



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
Corner

January 10, 2010

**"JESUS LET HIMSELF BE BAPTIZED
 WITH ALL THE PEOPLE"**

This verse from today's Gospel contains a profound mystery. John the Baptist was administering a baptism of repentance. Jesus lined up with those who were asking forgiveness for their own sins. It is as if Jesus was lining up for the confessional! Already, in his first public act, he wanted to make known that he stood alongside all sinners.

But, he has not committed any sin. So is he playing a comedy? Is he putting on a show? Absolutely not! Without sinning, he has assumed the consequences of all our sins, he has tied himself to us with the unbreakable bond of living solidarity. Whatever must happen to us as a consequence of our sins, must happen to him. In his flesh, he absorbs the evil of our sins and releases his pure Blood, his pure Life for us through the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.

He does not wish to burden his own (ourselves) with anything he has not also gone through" (Cardinal Balthasar). He took on himself our guilt. According to Fr. Elias Vella, a famous exorcist from Malta, he even took upon himself the **feeling** of guilt, so that we may be free from any **false** guilt. St. Paul said that, "Christ was made sin for us" that, "He took our condemnation and nailed it to the cross".

This process is symbolically and actually expressed in his baptism from the hands of John. It will continue with the struggle against temptations and will be accomplished at Pentecost. We have a part in it through faith and sacraments. But we need to say yes to Christ. We need to really give him our burden of guilt and sins, of sadness and despair. We also need to face every temptation with him.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. (Hebrews 4:15)

Let us beg the Father to make us one with Christ, as Christ made Himself one with us. God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

There will be a "Talk and Q&A" here at St. Mary's Church Basement regarding Dominican spirituality. For those of you who want to know what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the footsteps of St. Dominic, come and join the Dominicans on **Sunday January 10, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.**

JR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6-8) – LIFT UP YOUR HANDS

What's lighter than air, faster than a bullet and stronger than an army? Solve the riddle and win a prize at the Jr. Youth Ministry event. If you want to know the answer come and join us on **Monday, January 11 at 6:30pm in the Church Basement.** Bring a friend if you can



ATTENTION ALL LADIES!!

On **Saturday, January 23, 2010** St. Mary's Catholic Women's League is offering a one day spiritual retreat entitled "I will seduce her and lead her into the wilderness, and there I will speak tenderly to her" Hosea 2:14. **The retreat deals with questions of prayer, discernment and God's will for our busy lives.** The retreat will be given by Father John McCarthy, SJ. Fr. John is a Jesuit priest and chaplain of UBC, Corpus Christi and St. Mark's College. The retreat will be held at St. Mark's College. Transportation provided by St. Mary's school bus. Pick up and drop off will be in the church parking lot (details to follow). The fee for the retreat is **\$20.00.** Please bring your own bag lunch. If you wish to attend or would like further information, please contact vesnajankovic@shaw.ca.

MARRIAGE CAN BE GREAT, NO REALLY!

Learn to enhance your marriage or future marriage in a FUN and RELAXED setting. It is never too late (or too early) to get some practical tips on how to relate more effectively with your spouse. No group sharing is required. Individuals are also welcome to attend on their own. Topics include: Attitude, Peace with the Past, Listening, Dating & Sense of Humour, Forgiveness and more. **This marriage workshop will take place here at St. Mary's on Tuesday February 2 at 7:00pm.** (A workshop is available at St. Ann's in Abbotsford on April 27). The cost is \$20 per person. Individuals must **pre-register/pre-pay at least one week** before the seminar. More info at www.denisboyd.com

PARISH NEWS

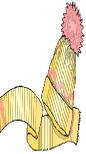
PARISH LIBRARY -- WE'RE OPEN TO SERVE YOU

We are open today after all masses (except Sunday at 7:00pm). If you have been away for a while, or especially if you have never had a chance to come and visit us, please come and see us in the church basement.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY AND ST MARY'S STREET MINISTRY

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society and Street Ministry groups would like to thank all the parishioners of St. Mary's for contributing to their efforts over the past year. Special thanks is given in particular for the candy drives, the giving tree and sock drives, all of which were great successes. We were able to brighten up Christmas morning for a number of under-privileged families with children as well as to assist other charitable organizations like The Christmas Bureau, with the toys collected from the giving tree. The socks, mitts, toques and candy contributions were overwhelming as we are still giving them out. We thank you again on behalf of the poor. God Bless you for your generosity.



