

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY DEC 11: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Rectory Dining)
1:00pm Light of Jesus (Rectory Dining)
4:00pm Singles for Christ (Seminar Room)
5:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)

MONDAY DEC 12: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

5:00pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:30pm Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

TUESDAY DEC 13: ST. LUCY

6:00pm Baptism Preparation (Church)
6:45pm PREP Parents (Seminar Room)
7:00pm Spanish Rosary (Church Children's Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm MVA (Rectory Living Room)
7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church)

WEDNESDAY DEC 14: ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

9:30am School Mass (Church)
6:45pm PREP Parents (Seminar Room)
6:45pm Bible Study (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 15

6:30pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement Library)
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 16

5:00pm Youth Ministry (School Gym)
6:00pm PREP (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 17

9:00am Mysteria Lucis Lay Dominicans (Rectory Basement)
10:00am Youth Ministry (School Gym)
12:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
1:00pm CFC Youth (School Gym)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Living Room)
6:00pm Cancer Support Group (Rectory Living Room)

SUNDAY DEC 18

12:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
5:00pm 3PM Choir (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 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 of the Blessed Sacrament 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 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 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

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz E-mail: prep.smarv@rcav.org
Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30-8pm / Teen Prep Wednesdays only

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

PASTORS & STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. (ext. 6)

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, O.P. (ext. 3)

Assistant to the Pastors: Theresa De Ocampo (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: Marianne Peraro (ext. 0)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday: 8:45am to 5pm

Ph:604-435-9611 Email:parish.smarv@rcav.org Web:www.stmarysvancouver.ca



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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DEC 11, 2016

Pastor's Corner

BIRTHPANGS

We are into the period of seasonal depression. It won't last more than a few months (!!) but it can trigger, for many, a more serious discouragement. How can our Christian faith help us? What can we do? How can we pray about it?

Biblical wisdom invites us to see the bigger picture of God's plan for the world and for each one of us. This will allow us to read the events of our lives, good or bad, joyful or mournful, in a different way. Here is the bad way of reading the events of your life and of the world. Schopenhauer, the tragic philosopher describes the human journey of life this way. A man is on a raft drifting down the fast flowing waters of a river. He is frantically trying to avoid all the rocks on his random path in order not to be thrown into the river and die. He cannot bring his raft to a safe haven on the shore. Even if he manages to stay on the raft, sooner or later, he will go over the waterfall and die! For this man, and for many people today, life is that uncontrollable journey towards death, the ultimate defeat. We can ward off some obstacles but not for long.

Our faith calls us to read our lives differently. For us, even the bad things, the desert time, the dark times, can lead to the ultimate victory over death with the grace of Christ. We read these dark, desert times as a time of gestation. We are like the seed buried in the soil by the Gardener, God. It's winter, but the rain and the snow prepare a desert to bloom in the springtime. When you live these desert moments with Christ, you are growing spiritually at a level too deep to be perceived or felt. You may not see the sprouts, the fruits, now. But hang on, be patient like the Farmer.

Will you feel joy again in this life? The joy and peace of Christ! But keep holding His hand and walk with Him. A soldier during World War II asked Winston Churchill what to do when you are going through hell. Churchill answered, "Keep walking!" Indeed, if you stop, you will remain in hell!

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

How to pray about it? Ask the Lord daily: Open my eyes, that I may see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more closely (Ignatius of Loyola). Open my ears that I may receive Your guidance. Free me from that paralyzing fear, anxiety, self-reproach, and sloth. And I will live again in Your joy.

Rejoice always in the Lord!

God bless you, Fr. Pierre



PARISH NEWS

SPARK (GR.6-8) - CHRISTMAS BREAK

The last 2016 Spark activity is on Dec 12 - outdoor trip to Burnaby Village Museum. Registration is now closed. There are no events on Dec 19 & 26. The next event is on Jan 30.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

We are inviting all 4-11 year old children to come join us for the Liturgy of the Word for Children during the 11:15am mass starting on Dec 11. We request all parents to encourage their children to attend and understand the Word of God.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT ADVANCE TEAM

To intensify efforts to reach our parish goal, volunteers will again be available to collect pledges or process donations by debit or credit cards AFTER all masses until Dec 18. You can also donate online at www.projectadvance.ca. You have until end of Dec to make your donations in order to claim the 2015 tax credit. We trust that with your generosity, we will be able to receive rebates back to our parish for our development project. Thank you for everyone's continued support and participation.

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us ready our hearts for the coming of the Saviour. Come to the Advent Penitential Service on Tuesday, Dec 20 at 7pm, where ten priests will be available to hear Confessions. To find Advent Penitential Services in other parishes, see the poster on the board in the foyer or visit <http://rcav.org/advent-penitential-services/>

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

There will be a Mass on December 12 Monday at 7:30pm in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After Mass, we will pray the Holy Rosary remembering the mysteries of Guadalupe.

SIMBANG GABI (MASS AT DAWN)

It's that time of year again! Join SIMBANG GABI or MASS AT DAWN for 9 consecutive days, with Archbishop Miller celebrating on Dec 16. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the Masses, please sign up your name and phone # in the foyer. Thank you! See you on Dec 16 to 24 at 6am.

THE ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. Please pick one or more angelic gift tags from the tree in the foyer. One tag represents your commitment to bring a gift/s for one child aged 5 to 16 years old. No baby or toddler items please. Please bring and place the unwrapped gifts under the tree on Dec 10&11 and Dec 17&18. We will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you again for your help.

WARMTH FOR THE HOMELESS

St. Mary's Street Ministry is requesting donations of brand-new men's socks, scarves, thermal wear, gloves and hats for the homeless. Kindly put your donation in the bin in the foyer. Thank you for your generosity!

2017 ENVELOPES

The 2017 envelopes are ready for pick up in the Church basement. Envelopes are filed by last name. If any information on your envelopes is incorrect, please fill out the appropriate forms found in the Church basement with any corrections. To prevent inaccuracy in recording your donations, please use the right envelopes for the right year, e.g. use 2016 envelopes for 2016, and 2017 envelopes for 2017.

PARISH NEWS

BIBLE STUDY – MOVIE NIGHT

To help us grow in the virtue of **Chastity and** overcome the vice of **Lust**, join us on Wednesday, Dec 14, in watching a movie on the life of **St. Augustine**, the icon of conversion from sin to sanctity. The movie starts at 6:45pm in the church basement. Admission is free.

SPIRITUAL READING FOR ADVENT

To augment your spiritual reading for Advent, the parish library is open on Dec 11 & 18 after the 8am and 9:30 Masses, and on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.

PROJECT CANA

Two Hearts, One Love. Two Promises, One Covenant. Two lives made one in Christ. On Saturday Oct 15, 2016 St. Mary's hosted a convalidation ceremony for 15 couples, the largest ever in our archdiocese. The Project Cana committee is grateful for the support and service of these ministries: CWL, KofC, CFC, LOJ, Flower Min, Music Min, Lectors, and Altar Servers for making the celebration a tremendous success! Looking forward to the next set of convalidations in February 2017!

Advent Penitential Service
Dec 20 Tuesday 7pm
10 priests available for Confessions

Christmas
Dec 24 Saturday
5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Dec 25 Sunday
9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm(Tagalog), 5pm

New Year
Dec 31 Saturday
5pm, 11pm
Eucharistic Adoration At 10pm
Jan 1 Sunday
9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm(Tagalog), 5pm

