

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



*The pastors and staff of St. Mary's wish
you a Blessed and Holy Christmas!*

Monday Dec 24: Christmas Eve

5:00pm Mass (Church)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
9:30pm Mass (Church)
Midnight Mass (Church)

Tuesday Dec 25: Nativity of the Lord

9:30am Mass (Church)
11:15am Mass (Church)
1:00pm Mass (Church)
5:00pm Mass (Church)

Wednesday Dec 26: St. Stephen

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

Thursday Dec 27: St. John

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

Friday Dec 28: Holy Innocents

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

Saturday Dec 29:

10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
5:00pm CFC-FFL (School Gym)

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: 9:15am-9:45am, 4:15pm-5pm, 6pm-7pm

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

Receptionist

Rocelyn Catris



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5251 JOYCE STREET
VANCOUVER BC V5R 4G8

TEL: 604-435-9611 FAX: 604-439-9413

EMAIL: parish.smarv@rcav.org

WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

DECEMBER 23, 2012

*Pastor's
Corner*

**CATHOLICS COME HOME,
LET US CELEBRATE!**

This year Christmas in Vancouver's Catholic Churches takes on a special colour. No more jokes about C and E Christians, about those who come only twice a year at Christmas and Easter; no more complaints about "my" pew taken up by a stranger, no more grumbling against those who don't know when to sit and when to kneel. In fact, St. Mary's parish community has been pretty good at not doing the above mentioned stuff.

But there is more to it for us. We are not only asked to be welcoming to those who are coming back home. We are called to help them renew in their hearts the "Catholic experience of God." Don't run away at these words, please. What I mean, is that, for us, home is not just the church. A church without God would be empty, not homey. Coming back to the church will not feel like coming home at all if those coming back are not invited to go beyond the rituals, the music and the words, to apprehend beyond them and through them, the great Mystery of God in the Universe.

Let's go further. God will be experienced not only through the rituals and the music but through our own engagement in the Mystery of God. From my vantage point of view during Mass, at the altar, I can see the beauty of these hundreds of human faces praying intently, being one in heart and in expectations. That very moving experience becomes even more so, at the Christmas Mass. It is "my Catholic experience of God." You are it! You are the Church, the Catholic Church. You are the Presence of God, God with us, Emmanuel. It is not just rituals and the building that make us feel at home! It is the people who are filled with God's presence.

Home is God. A God that we can experience in praying, singing, engaging in the world, living at peace with one another through reconciliation and self-giving. There we find

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

a sacred purpose for our life and for our Universe. Home is wherever God meets humans, and humans meet God.

God Bless you! Merry Christmas! 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 & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE



Dec 24- 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight
Dec 25- 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 5pm
Dec 31- 5pm, 11:30pm (Adoration 10pm)
Jan 1- 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm

DECEMBER 26 MASS TIME

Please note morning Mass on Dec 26 will be at 9am (not the regular 8am time).

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Dec 25 & Dec 26.

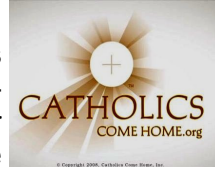
YOUCAT BOOKS

We have received more copies of the YOUCAT book. The books are \$10 each, and are available for sale after all weekend Masses.

PARISH NEWS

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.

CATHOLICS COME HOME "WE MISS YOU" CARDS

Please take a "We Miss You" card from the foyer. Read the instructions, fill out the card, and give it to someone you would like to invite back to the Church. Please take as many as you need.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Mary's School is pleased to offer registration for **new** students for the 2013-2014 school year. Application packages are currently available **online** at stmary.bc.ca and from the school office Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm (starting Jan. 7, 2013), and also in the Church foyer. Interviews will be scheduled at the end of January.



HELP THE HOMELESS STAY WARM

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Street Outreach need really warm items – winter gear including hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toques and winter jackets, especially for men. We will be collecting donations of **NEW** winter items during December and throughout the month of Jan 2013. Please place your donations in the box in the Church foyer marked "**Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques**" On behalf of the homeless we thank you in advance for your generosity.



PARISH NEWS

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY BREAK

SPARK, FIRE and FLAME will be taking a break! Please refer to the bulletin & announcements in the new year for the upcoming YM events and schedule. The Youth Ministry leadership team wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



NEW TAGALOG MASS

We will add a new Mass in Tagalog, beginning on January 13, every second Sunday at 3pm. We will need volunteers in the following areas: ushers, greeters, adult altar servers. If you are interested, please see the sign up sheet in the foyer.

GRACE THAT REIGNS

Come and pray for the priests of the Vancouver East Deanery for strength and grace during this Year of Faith! Spend 30 minutes after Mass to pray for the Priests. Join us on Thursday Dec 27, following the 7pm Mass.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents will be held on Saturday, Jan. 5. Begins with Mass at 9am at Immaculate Conception, 3778 -28th Avenue, Vancouver. Followed by Rosary and Vigil at Women's Hospital.

A DAY OF WORKSHOPS ON IMPACT OF MIGRATION

The workshops will help us to look at some of the challenges faced by the Church as it seeks to form a community that is universal, Jan. 12 at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish, 555 South Slocan Street, Vancouver. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish 604-254-0691.

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, WELCOME HOME

Archbishop Miller will celebrate Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 2:30pm. All are welcome. Gather as one family in the global celebration of the Vatican declared "99th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Migrations: Pilgrimage of Faith and Hope." A cultural reception will follow in the parish hall.