



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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April 4, 2010

Pastor's
Corner

I BELIEVE!

For so many years, I was satisfied with a belief in a "symbolic" Resurrection! The belief that when you reach the bottom of the pit, you will go up again. The belief that every winter is followed by a spring. But I would not dare believe in an eternal Spring.

Many people still believe this way. They think religion is only there to give us more zest in life, to invite us to reach the maximum of our potential, to invite us to love again after our love has been rejected, to trust again after our trust has been betrayed. Yes, this is all true. But it is all absurd if there is no life after death. How God could demand total surrender from us and then let us die forever saying "Too bad, my friend, I can no longer do anything for you", or even worse "I don't care for you, now that you are just a dead piece of meat".

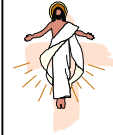
No, if the God of Jesus is real, He cares for us over and beyond death. As I write this paragraph, I remember my friend Robert Brekelmans who died one year ago. It was a bright sunny day when I "tried" to bless his grave. When they lowered his casket into the ground, the sadness I felt was unbearable. It was as if I were there in my own grave. How could God allow such a beautiful life to end so abruptly? Robert and I were the same age. He was about to retire in order to serve the Church full time for the rest of his life. He had come to a point where he could give back all that he had received and find meaning in bearing fruit that last.

But with all my heart, I believe that he is alive and bearing much fruit, even for this St. Mary's Parish. I believe he is alive, his very person, that he can remember his past on earth and foresee his eternity with us, when our mortal bodies of flesh will be transformed in the image and likeness of the Resurrected Christ. I believe this because Christ said it and did it! I believe this because his apostles testified about it at the price of their own blood.

Pastors corner cont'd...

Pastor's Corner continued...

I believe because of all the saints. I believe because of my grandmother, and because of all the holy persons God put in my life. I also believe because God is doing so many things in the lives of so many parishioners, and in my life also.



Not only do I believe, I long for that day, when we will be greeted by our infinitely beautiful and loving Father.

May you have a Joyful Easter, Fr Pierre

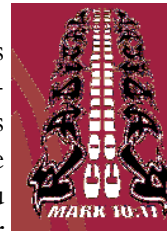
PARISH NEWS

SR. YOUTH MINISTRY (gr 8-12) – CHRISTOS ANESTI ALLELUIA!! CHRIST IS RISEN! And so what? What does that mean to you in your daily life? What if He had not risen? Would anything be different at all? Join the Sr. Youth Ministry as we discuss the mystery and the meaning of the Easter Miracle on Monday, April 5 at 6:30pm in the Rectory Basement. Warning: What you find out might change your life forever!



YOUTH DAY 2010 – MAY 7 & 8

I cannot believe a whole year has passed and it's time for Youth Day again. Yes, the highly anticipated, impatiently waited for event of the year is almost here. If you have been to Youth Day before then you know what I am talking about and if you have never been there before, well this is your chance. Team up with the St Mary's Sr. Youth Ministry (grades 8-12) who will be joining hundreds of teens for an awesome week-end of faith, fellowship, and fun! Register now with Arda by calling 604-435-9611 ext.6 or email stmarys_ym@yahoo.com. Early registration deadline is April 26 (you will get a free t-shirt). Don't miss this amazing weekend!



ABLAZE

St Mary's is introducing a new spiritual program recognizing the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Ablaze! is an invitation to connect with the Holy Spirit as a catalyst to serving Christ. This is an 8 week program held Thursdays from April 22-June 10, 7-9pm., featuring guest speakers, music, prayer and discussion to bring inspiration, identity and meaning to our personal lives. For ages 18 and up. Come experience Ablaze! Sessions will be held in the Church basement and attendance at all 8 sessions is required.

HAPPY EASTER



CHRIST IS RISEN

PARISH NEWS

NEW!!! WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Starting this Wednesday, April 7 and every Wednesday thereafter, we will meet at 6:00pm in the church to pray the Angelus, the Rosary and the Perpetual Help Novena. All are welcome.

