

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday Dec 9: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 1:00pm CFC (Church Basement)
2:00pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)

Monday Dec 10:

- 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM- SPARK Gr 6-7 (Church Basement)

Tuesday Dec 11:

- 6:30pm Baptism Prep (Church)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Ablaze (Church Basement)

Wednesday Dec 12: Our Lady of Gaudalupe

- 2:00pm Willingdon Mass (4435 Grange)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:30pm Neo Catechumen (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Thursday Dec 13: St. Lucy

- 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Friday Dec 14: St. John of the Cross

- 6:00pm Fast & Pray (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm YM FIRE (Gr 8-9) Church Basement
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

Saturday Dec 15:

- 10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)
2:30pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
4:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)
5:15pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
7:30pm ARC (Church)

Sunday Dec 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 12:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
6:30pm YM FLAME (Gr 8-12) Church Basement)



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

DIVINE MERCY: Friday 3:00pm & 6:15pm

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning Mass

CONFESSION:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 9:00am-9:30am, 4:15pm- 4:55pm, 6:10pm- 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.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact soberg@rcav.org.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: soberg@rcav.org.

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens on Tuesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

Coordinator: Stefan Oberg E-mail: soberg@rcav.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY: E-mail: ana@marysyouth.com

Assistant: Ana Alfonso Website: www.marysyouth.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: 8:45am to 6:30pm

Phone: (604) 435-9611 Fax: (604) 439-9413

E-mail: parish.smarv@rcav.org

Website: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

PASTORS & STAFF:

Pastor

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.

Pastoral Assistant

Vesna Jankovic

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

RCIA/PREP Coordinator

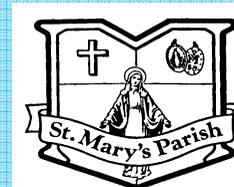
Stefan Oberg

Youth Ministry Assistant

Ana Alfonso

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DECEMBER 9, 2012

*Pastor's
Corner*

FROM DESPERATION TO JOY

"Most people live lives of quiet desperation" wrote J.H. Thoreau, the American philosopher and social activist. He wrote that in the 19th century, before the electronic media, before the drug epidemic, and the secularization of the Christian values. Today, Thoreau's observation is even more relevant. We don't admit it, but if our lives and hopes are shaped by this fallen world, then we are bound to become silently and secretly desperate. We may not speak about it nor cry about it nor commit suicide. But many of us feel we are walking down a one-way dead end tunnel. This is very likely to be the case, if we don't have real faith in God. If we let the secular culture shape our mindset, we will be led to believe that we start life with a capital of energy, time, hope, beauty, health, and ambitions that slowly wears out! Hence the futile desire to remain forever young. Depression is very common among senior citizens. They come to see their lives as a failure or as something that didn't deliver what it promised. It results in depression and resentment. "Expectations are planned for resentment." (A.A.)

For us who have a weak faith in God, this resentment has a religious dimension. "Why did God abandon me? Does God really care about me? Am I really precious in His eyes? Why did He let me down?" A secret rancor against God, that remains largely unconscious slowly creeps into us. We become angry at God even when we are not fully aware of it. We pout at God, preferring not to talk with Him. We resent intimacy with Him and stop praying. And that is what the devil wants. Believe me, I know what I am talking about.

Lord God, I renounce that resentment against you, in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord. I renounce the lie that I am abandoned by You and I choose to trust in you. I acknowledge that my expectations are shaped and stunted by the mindset of this fallen world. I want to go

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

beyond this mindset, and renounce these narrow expectations.

This is conversion or repentance. In the Greek language of the New Testament, repentance is called metanoia. Meta means beyond. Noia means the mind that I have now. Repentance and faith are about opening your heart to the great project God has for you.

This is what the great biblical figures have done. They were able to hope against all hope; trusting God even when things got to their bleakest. The prophet Baruch, in today's first reading, was in exile far from Jerusalem, with the religious, cultural and political elite, also exiled and being sold to slavery. Yet, he prophesied, "Look, Jerusalem, your exiled families are coming back, carried by God, as if on a throne." Yet when he proclaimed that, there were no signs that it would happen soon. But it did happen soon. Same story for John the Baptist.

