

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### **SUNDAY DEC 18**

12:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)  
5:00pm 3PM Choir (Church Basement)

### **MONDAY DEC 19**

5:00pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)

### **TUESDAY DEC 20**

6:30pm CWL (Seminar Room)  
7:00pm **ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE** (Church)  
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 21: ST. PETER CANISIUS**

6:45pm Bible Study (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **THURSDAY DEC 22**

6:30pm Knights of Columbus (Rectory Basement)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **FRIDAY DEC 23: ST. JOHN OF KANTY**

7:00pm Holy Trinity Community (Rectory Living Room)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **SATURDAY DEC 24**

9:00am Street Ministry (Rectory Basement)  
10:00am Youth Ministry (School Gym)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Living Room)

### **SUNDAY DEC 25: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**



And the  
**WORD**  
became flesh  
and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth;  
we have beheld his  
glory, glory as of the  
only **Son from the**  
**Father.**

- John 1:14

## 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 Chadarevian, O.P. (ext. 6)

**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

5251 Joyce Street

Vancouver BC V5R 4G8

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email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysvancouver

DEC 18, 2016

### **Pastor's Corner**

### **DREAM BIG**

Have you ever been in a difficult situation where you can't see any positive issue every which way you look at the dilemma you were facing, a situation where nothing would seem to be good, such as loss of a job, loss of your reputation, shattering of your plans for your future retirement, etc.?

Joseph, when publicly engaged to Mary, found himself in a similar situation when he discovered that Mary was pregnant and he wasn't the father. The law of the old covenant (before Christ) required that he divorce her publicly. She could have been stoned to death. Yet he still loved her very much. He thought of dismissing her quietly so she could escape the stoning and maybe pursue her life with the adulterous natural father of the child. He thought of saving her at the expense of his own reputation.

Maybe Joseph thought for a moment that Mary had been raped. But if that would have been the case, then Mary would have told him. Mary's silence was a torture for Joseph. And for Mary who also could not explain the action of God to Joseph. She believed that God himself would give him the grace of understanding the whole situation. But until that grace, that revelation from an angel in a dream, all the plans of Joseph were shattered. He thought he could never espouse Mary.

I have had this experience in my ministry of having a couple who cancelled their wedding less than a month before the wedding date. The gifts had to be returned; the fiancée had to explain to the guests what was happening. There were a lot of sadness, shame and guilt.

On top of this similar experience, Joseph also had to suffer a spiritual trauma. "Why did God allow this? Why is this happening to me?" Because of his intimate relationship with God, these painful questions were all the more intense for him.

But Joseph received the message of the Angel with an open heart, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

Pastor's Corner Continued...

for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and YOU are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Immediately Joseph did as the angel commanded him; he took Mary as his wife.

Joseph was able, with the grace of God, to expand his mind and his will so as to take in the mind and will of God. He hoped beyond what he could see and feel. He could have chosen to say, "No, this is too good to be true. Mary, the Mother of God, and me, the adopted father of the Son of God! No way! Impossible!"

Are you willing to expand your horizons, renounce your former plans and accept the greater plans of God for you? God has big dreams for you, to transform you into the likeness of His Son. Will you accept the challenge?

**God bless you, Fr. Pierre**

**Advent Penitential Service**

Dec 20 Tuesday 7pm  
10 priests available for Confessions

**Simbang-Gabi (Mass at Dawn)**

Dec 16 to Dec 24  
6 am

**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



**PARISH NEWS**

**SPARK (GR.6-8) - CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BREAK**

There are no Spark events from Dec 19 to Jan 23. The next event is on Jan 30. Have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

**PARISH NEWS**

**TO ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

Please pick up your copy of the January and February schedule at the Lector's room. Thank you.

**HEALING PRAYERS**

There will not be Healing Prayer teams from Dec 19 – Dec 30. The regular Wednesday and Friday evening Healing Prayers in the church will resume on January 4.

**BIBLE STUDY – MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us on Wednesday, Dec 21, in watching Part II of the movie on the life of **St. Augustine of Hippo**, the icon of conversion from sin to sanctity. The movie starts at 6:45pm in the church basement. Admission is free.

**EVANGELIZING IN ASIA**

Come join us in our Mission Ablaze prayer meeting on Tuesday Jan 3 at 7:30pm in the church basement for a talk by Tricia Bollo, a Foreign Lay Missionary, on her experience of Evangelizing in Asia. As usual, there will be Praise and Worship as well as a brief healing prayer ministry.

**PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP**

We usually portray Mary as a gentle and devout Mother; she is actually a strong warrior. With the power from her Son, she shows us the effective way of fighting evil. Do you want to know more about the role of Mary in dealing with all forms of the spiritual warfare? Come and join us on Saturday, Jan 7 at 9:30am.

**PROJECT ADVANCE**

We are making progress! Project Advance collections total is now at \$125,625. Thank you for your generosity! For those who have yet to participate, Dec 18 is the last weekend this year where volunteers will be available to collect pledges or process donations by debit or credit cards after each Mass. You may also donate online at [www.projectadvance.ca](http://www.projectadvance.ca) or drop off envelopes (please mark them for "Project Advance") in the Sunday collection basket. You have until end of Dec to make your donations in order to claim the 2015 tax credit. We trust that with your continued support and participation, there will be more rebates flowing back to our parish to be used in our building project. Thank you everyone!

**PARISH NEWS**

**2017 ENVELOPES**

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.

**KINDERGARTEN 2017-2018**

St. Mary's School is currently accepting Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Children must be turning 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2017 to be eligible. Application forms can be downloaded from our website [www.stmary.bc.ca](http://www.stmary.bc.ca) or picked at the school office between 8:30-4:00 on or after January 3<sup>rd</sup>. St. Mary's School offers your child a high quality education program in a faith-based environment.

**ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER IS NOW HIRING**

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is looking for candidates with a background in administrative support and familiarity with project management tools and principles, to support the Ministries and Outreach offices. Visit [rcav.org](http://rcav.org) for more details.

**BURSARIES FROM CHABC**

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2017 graduating students who are enrolled in Catholic secondary schools, or who are members of BC or Yukon parishes and enrolled in public secondary schools, or who are home-schooled. For further details, see poster in the church foyer.

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL MASS FOR LIFE**

Join us as we celebrate life on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m. Reception to follow in Holy Rosary Hall (donation of finger foods appreciated). *"May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end."*