CWL BACKPACK PROJECT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is 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.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR



The spring session of the Catholic Bible Seminar is being held at St. Paul's Parish Hall at 8251 St. Alban's Road, Richmond, on the weekend of Apr 9, 10, 11. The topic is "The Book of Isaiah", presented by well known biblical scholar, Fr Jim Nesbit. Registration fees are \$55 for adults or \$100 for couples. Special youth and daily fees available. Please pre-register as space is limited. For more info call 604-882-9205.

BIRTHRIGHT

Birthingright helps any girl or woman, regardless of age, race, creed, marital or economic status, who feels distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. At birthingright, a friend is waiting to listen without judgment, and to assist women in finding a loving alternative to abortion. If you would like more information, contact the Birthingright office at 604-687-7223 or www.birthingright.org.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

JEFF CAVINS COMING TO VANCOUVER

Jeff Cavins, a well-known Scripture teacher and creator of the Great Adventure Bible study, will facilitate an all day seminar on the Gospel of Matthew on May 8 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at St. Patrick's Parish. Jeff and his associate will also offer an informative and inspirational evening to parish Bible study leaders on Friday, May 7 at 7:00 pm, at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver. Information and registration at www.rcav.org/ore or call the Office of Religious Education at 604.683.0281.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

"Perseverance and Fidelity in the Meditation Journey", half day retreat of silent prayer, reflection, music and talk by Fr John Barry on Saturday April 17, 10am-2pm at St. Anthony's Church Hall, 2347 Inglewood Ave, West Vancouver. Bring a bag lunch, tea & coffee provided. Admission by donation.

SPRING INSTITUTE

Sponsored by the Office of Religious Education and the Youth Ministry Office and held at St. Patrick's High School, Vancouver. The institute is open to anyone interested in an experience of learning, community and spiritual growth. Pre-registration is required. For all course descriptions and registration, please visit our website at www.rcav.org/ore click on spring institute or call us at 604.683.0281.

FREEDOM TO LOVE CONFERENCE

CANCELED

MADONNA HOUSE

"Beauty and Sacred Art": Come discover the glory of our Church in and through her art and worship. Hosted by Madonna House and held in St. John the Apostle parish hall at 5457 Trafalgar St., Vancouver on Saturday, April 17 from 9:30am - 3:30pm. Lunch will be served. Please register by calling Madonna House at 604-267-1757 or e-mail madonna02@shaw.ca.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Apr 4: **EASTER SUNDAY** (regular mass times)
No confessions before or after masses

Mon. Apr 5: **EASTER MONDAY** (*Parish Office Closed*)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)

Tue. Apr 6: 6:30pm PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Knights of Columbus (School Gym)

Wed. Apr 7: 6:00pm Angelus / Rosary / Novena (Church)
6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration /Confession (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. Apr 8: 6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass/ Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Pastoral Council (Rectory Dining)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Fri. Apr 9: 7:00pm Mass/Adoration /Confession (Church)
7:00pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Singles for Christ (Rectory Basement)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Sat. Apr 10: 9:30am Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
12:00pm Light of Jesus (Rectory Dining)
12:45pm Bible Study (Church Basement)
1:30pm Couples for Christ- SFC (School Gym)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:00pm CFF FFL (Church Basement)
7:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)

Sun. Apr 11: 2:00pm CFC (Church Basement)
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)



PARISH INFORMATION

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: Monday - Friday: 8:00am
Weekday Morning Rosary 7:00am / Weekday Morning Lauds 7:30am
WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7pm

followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm

SATURDAY MASS: Our Lady's Mass 12:00noon

SUNDAY MASSES: Anticipated Mass Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am / 9:30am / 11:15am / 1:00pm / 5:00pm / 7:00pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursday: 8:00am & Saturday: 12:00noon

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning mass

CONFESSIONS:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm

Sunday: Before & After all Masses

An appointment for confession may be made through the parish office

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

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

MARRIAGES:

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

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 6:45pm / Friday 9:00am / Saturday 12:45pm

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

Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Coordinator: Eli Bautista 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

Principal: Ms Brenda Krivuzoff 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 / Saturday: 11:00am to 2:00pm

PASTORS & STAFF:

Pastor

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Executive Assistant to Pastor

Vesna Jankovic

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Youth Ministry & Volunteer Coordinator

Arda Akoglu