

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY MAR 20: PASSION SUNDAY

1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
1:00pm SFC–YFL (Rectory dining)

MONDAY MAR 21:

6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)

TUESDAY MAR 22:

7:00pm **PENITENTIAL SERVICE** (Church)
7:00pm Apologetics (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory basement)
7:00pm CWL (Seminar Room)

WEDNESDAY MAR 23:

7:00pm **Mass** (Church) **NO ADORATION OR CONFESSION**
8:00pm Vigil Rehearsal (Church)

THURSDAY MAR 24: HOLY THURSDAY

5:00pm Mass (Church)
7:30pm Mass (Church)

FRIDAY MAR 25: GOOD FRIDAY

3:00pm Liturgy of the Word (Church)
3:00pm Liturgy of the Word (School Gym)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00pm Liturgy of the Word (Church)

SATURDAY MAR 26: HOLY SATURDAY

9:15am DNA Men's Discipleship Group (Rectory basement)
10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Seminar Room)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
8:30pm Easter Vigil (Church)

SUNDAY MAR 27: RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:00am Mass (Church)
9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church & Live Stream in Church basement)
1:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
3:00pm Mass (Church & Love Stream in Church basement)
5:00pm Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass (Church)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday: 7-9pm
Thursday: 4:15-5pm, 6:45-7:15pm, 8:40-10pm
Friday: 10am-2:30pm, 4:30-10pm
Saturday: 3-6pm
Sunday: NO CONFESSIONS

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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MAR 20, 2016

**Pastor's
Corner**

WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

As we read the Passion of Christ, we may ask, "Why so much suffering?" Was it necessary? Throughout the ages, misguided Christians have believed that it was the sufferings of Christ that saved us, and therefore, have believed that suffering is good in itself. Even worse, many have believed that suffering is the price we pay in order to be saved, or that suffering is the punishment from God that we have to endure in order to merit heaven.

On the other hand, some Christians have believed that love even without self-renunciation, can save. But we know, don't we, that love can grow only when we prefer the beloved to ourselves, at the expense of our life, our freedom, our comfort. Mothers and fathers know that, don't they? And because in God, Love is infinite, it required total forgetfulness of self. Christ gave up His life out of love for us. "Only when someone values love more highly than life, that is, only where someone is ready to put life second to love, for the sake of love, can love be stronger and more than death." (Pope Benedict XVI)

Then we cannot choose love without suffering, in this world— but not in the next, where perfect love won't imply suffering.) It is not suffering that saves. "Christ does not suffer because suffering is in itself a value, but because love without restraint required suffering...[in this world.] We are saved not by the physical death of Jesus but by the absoluteness of a love which did not count death too high a price." (Anthony Padovano)

We intuit a mysterious correspondence between love, suffering unto death and salvation. It will be easier to understand it if we expand the meaning of suffering from "undergoing pain" to include "the willing activation of our capacity to love, physically, emotionally, spiritually" when confronted with the beloved's refusal to love back. It is our

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

refusal to be loved by Him, and to love Him back, that "forces" Christ to express His love unto death, not letting go of us even as we fiercely reject Him.

This is evident everywhere in the Passion of Christ according to Luke. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Christ continued to love us despite our refusals of His love, assuming the pain of our refusals and substituting Himself in the place of our refusals. He continued to love us through the denial of Peter, the slothful sleep of the three disciples at the Agony, the mockeries of the priests and Pharisees, the hatred of the Roman soldiers, the rejection of the crowds who preferred Barrabas to Him.

But all this extravagant and heroic love would not save us, if it were not to be surrendered to the Father by Jesus Himself...and received by the Father Himself. Just before dying, Jesus shares in our anxiety, from fear of falling into nothingness, but still believes that He is "being held" totally by the Father. "Into your hands I commend my soul." When we become a disciple of Jesus, we are called to love others as He loved us, with His own love, despite refusals.

Have a blessed Holy Week, Fr. Pierre



PARISH NEWS



HOLY WEEK

**FOR MASS AND CONFESSION TIMES
SEE BULLETIN CALENDAR**

REMINDERS FOR HOLY WEEK

Wednesday evening: No Adoration or Confession
Holy Thursday: No 8am Mass; Adoration 8:30pm-10pm
Good Friday: No 8am Mass, Veneration 4pm-10pm
Holy Saturday: No Masses other than Vigil at 8:30pm

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

On Tuesday Mar 22 at 7pm, we will have 8 priests available to hear confessions, please make use of this opportunity!

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!

On Good Friday we are offering an additional service at 7pm. On Easter Sunday there will be video live streamed from the Church to the Church basement for overflow, at 11:15am and 3pm.

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD BIBLE STUDY

There is no session on Wednesday March 23. Bible Study will resume on March 30.

SPARK (GR.6-8) – WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

How is your Lenten journey so far? Is this year the same, better or worse than the past years? Let us reflect on the beauty of Lent on Monday Mar 21 from 6:30-8:15pm in the Church basement. Invite your friends to meet Christ this season!

SINGERS NEEDED

St. Mary's Street Ministry is seeking singers to sing parts in Taize chants during Adoration to pray for street people and for an end to sex trafficking, every 4th Saturday of the month. Singers must commit to practice every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm, audition required. If interested, please email mmoy_ca@yahoo.com.

PARISH NEWS

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

The Holy Spirit, our Helper and Advocate, leads us to a victorious life in Jesus! Experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life! Come to the Life in the Spirit Seminar on Tuesday evenings from March 29 to May 17, 7:30-9pm in the Church basement (use Euclid St. entrance). To register, visit <https://LSS2016.eventbrite.ca> or contact missionablazestmary@gmail.com, Edna 778-689-7775, Mita 604-435-7561, or Riz 604 782-8094. Childminding is available.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Our Project Advance committee is calling on volunteers to assist in the 2016 campaign. Volunteer cards are available in the church foyer; please return cards by Mar 28. There will be an information and training meeting on April 6 at 6pm in the Rectory Dining Room.

HANDS OF VERONICA

Volunteers are needed to help with monthly Mass at three care homes: Willingdon, St. Michael's and Fair Haven, all located in the Metrotown area of Burnaby. Our most urgent need is for people to help gather the residents for Mass on a Wednesday morning or afternoon once a month, and help return them to their rooms. Most need assistance with walking or are in wheelchairs. If you can help please contact Barry at 604-327-5425 or email bardes36@gmail.com.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

This is a retreat in daily life for persons who wish to grow spiritually. For more info and to register: contact Jesuit Spirituality Apostolate of Vancouver coordinator@jsav.ca or 778-806-4378. Applications accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited and application deadline is Mar 31. This program is held in 2 Parts from 2016 -2017 (May-mid-June & October to end of April). The registration fee is \$100 for Parts 1 & 2 (bursaries available).

VOCATION LIVE IN FOR MEN

On the weekend of Apr 8-10, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission. For more information call 604-826-8715.