



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5251 JOYCE STREET
 VANCOUVER , BC , V5R 4G8
 TEL: (604) 435-9611 FAX: (604) 439-9413
 EMAIL : stmarys@telus.net
 WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

March 14, 2010

Pastor's
Corner

GOD IS AFRAID OF LOSING YOU

Aren't we afraid to ask forgiveness? What if it brings about hurtful discussion, leading to a greater separation, a greater suffering? Sometimes we feel we are right not to bring the issue of mutual forgiveness because we know that the person who has offended us will use this opportunity to renew his offenses.

But God is never like that. He doesn't receive the prodigal son by a "Ha, I told you so", or by a "Don't ever do that again"! In fact, God loves us even when we stray— and to the point of going in search of us: *"The Father does not wait at home for the lost son, rather, he hurries to meet him and throws his arms around his neck. God's search for the lost does not mean that he does not know where the lost one is. Instead, it tells us that he searches to find which paths will be effective, which paths will permit the sinner to find his way back. This is God's "exertion", which expresses itself in the culminating risk of giving his Son for the lost world. If the Son descends into the most profound abandonment of sin, to the point of losing the Father [at the agony], then this is God exerting himself to the uttermost in his search for the lost. "When we were still sinners, God had mercy on us through the sacrifice of his Son". (Romans 5:8)*

This beautiful quote from Cardinal Balthasar takes on even more meaning when we are reminded that, far from scolding the sinner, God celebrates his return with utmost joy. God's response upon finding us is total joy— with no admixture of rebuke.

Will you give God joy? If you want to do so, here are three ways...First, you can be yourself, the most effective path for the sinner to find his way back to the Father. Don't be like the elder son, who tried to block the way between the Father and the Prodigal Son. Rather, be like the Father, enter into his

Pastor's Corner cont'd.

Second, you can give joy to the Father by renouncing the anger against him that prevents you from being intimate with him.

Thirdly, you can give joy to the Father by reconciling with your brother.

Have a joyful Lenten Season, Fr Pierre



PARISH NEWS

SR YOUTH MINISTRY (gr 8-12) – WEATHERING THE STORM

Did you ever doubt your faith? Is your faith authentic? Have you ever been through a time where God seemed distant and uninterested? What can we do when the storms of life hit us and it seems that we are standing all alone? Join the Sr. Youth Ministry as we reflect on the doubts that arise and how to be prepared for the storms that come! Join us on Monday, March 15 at 6:30pm in the Rectory Basement.



CAMP FLAME

This is a camp you won't want to miss out on. A camp for teens, by teens. Come and find out for yourself what all the buzz is about. Throughout this special weekend you will laugh, cry, yell, scream and pray. Come and form memories that will last a lifetime. Space is limited so if you are in high-school make sure to register before it's too late. Registration forms are available from the parish office or from the Youth Ministry Bulletin Board in the church foyer.



THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament. It builds on the foundation laid in the Old Testament to inaugurate the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Set in the rich context of Jesus' Jewish culture, this video study by Jeff Cavins will help you understand the universal truths of the Kingdom of God; it will help you understand more fully God's will for us today. We will meet for 24 Saturdays from March to Dec in the church basement, from 12:45pm to 3pm (after the Sat noon mass). The schedule is on the bulletin board in the church foyer. There will be a month-long break in July. Cost \$30. Signup sheets are in the church foyer or email stmarysbiblestudy@gmail.com.



PARISH NEWS

CATHOLIC FORUM

All are invited to attend the discussion and presentation by Archbishop Miller entitled, *"Christians Learn about God and from God"*. The forum will be held on Tuesday March 23 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at **St. Mary's Church**.

CWL BACKPACK PROJECT

Starting next week, the Catholic Women's League of Canada will kick start the Backpack project for the homeless. We'll be collecting **personal hygiene items (travel size)**; toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, soap, shampoo, shower gel, body lotion, toilet paper, tissue, comb, candies and granola bars. Please put items in the marked box in the foyer. The collection will run to April 18. If you would like to donate money, place it in an envelope in the collection, marked "CWL". Thank you!

