



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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CHRISTMAS 2010

Pastor's
Corner

FROM THE SWADDLING CLOTHES TO THE HOLY SHROUD

Mary wrapped her newborn Jesus in swaddling clothes. In many paintings of the Nativity, Jesus looks like a little mummy. It reminds me of Lazarus walking out of the tomb and Jesus saying, "Unbind him." It also reminds me of the clothes that wrapped Jesus' body in the tomb, the Holy Shroud. Right at His birth, God is telling us that He came to be wrapped with the swaddling clothes of our mortal human nature, that He came to be bound with all the limitations of our finite nature, from womb to tomb, with all that we fear, the failures, sicknesses, broken friendships, betrayals, and death.

Yes, the newborn Jesus, tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes evokes utter powerlessness. He lies in total contrast with the great Caesar Augustus, who ordered a census of all the world. To do a census was a way of controlling the people, numbering them in order to draft them for war or forced labours, or to tax them! Caesar Augustus, the most powerful man of the known world, stands in contrast with Jesus, the least powerful baby born of "unknown" parents, rejected in an unknown little village. In reality, baby Jesus is the most powerful one! He turned all our ideas about power upside down; or rather He puts everything back, the right side up! Sin has put everything upside down. The real freedom is not in the power to control people. God's freedom is in His willingness to be tied to the other in love. You are free and powerful when you are able to bind yourself to others in love.

Pastor's Corner Continued...

PARISH NEWS

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

December 31: 5:00pm, 11:30pm
January 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm
January 2: No 8:00am mass



Please note the New Year's mass times are also posted on the parish website, in the church foyer, on the glass windows outside the church, and on the parish phone recording, option 2.

PARISH OFFICE NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 3 for the New Year holiday.


WEEKDAY MORNING MASS

Morning mass on Monday, December 27 and Tuesday, December 28 will be at **10:00am** (not the usual 8:00am), due to the Christmas holidays.


WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER

There will be no weekday morning rosary or lauds from Monday, December 27 to Friday, December 31. Prayer will resume on Tuesday, January 4.

WEBSITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

 Our parish is updating its website and we want to make sure that it remains a dynamic and ever expanding tool of communication to help us achieve our Mission. The possibilities and opportunities are limited only by our imaginations. We are looking for parishioners with different skill sets who would like to be part of this exciting project, helping to steer our parish in the right direction on the information superhighway. Skills that may be beneficial are (but not limited to): good communication skills, creative writing, photography, graphic design, web-design, good visual skills and organizational skills. If you are interested please contact Arda at 604-435-9611 ext. 6 or at stmarys_ym@yahoo.com for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY – WINTER BREAK

 There will be no Youth Ministry events during the Christmas break. We will resume with a Jr. YM event on Monday, January 10. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COFFEE SERVICE

Coffee service will resume on the weekend of January 8/9.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTRE DAME OPEN HOUSE & PLACEMENT EXAM

The Open House will be held January 13 and the Placement Exam will be January 15 from 8:30am–Noon. More info at 604-255-5454 or www.ndrs.org.

ST. THOMAS MORE OPEN HOUSE & PLACEMENT EXAM

The Open House will be held January 18 at 6:30pm in the school gym. The evening is open to both parents and grade 7 students. The Placement Exam will be January 24 beginning at 1:30pm. In order to write this exam, parents must complete an application form which may be obtained from the STMC office during office hours, or download from the website at www.stmc.bc.ca.

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES HOSTING A DANCE

New Year's Eve Dance organized by St. Paul's Catholic Singles Club will be held at the Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere Street, Vancouver. Music by Euro Band. Doors open at 8:15 pm. Champagne at mid-night. Married couples and their friends are welcome. Tickets to be purchased by Dec. 28. Members \$40; guests \$45. For more details call Lina 604-433-0055.

THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

Theology of the Body: "*The human person, in the image and likeness of God,*" according to Pope John Paul II. Come and discover God's original design for us, our call to holiness, and our destiny with him in heaven. Fr. Alan Boisclair will present an 11-week course, starting Jan. 12 at St. Andrew's Parish, Vancouver, or Jan. 13 at Christ the Redeemer Parish, West Vancouver. The cost is \$50 if purchased on or before Jan. 2; price goes up to \$60 from Jan. 3, includes the textbook "Man and Woman, He Created Them—A Theology of the Body." Visit www.rcav.org/tob for more information.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

The Apostleship of the Sea asks you to provide a gift for our Seafarers who will be away from their loved ones. Enclose a Christmas card with your personal greeting. If you are unable to shop, cash donations will be accepted. Tax receipts will be issued for cash donations of \$10 and over. Past Sunday Missals of 2010 and Spiritual Calendars 2011 to the seafarers will be very much appreciated. Please address your gifts/donations to Rev. John Eason, Apostleship of the Sea and drop them off at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, 646 Richards St. or at 401 E. Waterfront St..

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Next, the Gospel tells us Mary laid Jesus in a manger, that is the place where the animals eat! God-made-man laid Himself as food for the world. Unlike Caesar Augustus, He is not there to be freed, but to be food.

Finally, the angel tells us not to be afraid. Why, because God is approachable. He came to stand with us in our fears and to help us conquer it. This baby is the warrior who has come to do His battle with the power of sin, who has come to do battle with all the things that frighten us. He came disguised as a little child wrapped in clothes on so that He might slip clandestinely behind the enemy's line, as C.S. Lewis said. Rejoice. In the tomb, the same Jesus slipped through the Holy Shroud, rolled the tombstone of the tomb and resurrected, clothed forever in our freed human nature.

Let us follow Him from womb to tomb to Resurrection. Let us tie ourselves to Him!

Merry Christmas! Father Pierre



THE PASTORS AND STAFF OF ST. MARY'S WISH YOU A MOST HOLY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Dec 26:** **Cancelled 8:00am MASS**
6:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)
- Mon. Dec 27:** **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
10:00am Mass (Church)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Dec 28:** **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
10:00am Mass (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
- Wed. Dec 29:** 6:00pm Novena Our Lady Perpetual Help (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Dec 30:** 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Dec 31:** **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
5:00pm Mass (Church)
10:30pm Adoration (Church)
11:30pm Mass (Church)
- Sat. Jan 1:** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
9:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory Dining)
9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church)
1:00pm Mass (Church)
- Sun. Jan 2:** **Cancelled 8:00am MASS**
1:00pm Youth For Christ (Church Basement)



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 PERPETUAL HELP:
Wednesday 6:00pm
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
Sunday 6:30pm (*Young Adult Bible Study*)
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: Erwin Mow E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca
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
Phone: (604) 437-1312 Fax: (604) 437-1193
PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Phone: (604) 435-9611 Fax: (604) 439-9413
PASTORS & STAFF:
Pastor Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.
Assistant Pastor Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.
Executive Assistant to Pastor Vesna Jankovic
Office Manager Ossie Fernandes
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator Arda Akoglu