Can it happen again today? Yes! The Advent season reminds us that God is consistently bringing us back home to Him. Jesus is the highway God built to bring us back. Our life doesn't end into the black hole of the grave. It unfolds on even forever and ever. Even now God is shaping us, enlarging our hope, expectations, our mind and heart, for eternal life with Him and the Saints. God does that by using the trials and temptations of the world to test us and strengthen our commitment to Him. Right now we can live, facing the sunrise in our lives and glowing with more and more passion for the true Life.

Happy Advent, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY & YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR

St. Mary's Parish is hiring a full time YM & YA Coordinator. The job posting can be found on the YM bulletin board in the foyer. Start date late January 2013. Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2012

Thank you for your generous support. Please continue to drop off your donations through the Sunday collection basket. You have until the end of December to claim the donation for your 2012 income tax return.

PARISH NEWS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. The branches are covered with gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16 years old. Please bring the unwrapped gift and place it under the tree during the weekends **Dec 8/9** and **Dec 15/16**. We will distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.



SPARK (grades 6 & 7) – EVERYWHERE MAN



God can turn a mess into a beautiful message; a test into a touching testimony. God can do great things in our lives if we allow Him too. Do you want some real life examples? Then make sure to come join us on Monday, Dec 10 at 6:30pm for some great games, super skits, touching testimony, power points, pizza and so much more!

FIRE (grades 8 & 9) – ROMANCE WITHOUT REGRET



FIRE is down to its last event of the year and we have a presentation that will shock and awe you. Come and enjoy this awesome presentation by Jason & Crystalina. You will be surprised at what you didn't know and what you thought you knew but you didn't...well you get the point!! So make sure to join us on Friday, Dec 14 in the Church basement and don't miss out!

FLAME (grades 10-12) – FLAME PARTY



We are coming close to the end of the year and we want to end it with a bang. There's no better way to do that than coming to our FLAME Party! Get ready for the games, open your heart to go deeper in your faith and step out your comfort zone to make some new friends. Make sure to join us on Sunday, Dec 16 at 6:30pm in the Church basement for a night of fun, faith and fellowship!

DOMINICAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards printed by the Dominican nuns of the Queen of Peace Monastery are available for sale in the foyer after all Masses. Please support the nuns who spend their lives praying for us!

2013 ENVELOPES

The 2013 offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the Church basement. Please look for envelopes by last name. If your address has changed, please fill out the forms at the envelope table.

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLICS COME HOME ADS

6 weeks of compelling television ads will begin airing Dec 13 on Citytv, CTV, Global, and Chinese television, inviting viewers to 'come home' to Christ and the Church. We anticipate many will come to Mass in the following weeks in response to these ads, and we need to offer them a warm and friendly welcome. Pray for those you know who have stopped practicing their faith, and say a friendly hello to unfamiliar faces. To view the commercials and for more information about this initiative, visit www.rcav.org.



CATHOLICS COME HOME PRAY & FAST

Archbishop Miller is inviting all parishioners to choose one day to fast during our Catholics Come Home campaign. Our prayer is for those Catholics who no longer practice the faith that they will return and become faithful members of the Church. The campaign will run Dec 10-Jan 26. You are encouraged to choose one or more days, as you are able, and sign your initials on the calendar. There is no limit to how many people can fast on the same day but we hope to have each day covered, excluding Sundays and Solemnities. Please sign up in the foyer.

CATHOLICS COME HOME PRAYER COMMITMENTS

Please find CCH prayer commitment forms in the foyer that you can fill out and commit yourself to. Keep the form with you, or in your prayer book, as a reminder of the CCH program, and your commitment to pray for its fruitful success.



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2013

St. Mary's International Festival will be held May 24-26, 2013. It will include: "A Walk with Mary" processions, Talent Show, Cultural Fashion Show, Stage Show, Gala Night Dinner & Dance and so much more! Volunteers are needed in all areas. Please contact Lynda Tamayo at 604-563-5262 or SMIntfest@yahoo.com.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

DEANERY PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Dec 12 @ 7pm- Holy Cross / Dec 13 @ 7:30pm-St. Joseph
Dec 15 @ 2pm- St. Francis Xavier / Dec 17 @ 7pm- Our Lady of Sorrows / Dec 18 @ 7pm- St. Jude & St. Theresa
Dec 19 @ 7pm- Corpus Christi / Dec 20 @ 7pm- St. Helen
DEC 21 @ 7:40PM-ST. MARY'S