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Will take place on April 24th and is sponsored by our Respect Life group to help women in distress. Your donations of goods (tools, books, dishes, toys, etc would be greatly appreciated, but **NO CLOTHING** please. Items may be dropped off in the large box in the church foyer starting this week.



SHAMROCK DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be accepting donations in aid of Seniors Housing after all masses in the church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

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 required, individuals are also welcome to attend on their own. Topics: Attitude, Peace with the Past, Listening, Dating & Sense of Humour, Forgiveness and more... Choose one of two options: Apr 27 at St Ann's Parish, Abbotsford (7:30pm to 10pm) or June 17 at St Augustine's Parish, Vancouver from 7pm to 10pm. Only \$20 per person. Please call 604-931-7211 to save your seat! You **MUST** pre-register/pre-pay at least one week before seminar date. Visit www.denisboyd.com for more info.



DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

PASTORAL CARE RETREAT

On April 21, Archbishop Miller will be leading a retreat, Sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of BC, for those who work or volunteer in the pastoral care health ministry. Parishioners who visit the sick or elderly in health care facilities and in their homes are encouraged to attend this half day session at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 315 Walker Street, Coquitlam. The Archbishop will be speaking on “*Spe Salvi*”, Pope Benedict’s encyclical on Christian hope. The retreat begins with mass at 9am and will adjourn at noon. Cost is \$25 per person. Deadline for registration is April 16. Registration forms are available by calling 604-524-3427 or at www.chabc.bc.ca under upcoming events.

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Join us on a 3 Day Lenten Pilgrimage to the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland, Oregon on March 20, 21 & 22. The price is Cdn \$278.00. Accompanying chaplain is Fr. Jun Reyes. For information or to make a reservation, contact Sampaguita Travel Bureau at (604) 874-9533, e-mail lenieptl@dccnet.com or call (604) 594-7296. Seats are limited.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Feeling stressed and need a break? How about a private weekend getaway for the two of you at a nice local resort in White Rock? Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend April 9-11. Call or email Steve & Mary 604-876-7298 or sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca.



PARISH MISSION

Sacred Heart Parish invites you to a Lenten Mission on “*God’s Love, Faithfulness and Prayer*”, led by Fr Obiwumma on March 22, 23 & 24 at 7:00pm at 3900 Arthur Dr, Delta.

LENTEN RETREAT

“*When God longs for you*” on March 17, 18 & 19 at 7pm, beginning with Mass at Guardian Angels Parish, 1161 Broughton Street, Vancouver (lots of free parking). Fr Rudolf D’Souza is the retreat master. For more info, please visit www.guardianangelsocd.org or call 604-684-5775.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

There is volunteer training on Mar 27, Apr 10, 17 & 24 at St. Augustine’s School (2145 W. 8th Ave, Van) 8:30am to 1:00pm. Reg deadline is Mar 19. For info & to register, call Domestic Abuse Services at 604-640-7549 or email das_olgs@telus.net.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Mar 14:** 2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Mar 15:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Sr Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Mar 16:** 6:30pm PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm CWL (Church Basement)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Mar 17:** 6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration /Confession (Church)
7:30pm Dev & Peace (Rectory Dining Room)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Thu. Mar 18:** 6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm New Parent Info Night (Church Basement)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Fri. Mar 19:** 9:00am Scripture & Coffee Bible Study (Rec.Dining)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00pm Mass/ Adoration /Confession (Church)
7:00pm Singles for Christ (Rectory Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Sat. Mar 20:** 9:30am Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
12:45pm Bible Study (Church Basement)
1:30pm Couples for Christ- SFC (School Gym)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining)
6:00pm CFC FFL (Church Basement)
7:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)
7:30pm ARC
Charismatic Renewal (Church)

Sun. Mar 21: 2:00pm St Mi-

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

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.

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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.saintmarysyoung.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.
Executive Assistant to Pastor: Vesna Jankovic
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu
Office Manager: Ossie Fernandes