

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



### **SUNDAY DEC 27: HOLY FAMILY**

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

### **MONDAY DEC 28: HOLY INNOCENTS**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 30:**

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

### **THURSDAY DEC 31: \*Parish Office closed at 4pm**

5:00pm Mass (Church)  
10:00pm Adoration (Church)  
11:00pm Mass (Church)

### **FRIDAY JAN 1: MARY MOTHER OF GOD \*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 JAN 2: STS. BASIL & GREGORY NAZIANZEN**

8:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory dining)  
2:30pm Baptism (Church)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)

### **SUNDAY JAN 3: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

## 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

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email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysvancouver

**DEC 27, 2015**

**Pastor's  
Corner**

### **THE LAW OF THE GIFT**

Today's readings on Holy Family Sunday exemplify what Saint John Paul the Second called "The Law of the Gift." It can be formulated this way: your being increased in the measure you give it away; your life, your gifts, your talents increase in the measure you give them away. If you don't give back what you have received, you will eventually lose it. This is true even for family life. But let's start with what is easiest to give! If you have a talent for music and don't use it for the enjoyment of others, you will lose it. If you have a gift for teaching and become too lazy to teach, you will lose your gift. If you ask money for your healing prayers, you will lose that gift sooner or later. Now let's apply that to family life, in particular to your children. Your children are not for your own good. They are temporarily put in your custody so that you may help them find their mission in God's plan, not in your own plan. So many parents try to make up for their unfulfilled dreams by pushing their sons and daughters in a direction that is not God's direction. A father may want his son to succeed financially in business but the son is not suited for that career and misses his true vocation. A mother pushes her daughter into such perfectionism that she, the daughter, falls apart. Such a family becomes dysfunctional and unhappy. Your child is like an arrow in your quiver; once you let it go from your arc (bow) you cannot control it anymore.

With this in mind, let's look at today's Gospel. The 12 year old Jesus stayed in the Temple by Himself. When Mary and Joseph realized that He was not with their caravan, after a day of walking, they searched anxiously for Him, during 3 days! 3 terrible days! And Mary upbraided Jesus when she found Him: "Child, why have you treated us like this?" That sounds like my own mother! And Jesus answered, "Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?" Here Mary and Joseph come to grips with the awareness that Jesus

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

doesn't belong to them. He belongs to God and to God's mission. They have to let Him go to fulfill that mission, to the point of letting Him die on the Cross.

When we let our children go, they become truly grateful to us and God will give us many sons and daughters through them. And we will be truly joyful. The kind of joy that the world cannot give. Give yourself to God and God will give Himself to you.

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

*On Children*

*And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,  
"Speak to us of Children." And he said:*

*Your children are not your children.*

*They are the sons and daughters  
of Life's longing for itself.*

*They come through you but not from you,*

*And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your thoughts.*

*For they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls,*

*For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you  
cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them,*

*but seek not to make them like you.*

*For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.*

*You are the bows from which your children*

*as living arrows are sent forth.*

*The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,*

*and He bends you with His might*

*that His arrows may go swift and far.*

*Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;*

*For even as he loves the arrow that flies,*

*so He loves also the bow that is stable.*

*by Kahlil Gibran*

## PARISH NEWS

### NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Dec 31: 5pm, 11pm (Adoration 10pm)**

**Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm (Tagalog), 5pm**

### PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE

Dec 28: Closed / Dec 31: 8:45am-4pm / Jan 1: Closed

### PROJECT ADVANCE

Our pledges to date are \$130,802 or 65% of our parish goal. You have until Dec 31 to make your donation in order to claim the 2015 tax credit. 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](http://www.rcav.org/giving). Please give generously!

### 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](http://www.stmary.bc.ca).

### FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

Knights of Columbus, with the help of other ministries, will be hosting fundraising breakfasts after the 8am, 9:30am, and 11:15am Masses on Sunday Jan.10, Feb.7, Mar.6, in the Church basement. Proceeds to the Parish Building Fund.

### 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 Oct 15, 2016. There will be an information session on Jan 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](mailto: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.

## PARISH NEWS



*The Pastors and Staff of St. Mary's  
wish you a Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### CANADA CHINESE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Live video streaming of the Canada Chinese Catholic Conference held in Toronto will broadcast to host sites throughout North America on Saturday Jan. 2 from 10am-2:30pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Vancouver. Language: Cantonese. Free Admission. For more info, contact [davidchow@fll.cc](mailto:davidchow@fll.cc) or contact 604-781-0182.

### VANCOUVER COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Vancouver College, a K-12 Catholic school for boys established by the Christian Brothers in 1922, is holding its annual Open House for prospective students and families on Tuesday, January 12 from 6:30-8:30pm.

### SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FOR MEN

Join us for a silent retreat open to men 16 and older on the Ignatian Exercises from Friday Jan 29 to Sunday Jan 31, at Westminster Abbey, Mission. Space is limited so register early at [adultfaith@stannsabbotsford.ca](mailto:adultfaith@stannsabbotsford.ca).