What makes your life thrilling is discovering your role in the big picture of God and the Universe.

Another bonus of entering into the Big Script of God for all of us is that we become connected with each other, part of the same adventure. In a world made of people living their own personal dreams, the only connection is how others can be useful to me and how they could be a hindrance to my rights. Each one is left alone. But there are more and more people on earth and conflict is inevitable. We have become a very litigious society where lawyers and judges rule. Contrast that with God's Project. Look at Mary and Elisabeth. They have that closeness with one another because they share a role in the same Providential Plan of God. Mary is pregnant with Jesus, Elisabeth is pregnant with the Precursor of Jesus, John the Baptist. When two people are related to the same transcendent third, there is an infinite possibility for joy, for real communion, and for peace. This is true also on the scale of the planet earth.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

p.s. See Fr. Barron's homily 2015



PARISH NEWS

PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Parish Penitential Service is on Tuesday Dec 22 at 7pm. There will be 8 priests available to hear confessions. Please avail yourselves of this opportunity.

URGENT PETITION - MARIJUANA APPLICATION

There is an application to change the use of 3441 Kingsway to Medical Marijuana dispensary. We have until Dec 24 to send in our comments. We are in a high-density neighbourhood with many young families, children, 3 schools, and an Alcoholics Anonymous office where people in recovery seek help to stay clean and sober. It is highly undesirable to have a marijuana store close by. Please sign the petition against it after Mass in the foyer or Church basement.

KEEP THE HOMELESS WARM

St. Mary's Street Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul Society are collecting donations of new winter gloves, hats, scarves, thermal pants/socks and slightly used winter jackets for the homeless. Since 9 out of 10 homeless are men, we are asking for donations more for men than women. Donations can be dropped off in the big box in the foyer. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

A SPECIAL INVITATION

If you are a civilly-married couple or in a common law arrangement, we extend a special invitation to solemnize your union in a multi-couple Catholic church wedding on October 15, 2016. There will be an information session on January 14, 2016 at 7pm in the church basement. Pre-registration is required; forms are available in the Church foyer or at the Parish Office. Please deposit completed forms in the Project Cana box in the foyer. For more info, please call 604-435-9611 ext. 5 or email ec.projectcana@gmail.com.

2016 ENVELOPES

The 2016 envelopes are ready for pick up in the Church basement. Envelopes are filed by last name. If any of the information on the envelopes is incorrect, please fill out the forms found in the Church basement with any corrections.

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD BIBLE STUDY

No session on December 23 & 30, we will resume January 6.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE



Dec 24: 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight
Dec 25: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm (Tagalog), 5pm
(No Confessions on Dec 24 or Dec 25)
Dec 31: 5pm, 11pm (Adoration 10pm)
Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm (Tagalog), 5pm

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec 24: 8:45am-4pm / Dec 25: Closed / Dec 28: Closed

PROJECT ADVANCE

Our pledges to date are \$130,252 or 65% of our parish goal. You have until Dec 31 to make your donation in order to claim the 2015 tax credit so please continue to send in your pledges. There will be a volunteer to assist you with donating by credit or debit after Mass, or you can give online at www.rcav.org/giving. Next weekend Dec 26/27, there will be a second collection for Project Advance, a last push for 2015. Please give generously!

ADORATION WITH CHRISTMAS SONGS

Join St. Mary's Street Ministry on Saturday Dec 26 from 7-8pm for an evening of Adoration with Christmas music to meditate on the greatest gift given to us, Jesus Christ, and to pray for world peace, the marginalized, and street ministry intentions.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School is accepting Kindergarten and Gr.1-7 new student applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Please pick up an application form at the School Office or on our website www.stmary.bc.ca.