



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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February 7, 2010

IT TAKES THREE TO MAKE A MARRIAGE

Pastor's Corner

It takes a woman, a man and Christ to get married in the church. Each of them say **YES!** to a sacred covenant. The yes of Christ seals the human contract within the divine covenant between Christ and His church. The powerful and intimate love that unites Christ to His church as Bridegroom and Bride is at work in the human love between a husband and wife married in the church.

In other words, the husband can “*borrow*” Christ’s heart to love his wife with; and so the wife to love her husband– and to forgive one another. This is very timely. Marriage is so difficult in our modern Canadian culture; possibly more difficult than anywhere else in the world! We do need all the help that is out there, don’t we? When love and forgiveness seem impossible, we pray to Christ that the Love and Forgiveness that was in His heart on the cross, when He said “Forgive them Father...” we pray that this Love and Forgiveness may come down from the cross to our hearts, so that we may forgive and love in Him, through Him, with Him. At times, you will feel that it is Christ Himself who begs you to *borrow* your human heart, your hands, your lips to love and forgive your spouse. What dignity God is giving you when He begs your permission to love and forgive your spouse through you. This is something I have experienced in giving the sacrament of Reconciliation. A similar joy is waiting for you in married life...

But, all this is not magical or automatic. You need to will it! You need to rekindle the grace that you have received on the day of your church wedding. Sin, selfishness and discouragement can extinguish the flame of love. Rekindle the flame by praying for one another, by praying together often. Beg Christ to rekindle the flame of this precious sacrament!

When I was baptized in the Spirit in May 2004, I begged the Lord to rekindle the grace of my priesthood; and He did!

(Pastor’s corner ... con’t)

You are witnesses to that! God can renew your marriage as well as he renewed my priesthood!

Now, there are times when marriage fails. You cannot say “yes” for your spouse. You may have to “love for two” during a difficult time; but you may not be able to do it forever. God may give you permission to go your separate ways. Do not remain in a state of permanent abuse, shame or guilt. It takes one to forgive, but two to reconcile. You are at the mercy of your spouse, in a way. That risk, that surrender in marriage is beautiful, necessary...and at times scary! But God assumed the risk Himself. During the last few years, I have seen graces of reconciliation and growth in many couples. I have also observed many times that God can compensate the suffering of a broken marriage by giving amazing graces of joy and holiness to individuals who were betrayed and rejected by their spouses. Nothing will stop God from loving you and fulfilling His plan for you.

God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

MARRIAGE SERIES - VALENTINE'S MOVIE NIGHT

On **Saturday, February 13th at 7:00pm**, married couples are invited to this special Valentine's evening here at St. Mary's. This movie will surely save your marriage if it is almost or on FIRE now or will 'FIREPROOF' it if you are doing just right for now. As a special treat, **Fr. Pierre will administer the renewal of vows for married couples** and a 'special blessing' of Christian Marriage for everyone in attendance. The evening will conclude with a wine and cheese Remember- **THIS IS A FREE VALENTINE'S DATE** -why not?



MARRIAGE SERIES - BOOK SALE

Happy Valentine’s Day! Buy your spouse/fiancé a special gift to enrich your relationship. We will be selling books, pamphlets and CD’s on a variety of marriage topics at all masses on the week-end of **February 13/14**. We have a special deal on the international bestseller - *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Spouse*. Only \$13.00 (reg. \$16.99)

ST MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

On Thursday March 18, there will be a meeting at 7:00 pm in the church basement. This meeting is for new families who wish to enter St. Mary’s School in September 2010. You must attend to receive an information package because **they are not handed out from the school or parish office.**

PARISH NEWS

Jr. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6-8) – GAME SHOW

Jr. YM is having a Game Show Night. Come and enjoy your favourite games. This is also your last chance to win one of the 40 Olympic tickets. If you haven’t been to Jr. YM since Sept. then come and claim your raffle ticket, and if you have been with us before, bring someone who has never been so you can both get a raffle ticket to win an Olympic ticket. Music, games, pizza and a chance to go to the Olympics. Can you beat that? Join us Monday, February 8 at 6:30pm in the Church Basement.

OLYMPIC TICKET RAFFLE - Winning Number: 0312177

If you have the winner, please come to the parish office with your ticket on or before Feb 16th. If unclaimed there will be another draw on Feb 17 so hold on to your tickets until Feb 21.

MARRIAGE, FAMILY & LIFE MATTERS

Let All Be Rooted in Love, because God is Love - Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFCFFL), an international Catholic family life renewal ministry, will conduct a Christian Life Seminar here at St. Mary’s Church basement starting on **Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7 PM** and will run for the next 8 Saturdays at the same time and venue. The program is especially intended **for married couples, adult singles 19 years and above, widows & widowers, separated or divorced and those with a desire to develop a more mature and meaningful relationship with God in the context of a Christian community rooted in love.** There is no fee involved. The only investment required is your time and openness to God’s invitation. If you are interested please contact Jun & Fannie De Vera at 604-436-3628, Oscar & Riz Geronimo at 604-782-8094 or Nes & Kim Lopez at 604-936-1468.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Mass times are: 8 am, 5 pm and 7 pm. Due to crowding at the 7 pm Mass, we encourage as many people as possible to attend the earlier masses. PREP parents are reminded to pick up their children in the BACK parking lot after class on Ash Wednesday due to the Mass in the church. (The PREP celebration will be in the gym).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning on Friday February 19th, the first Friday of Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7pm and Adoration with Benediction at 9pm.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

PARISH ENVELOPES This is the last weekend to pick up your 2010 envelopes in the church basement. After that, you will have to claim them from the parish office during office hours. For new parishioners, your envelopes will be available for pick up at the registration desk in the church foyer.

PARISH LIBRARY

There will be books on love, marriage and lent available in the church foyer after all weekend masses (except the 7:00pm).

VOCATION LIVE-IN

On the weekend of **February 19-21** there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life. This will take place at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. For more information please call 604-826-8715.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on the 30th of April, 2010, email 1009@retrouvaille.org OR call 604-530-6710 OR visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

RETREAT

Attend the "Come and Rest a While" retreat, Feb. 27 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre. Cost \$30, includes lunch. Retreat Director: Abbot John Braganza. Call to register: Respect Life Office 604.683.0281. Deadline: Feb. 22.

LENTEN RETREAT

Discover how the mystics were awakened to the presence of Love, and how it was vividly reflected in their lives at this upcoming Lenten retreat. Lenten Retreat: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm on Mar. 6, \$68.00. Location: Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre, 3690 152 St. Surrey, BC. Register: (604) 272-4779.

LEARN TO PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Learn to pray for your loved ones at St. Luke's Parish, Maple Ridge for six consecutive Mondays from Feb 15 to Mar 2. Sessions are from 7pm-9pm. To register and for a participant's manual call 604-465-5383 or Vernon Robertson at 604-460-0114.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb 07:** 1:30pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Feb. 08:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Junior Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Feb. 09:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Prep Class (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Feb. 10:** 2:00pm Willingdon Mass (4435 Grange Street)
6:30pm PREP (School)
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. Feb. 11:** 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
8:00pm Lay Missionaries of Charity (Rectory Bsmt)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Fri. Feb. 12:** 9:00am Scripture & Coffee Bible Study (Rec.Dining)
10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Dev & Peace (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Sat. Feb.13:** 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
1:30pm Junior Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
1:30pm Couples for Christ- SFC(Rectory Library)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)
7:00pm Valentine's Movie Night(Church Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 14:** 1:00pm Handmaids (Seminar Room)
2:00pm Light of Jesus (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