



**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**Dec. 18, 2011**

**Pastor's  
 Corner**

**ARE YOU A GIVER OR A RECEIVER?**

Can you stand receiving more than you have given? I bet not! Do you feel guilty when your host gives you the best room and the best food in the house? Probably! King David, according to today's first reading in 2 Samuel 7, felt guilty of living in a palace while the ark of God stayed in a mere tent. He wanted to build a huge temple to "reward" God! But God said "No! You will not build me a house. I will build you a house! Your dynasty will last forever." The Lord wanted to give even more to King David. And he added, "Don't even try to pay me back. All that you have acquired in the past is really a gift from me."

We can contrast David with Mary. She is the one who was—and still is—the most able to receive the greatest gift without feeling guilty or unworthy! How can she? Simply because she is not self-centered, she is not preoccupied by her ego. She is totally open to God's grace, to the ultimate grace, the Holy Spirit. Therefore she let herself be raised, be carried up in God's bosom. This is holiness! Holiness is not wallowing in self-pity, in self-condemnation. It is to accept being taken up by God, in that same embrace by which He took up His beloved Son. The Lord said, "I will be a father to Him, and he shall be a son to me." (2 Samuel 7:14)

During Christmas, practice receiving with great joy and gratitude, humbly but shamelessly. By this, you will show to the donator that rejoicing in His goodness is more important than anything else. Open your heart as you open the gifts you will receive.

*God Bless you, Fr. Pierre*



*Wishing you a Blessed and Joyous  
 Christmas from the Pastors and Staff of  
 St. Mary's Parish!*

**PARISH NEWS**

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULES**

Dec 24: 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight

Dec 25: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm

Dec 31: 5:00pm, 11:30pm

Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5pm, 7pm

**SPARK (grades 6-8) – ARRIVED**



"Joy to the world the Lord has come!" Wait, why are we joyful and celebrating again? Is it because we're having a Spark event soon? No, it's something even better!!! Youth Ministry invites you for a joyful event on Monday, December 19 at 6:30pm in the Church basement as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! It's our last event of the year so don't miss out!

**TESTIMONIES**

We are working on our new parish website and we need your help! We want to inspire not only our own parishioners, but visitors and non-Catholics as well. So we would like to include a segment where we can share our testimonies of faith. We would love to have yours. Please submit your typed testimonies to the parish office for consideration at stmarys\_ym@yahoo.com. This is a great way to evangelize without ever leaving the comfort of your own home!



**PARISH NEWS**

**DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

- Dec 19 @ 7pm - St. Francis of Assisi (2025 Napier St., Van)
- Dec 20 @ 7pm - Our Lady of Sorrows (555 S. Slocan St., Van)
- Dec 20 @ 7pm - Corpus Christi (6350 Nanaimo St., Van)
- Dec 21 @ 7pm - Holy Cross (1450 Delta Ave., Bby)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm - St. Helen (3860 Triumph St., Bby)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm - St. Jude (3078 Renfrew St., Van)
- Dec 22 @ 7pm - St. Theresa (5146 Laurel St., Bby)



**SIMBANG GABI (ADVENT NOVENA MASSES)**

St. Mary's Parish will host an Advent Novena Mass on Tuesday, Dec 20 at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome. See the dramatization of Mary & Joseph's search for an inn (*Luke 2:7*) before Mass and enjoy the potluck "salu-salo" after. See poster in the foyer or visit [www.sambayanangpilipino.org](http://www.sambayanangpilipino.org).

**ONE VOICE: PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS**

Please join St. Mary's "Grace That Reigns" after Mass during the Adoration time on Thursday, December 29th, to pray for our priests. Everyone is welcome.

**2012 SUNDAY ENVELOPES**

The 2012 envelopes are now ready to be picked up from the Church basement; please do so as soon as possible. If your address has changed, please fill out the form at the envelope table or at the registration table.

**"GROWING THROUGH SUFFERING" SR. ANN SHIELDS**

Do not let your suffering be wasted. Come and listen to Sr. Ann Shields, an internationally noted speaker and author of many books, like *"Deeper Conversion"* and radio host of *"Food for the Journey."* This one day conference will be on Saturday, Jan 14, from 10am to 4:30pm at St. Mary's Church. Tickets \$10. Coffee & snacks are free; pls. bring bag lunch. Info: 604-435-9611 ext. 230 or 604-454-3143 or e-mail: [servant\\_ablaze2011@yahoo.ca](mailto:servant_ablaze2011@yahoo.ca).