2010 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

THANK YOU to all who have picked up and are now using your 2010 Sunday envelopes. Some of you could not find a box in the church basement and requested one by signing up on the blue form. If this was the case for you, then a box would now be assigned to you and **placed upstairs, in the foyer.** If you signed up and still cannot find your box please call the parish office to notify us and we will figure out why you cannot find it. **PLEASE,** if you have not checked downstairs for your 2010 envelopes, do so today. We are still receiving envelopes with a 2009 date. Avoid doing this by picking up your new one.

STILL LOOKING FOR A RESOLUTION TO MAKE??

Did you forget to make a New Year's resolution this year? Or, did you make one and it has fallen by the wayside already? How about resolving to do something that will make you feel good to do, and will benefit your church community at the same time. Many of our church ministries are in real need of volunteers to help them out. A ministry booklet is available at the registration desk that lists all of our ministries and how to contact them. So, please consider volunteering your time this year. Our Hands of Veronica Ministry is one group especially in need at this time.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Notre Dame Annual Open House will be on **Thursday, January 14 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. All Grade 7 students are welcome and they will be able to register for the Placement Exam that will be held on Saturday January 16th at 9:00am. The poster in the foyer explains some of the highlights.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE WORKSHOP

This **Share Lent Workshop** will prepare parish members to carry out Development & Peace's 2010 fundraising campaign. The workshop will focus on Catholic Social Teachings with specific reference to the new encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*. The workshop will be held at Holy Trinity Parish (2725 Lonsdale Avenue, North Van) on Saturday, January 16 from 9:30am-4:30pm. Mass will follow at 5:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to john.gabor@devp.org.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT ANNIVERSARY

Join us as we celebrate the **17th Anniversary of the Life in the Spirit Seminar** in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. On **January 29, mass will begin at 7:30pm at Immaculate Conception Parish in Delta where Bishop David Monroe of Kamloops** will be the main celebrant and will be joined by ten other priests from the diocese as concelebrants. Reception and fellowship will follow at the Parish Center. You are all invited to join us in this Thanksgiving Mass for all the graces and blessings poured upon us through this seminar. For more information, please call 604-597-8227.

RETOUVAILLE—A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES

Marriage Help -- Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on April 30, 2010, call 604-530-6710, visit the web at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or e-mail 1009@retrouvaille.org.

BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2010 graduating students enrolled in a Catholic secondary school, or who are a member of a BC or Yukon parish and enrolled in a public secondary school, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500 word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of Spirituality in Health Care. Submissions must be received on or before **March 12, 2010**. For further details, please refer to the poster on display in the vestibule of the church, or check the CHABC website at www.chabc.bc.ca under upcoming events.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 10:** 2:00pm Light of Jesus Ministry (School Gym)
7:00pm Dominican Spirituality (Church Bsmt)
- Mon. Jan. 11:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:00pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:00pm Charismatic Core Group (Rectory Bsmt)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living)
- Tue. Jan. 12:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm Tues Gr. 2 Prep Parents (Seminar Room)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Jan. 13:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
6:30pm PREP (School)
6:30pm Wed Gr. 2 Prep /School Gr. 2 Parents(Gym)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Thu. Jan. 14:** 7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Fri. Jan. 15:** 9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study(Rec.Dining)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
5:00pm Eucharistic Apostolate (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Sat. Jan. 16:** 12:40pm Quick Journey Through the Bible (Ch Bsmt)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
7:30pm Charismatic Eucharistic Adoration & Intercession (Church)
- Sun. Jan. 17:** 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSSES:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday., Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm is **Anticipation Mass**
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Adoration Throughout the day after 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm

E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (Principal) Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312 Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon