



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5251 JOYCE STREET
VANCOUVER, BC, V5R 4G8
TEL: (604) 435-9611 FAX: (604) 439-9413
EMAIL: stmarys@telus.net
WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Pastor's Corner

Sunday, May 5th, 2007

Dear Parishioners, Last Saturday, St. Mary's had a "Discerning Your Gifts" workshop given by Sr. Marie Bouchard, CSJ and sponsored by the CWL of St. Mary's. And, at the writing of this week's *Pastor's Corner*, Fr. Pierre and I were also attending a weeklong workshop-conference that is related to the *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*. So, why all this talk on reflecting and discerning our gifts? Because as we fast approach the Feast of Pentecost in precisely three Sundays' time, we are reminded that it was on the very day of Pentecost, according to the 2nd chapter of the Book of Acts, that the disciples were given gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon them. But, the gifts given to them were not meant to be kept aside, stuffed somewhere in their sock drawer, never to be used, nor were these gifts meant for the disciples' own personal glorification either! Rather, the gifts of the Holy Spirit were meant to prepare the hearts and minds of their hearers and observers to be open to receiving the Good News of Jesus Christ *Risen from the Dead*. Peter, the head of the disciples, is said to have stood up and proclaimed that on that day the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be manifested on all humanity, and through the manifestation of these gifts, others too will be attracted to the reality of the Good News that Jesus Christ is indeed *Risen from the Dead*. It is no wonder that through the manifestation of these gifts in the lives of the disciples and in the bold proclamation by St. Peter of his Christian faith, some 3000 were baptized as Christians on that day, and added to their number. Now imagine that happening at St. Mary's – 3000 being baptized and received into the Church at Easter. Okay, let's be a little more conservative and let's say 100 instead of 3000. Of course the Easter Vigil will be that much longer and the voices of the choir will be that much more strained at the end! Far fetched, you say? Impossible, you say? Well, Fr. Mascarenhas, a Jesuit priest, was sharing publicly at this week's workshop-conference of his recent trip to China a month ago, and apparently, approximately 500 catechumens were waiting to be baptized in *each* of the Catholic parishes that he visited in cities all over China!



(Contd.....)

(Pastor's corner contd....)

So, why is that not happening in most parishes here in Vancouver, brothers and sisters? Why instead is there this ongoing joke among Catholics here in Vancouver that after Confirmation you don't see them at Church anymore? Is it perhaps possible that we may just be taking the potential power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation for granted..., that Confirmation is a ritual to have done and over with, such that any potential gift(s) of the Holy Spirit are stuffed into a sock drawer and forgotten? Let me urge you instead to consider this passage of St. Paul to young Timothy once again (**2 Timothy 1:6-8**) "*That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands. God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord...but share in my hardships for the sake of the gospel, relying on the power of God...*" And, as scripture assures us, we will see that 100 or 500, and yes, even 3000 catechumens yet! *God Bless.* Fr. Mark.



PARISH NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A BIG "THANK YOU" to all our parishioners and neighbours who donated items for our annual Respect Life yard sale. It was a great success, and many women will be helped by the money spent on the TV commercials. Once again *Thank You*.

PROJECT ADVANCE 2007

Once again it is very exciting to start off the St. Mary's 27th Project Advance Campaign; our committee hopes to make this event as successful as in previous years. Committee members and volunteers will be available starting this weekend till the end of June to collect all returned pledges at the church foyer after each mass. We also welcome new donors; participation from all parishioners is most important and is one of the key factors in order to achieve our parish goal. We thank you in advance for your generous support in making this a successful campaign.

PREP EARLY REGISTRATION (May 1 – 31)

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Early Registration for Catechetical Year 2007-2008 is now open. **This will run from May 1 to 31.** Slots are open from Grades 1 to 12 catechism classes. Register early and avail of the reduced fees. Pick up your registration forms from the Parish Office or Church foyer. A copy of Baptismal Certificate is REQUIRED from all students.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



MAY - MONTH OF MARY: Pray the Rosary Daily

- Sun. May 06:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Bsmt)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
- Mon. May 07:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Street Ministry 3rd Anniversary Mass (Church), followed by Pot Luck (Bsmnt)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. May 08:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal (Church)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Rectory Bsmt)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. May 09:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Hospitality Committee (Rectory Basement)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. May 10:** 7:00pm Confirmation (Church & Basement)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (School Gym)
- Fri. May 11:** 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm K of C Executive (Rectory Basement)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. May 12:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
7:00pm Source and Summit - Eucharistic Adoration for Youth & Young Adults (Church & Basement)
7:00pm Christian Life Program (School Gym)
- Sun. May 13:** **MOTHER'S DAY Buffet Lunch**
11:00am - 2:00pm (Church Basement)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)



PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS IN THE FOYER FOR MORE COMMUNITY NEWS.

