



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Pastor's
Corner**

Sunday, April 1st, 2007



Dear Parishioners, as we enter into Holy Week this Palm Sunday, I thought it would be opportune for me to cite a passage from Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, on the gift of the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. What Fr. Ron says makes a good continuation from what Fr. Pierre shared with us in last Sunday's *Pastor's Corner*, and it is that we can trust that God does not give up on us, nor does He condemn us! Rather He awaits patiently for us to realize the faults or sins we may be clinging onto that takes us on a downward spiral, and to trust that forgiveness, healing and transformation can indeed come into our lives through the *Sacrament of Reconciliation!* I've gone on enough and now, let's hear Fr. Ron's advice for us...

"You are as sick as your sickest secret!" That's an axiom popular among people in 12-step programs. They know that until one faces oneself, in searing honesty, before another human being and there acknowledges openly his or her sins, there will always be addictions, rationalization, and lack of transparency. This is a pivotal and non-negotiable step in every 12-step program. Without it, at a certain point, all real growth stops.

The Church has always had its own version of this step. We call it confession, the sacrament of reconciliation. Fewer people are going to confession these days. This is an unfortunate development because private confession is one of the pillars of the spiritual life. At a certain point in one's growth, there is no progress without it. The critics of the sacrament of reconciliation are right in saying that God is not tied to one vehicle as an avenue for the forgiveness of sins. They are wrong, however, when they denigrate the importance of a good private confession.

Simply put, confession is the sacrament of the mature and one grows mature by confessing one's sins. One may not need to confess one's sins explicitly to another human being in order to have them forgiven. But one does have to confess them explicitly if he or she hopes to live a transparent life, free of dark skeletons in the closet, and to make progress in the spiritual life. I hope Fr. Ron's advice helps, and that we will take the necessary steps to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as we prepare once again to enter into the most important time of the year in our Christian Calendar – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ! God bless you. *Fr. Mark*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Apr. 01:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (Church & School)
1:00pm Vigil Choir Practice (Seminar room)
2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
- Mon. Apr. 02:** 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
- Tue. Apr. 03:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Charismatic Core Group (Rectory Library)
- Wed. Apr. 04:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Ave)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
6:30pm Exodus Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Info Night for New Families interested in St. Mary's School (Gym)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm CWL Executive (Rectory Library)
8:15pm Benediction (Church)
8:30pm Vigil Rehearsal (Church)



Thu. Apr. 05: HOLY THURSDAY

NO 8:00am Mass

Please see Holy Week Schedule —————>

Fri. Apr. 06: GOOD FRIDAY

NO 8:00am Mass

Please see Holy Week Schedule —————>

7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)

Sat. Apr. 07: NO 12:00pm Mass

Please see Holy Week Schedule —————>

10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)

12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)

7:00pm Christian Life Program (Church Basement)

Sun. Apr. 08: EASTER SUNDAY

Please see Holy Week Schedule —————>

12:30pm Easter Egg Hunt (School Gym)

2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND DISCARD YOUR CHEWING GUM IN THE FOYER BINS BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY: April 5

Church will be open from 8am - 10pm
NO 8:00am Mass

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Followed by Adoration & Confessions



GOOD FRIDAY: April 6

Church will be open from 8am - 10pm
NO 8:00am Mass

10:00am Stations of the Cross - Dramatized
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm Stations of the Cross - Traditional
Confessions will be available after all services



HOLY SATURDAY: April 7

Church will be open from 8am
NO 12:00noon Mass

9:00pm Easter Vigil - Celebration of Light



EASTER SUNDAY: April 8

Masses as usual



May God's Holy Light Shine Upon You and Your Families At This Easter Season And Always. Have A Blessed Easter!

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The St. Mary's Young Adults (SMYAC) will dramatize the Stations of the Cross in a silent and prayerful presentation on **Good Friday, Apr. 6**, at 10am in the Church. All are welcome to attend. The "traditional" Stations of the Cross will take place at 7:00pm.



GOOD FRIDAY VENERATION OF THE CROSS FLOWER OFFERING

Good Friday, Apr. 6, Everyone will have the opportunity to lay a flower at the foot of the cross after the 3:00pm service. To make this a more personal and meaningful gesture, please bring a single flower per person. Flowers will also be available in the Church foyer by donations.



PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2007 - 2008

There will be a 'New Parent Information Night' on **Wed. Apr. 4 at 7:00pm**. This is for new families to St. Mary's School who are interested in registering their children for the September 2007 school year. Application packages will be distributed at this meeting only.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2007

Calling for volunteers! Our committee requires more volunteers this year to assist in our campaign. If you are a new parishioner, come join us and show your support for the parish. If you have participated in previous years, we sure need your expertise in assisting us to make this an even more successful campaign.