**CHILD-MINDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

We are looking for volunteer assistants & supervisors to provide child-minding service at Sr. Ann Shields' retreat "Growth through Suffering" on Sat Jan 14 from 9am-4pm. Volunteer assistants must be 14 or older. Volunteer supervisors must be adults with experience in child-minding, and must go through a criminal record check. If you are interested, please email [mmoy\\_ca@yahoo.com](mailto:mmoy_ca@yahoo.com) or call 604-435-9611 (x230).

## DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT "THE DOOR IS OPEN"**

There is "room at the inn" for all who come to The Door is Open, thanks to generous donations. A gift of \$40 funds the drop-in centre for one hour, \$25 will buy coffee for an entire day of welcome and safe shelter, \$15 will help serve a sit-down lunch to the weekly seniors' group. Contributions may be sent to The Door is Open, 150 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2A7 or call: 604-443-3299 to charge your donation to a credit card. More info: visit [www.thedoorisopen.ca](http://www.thedoorisopen.ca)

### **DONATIONS TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES MEN'S HOSTEL**

The Catholic Charities Men's Hostel now with 102 beds provides a safe refuge for destitute men since its inception in winter of 1959. Donations of new socks, underwear, and other clothing items will greatly help these men who are in need. There is a small library that has free reading materials. The men at our shelter are also in need of more books. To donate please call the men's hostel at 604-443-3292 or e-mail [menshostel@rcav.org](mailto:menshostel@rcav.org)

### **SAME-SEX ATTRACTION**

If you or your child are struggling with same-sex attraction and want confidential help call Courage/Encourage at 604-916-6192 or email [vancouvercourage1@live.ca](mailto:vancouvercourage1@live.ca) for more information.

### **NEW YEAR'S DANCE ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SINGLES**

New Year's Eve Dance is being sponsored by St. Paul's Catholic Singles Club on Dec. 31 at the Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver. Live music. Guests \$45. Tickets should be purchased in advance. Doors open at 8:15pm For more information call Lina at 604-433-0055.

### **THE WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

Every year since 1914, the Church has celebrated the "World Day for Migrants and Refugees". We are fortunate to have so many migrants in our Archdiocese who enrich our lives with their culture and faith. Pope Benedict XVI has proposed the theme this year as "Migrants and the New Evangelization." The World Day of Migrants and Refugees will begin with a week of prayer and reflection and culminate on Sunday, Jan. 15 with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller at St. Helen's Parish at 5pm. E-mail [evollet@rcav.org](mailto:evollet@rcav.org) to learn more about how you can celebrate this special week in your parish. Or visit the Office of Service and Justice <http://rcav.org/osj>.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Sun. Dec 18:** 6:30pm SR YM - FLAME (Church Basement)

**Mon. Dec 19:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
6:30pm Jr YM - SPARK (Church Basement)

**Tue. Dec 20:** 7:30pm Simbang Gabi (Church)

**Wed. Dec 21:** 6:00pm Novena Our Lady Perpetual Help (Church)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Thu. Dec 22:** 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)  
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Fri. Dec 23:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Sat. Dec 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)  
5:00pm Mass (Church)  
7:00pm Mass (Church)  
9:30pm Mass (Church)  
12:00am Mass (Church)



**Sun. Dec 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
9:30am Mass (Church)  
11:15am Mass (Church)  
1:00pm Mass (Church)



**Mon. Dec 26:** **NO 8:00am Mass**  
7:00pm Mass (Church)



*Please note: The parish office will be closed  
Monday, Dec 26 & Tuesday, Dec 27*

## PARISH INFORMATION

**WEEKDAY MORNING MASS:** Monday - Friday: 8:00am

Weekday Morning Rosary 7:00am / Weekday Morning Lauds 7:30am

**WEEKDAY EVENING MASS:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7pm followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm

**SATURDAY MASS:** Our Lady's Mass 8:30am

**SUNDAY MASS:** 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: 8:30am

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Adoration throughout the day after morning mass  
**CONFESSION:**

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 9:00am to 9:30am, 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.

**BAPTISM:** To register your child, see website or contact Parish Office.

**MARRIAGE:**

One of the couple must be Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish 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 / Saturday 9:45am

**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 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: [stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca](mailto:stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca)

**MIGRANT MINISTRY:** (604) 355-9611 [stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com)

**YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)** E-mail: [arda@marysyouth.com](mailto:arda@marysyouth.com)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: [www.marysyouth.com](http://www.marysyouth.com)

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Ms Brenda Krivuzoff Website: [www.stmary.bc.ca](http://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 Pastors**

Vesna Jankovic

**Office Manager**

Ossie Fernandes

**Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator** Arda Akoglu