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

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S STREET MINISTRY 3rd ANNIVERSARY MON. MAY 7

Please join us to celebrate our 3rd anniversary at the Church. Registration/food set up at 6pm (basement), Mass at 6:30pm (Church), followed by alcohol-free potluck and games (basement)! Prayer partners, supporters and all those who are interested are invited!

COME AND TREAT YOUR MOTHER



St. Mary's CWL will be hosting a Mother's Day buffet lunch on **Sun. May 13**. Tickets will go on sale this weekend after all Sunday Masses. Special packages for a family of 4 will be available this weekend ONLY for a price of \$50.00. This offer is limited and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Menu selection and ticket pricing will be posted in the foyer.

CARNATIONS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Give your Mom or any Mom you know or do not know, a small token of appreciation for their love and caring. Offer them a Carnation so they can proudly wear it and let the world know that they have received the Best Mom of the Year Award. Next **Sun. May 13**, St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be selling Carnations before and after all Masses in the Church foyer. All proceeds will be donated to Charity.



YM ANNUAL SOFTBALL

On **May 19, 11am to 4pm**, St. Mary's Youth Ministry will have the most awaited event of each year! Our Annual Softball is great fun and it is free! PERMISSION FORMS ARE REQUIRED and are available on the YM Bulletin Board or the YM Website. This event is open to all youth in Gr. 6 to 12.



CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS !!

BAPTISMS

April 29: *Markus Serrano Aycardo, Ryeason Antjuan Jimenez Bauzon, Tristanjai Domalanta, Matthew Ronel Lagas, Mattias David Louie, Adrian Jeremy Rupasinghe, Ervin John Salvatierra, Michelle Gempesala Siga-an, Darrel James Soriano, Neriah Maria Sumagui*

May 6: *Layla Isabelle de los Reyes, David Cristian Echeverria, Ethan Joseph Mulingtapang, Ken Rocky Oquendo, Liam Ronald Fabian Sese, Chantal Emily Sales Woo, Patrick Warren Bedoya Tenido.*



WEDDING

April 29: *Ronald Tim Woo and Anne June Lee*



PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN - WORKSHOP

Thu. May 24, 6:45 pm at St. Mary School.

St. Mary's school is presenting a workshop for parents on learning opportunities at home that will better prepare them for school. Please don't miss this opportunity to better prepare your child for Kindergarten. Elementary educators will offer activities and ideas that you can do at home that will be both enjoyable and important to your child's learning. This workshop is for parents of children who have not yet started Kindergarten ages 3 – 5 years. If your child is beginning Kindergarten in September or still has a year or two to wait, this workshop is for you. Admission is free, but you must call to reserve a space. Call the school at 604-437-1312 or email school@stmary.bc.ca

THE ST. MARY'S PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC)

Calling for nominations for the PEC for 2007. For nomination forms or more information please contact either of the following members of the nomination committee - Mr. Ed Tee at 604-436-4078, or Mrs. Michelle Eisner at 604-327-0827. Completed nomination forms must be received by one of the above nomination committee members by Thu. May 17. The election of members is scheduled to take place on **Sun. May 27.**

VOCATION LIVE-IN

May 11 - 13 for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission BC. For info call 604-826-8715.

LET THE FIRE FALL AGAIN!

A Pentecost Celebration at St. Mathew's Parish - 16079, 88th Ave., Surrey at 10am on **Sat. May 26**. All are invited for an afternoon of lively praising and worship, procession of the Blessed Sacrament, celebration of a Charismatic Mass and personal testimonies of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit. Refreshments, finger food and fellowship after the services.



NOTRE DAME'S 5TH ANNUAL FUND RUN

Formerly 'The Relay' - **Jun. 10** - 10:00am start. Less time commitment than in the past. Everyone walks/runs 5km route together from ND, to the PNE, through the PNE grounds and back to ND for a BBQ - Pasta Party. Live entertainment, prizes, free kids activities, flea market, beer garden & great food. Register on line @ www.ndrs.org or contact Lucia DeCotis through the school office 604-255-5454. All proceeds to the ND School Building Fund. Donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt.



COMMUNITY NEWS

VOCATIONS IN PROGRESS

“We invite single men and women to join us to **“LIGHT OUR WAY”**. This is the theme of the Catholic Single Men and Women retreats: **for men on Jun. 1 - 3** and **for women on Jun. 22 - 24** between the ages of 17-35. The retreat will be at Rosemary Heights (3690-152nd St., Surrey), and hosted by the Vocations Office. Come and discover the **Light** that lights our way. We will provide the retreatants with tools of discernment so that they may discover God's call in their lives. Do not wait! Register now! Call Vocations Office at 604-443-3254 or email: vocations@rcav.bc.ca



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