Volunteer cards are available at one of the tables in the Church foyer, please return all cards by **Apr. 7** so that we can organize our volunteer training meeting. We look forward to working with all of you in this year's campaign. *Project Advance Committee.*

5th ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, Apr. 8 after the 11:15am Mass, in the school gym. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for all children between the ages of 6 to 10 years. Children below 6 years will receive complimentary give-aways. Bring your children and have fun watching them have fun.



ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE YARD SALE ON SAT. APRIL 21

By donating your unwanted items for the home (books, toys, dishes etc.) and any garden items, you will help our Respect Life Group to assist others. You may bring your items and place them in the boxes marked "GARAGE SALE" in the foyer. NO CLOTHING PLEASE. For more info call Gert:604-433-6497.



"DISCERNING YOUR GIFTS" A TALK BY SR. MARIE BOUCHARD

Everyone is born with a bundle of unique gifts, talents, skills, attributes, and abilities. Everything in the bundle is a gift from God; the way these gifts are used gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Would you like to know what is in your bundle?

Come and Listen to Sr. Marie Bouchard on Sat. Apr. 28 at 9:30 am in the church basement. Everyone is welcome!

Sign-up sheets for attendance will be available in the foyer after Mass. Light lunch will follow after the noon Mass. Sponsored by St. Mary's CWL in celebration of the Feast of its Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC MISSION 2007 - FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY "REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM" - See Poster in the foyer.

Wed. Apr. 4 - Part 1 & Thu. Apr. 5 - Part 2 at 9pm on VISION TV. Matthew Kelly is a New Yorker Times bestselling author and is widely recognized today as one of the best speakers in the world. With his keen sense of humour and heart-warming charm, Kelly has been effortlessly elevating and energizing audiences in more than 50 countries for the past decade. He is a voice for our times with a message for young and old. He is joined by the world-renowned St. Michael's Choir School.

PRO-LIFE MASS AND PRAYER VIGIL

Peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on **Apr. 7**. Please note: there will be no Mass. We will meet at the 13th Street Entrance of Lion's Gate Hospital (231 East 15th Street) at 9:30 am to pray the rosary and other prayers.

YOUTH DAY 2007: AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

Youth Day 2007 is coming on Fri. May 4 & Sat. May 5 at Archbishop Carney Reg. Secondary School, Port Coquitlam. Join hundreds of teens for an awesome weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! Register now with your parish youth ministry or Catholic high school-**early registration deadline is Apr. 20**. Visit www.youthmin.com for registration info & promo video.

BIBLICAL WOMEN: OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH

A day of reflection and study for women facilitated by Dr. Elaine Park, Academic Vice President and Professor of Biblical Studies, Mt. Angel Seminary. Using Scripture as a starting point Elaine will lead retreatants through an extended reflection on women of faith in our Salvation history. This will be a day to challenge, to stretch your faith and to rest in the company of other women. **Sat. Apr. 21**, 9am - 5pm at St. Marks College, 5935 Iona Dr. Vcr. **Please register by Apr. 12** - Space is Limited! At stmarks.campusministry@gmail.com or call the college at 604-822-4463.

DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED?

Beginning Experience is offering a healing weekend for those who have experienced the end of a relationship through divorce, separation, or death. It is a caring, accepting, reflective, program allowing spiritual and emotional renewal. The next weekend will be **Apr. 27-29**, at Huston Camp in Gold Bar, WA. The program begins on Friday evening and ends late Sunday afternoon. For info./ register, visit our website at www.seattlebe.org, call (206) 527-1180, or e-mail info@seattlebe.org.

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPRING DINNER DANCE

Sat. Apr. 14 at the School Gym. Doors open 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm, followed by dancing to the music of the hottest DJ in town. A great evening of fun and entertainment. No alcoholic beverages. Tickets \$ 20.00 per person are available in the foyer. All proceeds go to Charity. We look forward to your support, so bring your family and friends along for an enjoyable evening!!!!



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed. & Fri. 6:30pm followed by Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament & Benediction at 9:30pm
Saturday 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm
RECONCILIATION Saturday 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;
Sunday 10:45-11:05am

(An appointment for reconciliation may be made at any time)

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

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursday - 8:00am; Saturday - 12:00pm

FIRST FRIDAY Adoration Throughout the day after Masses

Masses: 8:00am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:30pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction: 9:30pm

BAPTISM To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's. Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to your wedding date and prior to registering for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP Religious education program for children attending public schools.

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders: Jonquil Francis and Eileen Carlson

Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Kevin Smith (Principal)

K-Grade 7 (604) 437-1312 Fax (604) 437-1193 Website: <http://www.stmary.bc.ca>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Pastor : Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP

Assistant Pastor : Fr. Mark Hoo, OP

Youth and PREP Coordinator : Eli Bautista

Parish Office: Margherita Bordignon / Ossie Fernandes