



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
Corner

December 13, 2009 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

GOD IN YOUR PLAYPEN

A young couple with a two-year-old toddler had invited Fr. Hampsch for dinner. From where Fr. Hampsch was sitting in the living room, he could watch the little boy hanging around his mother's legs while she was handling a hot pot of soup. She had tried in vain to have the boy move away, but he would not listen. She finally put him into his playpen. The boy started weeping and weeping! By that time, his father, who had been talking with Fr. Hampsch, could not enjoy the conversation anymore, not because of the noise his son made, but because he was moved with pity. He could not take the boy out of the playpen, because he did not want to disobey his wife's orders. So he did the only thing he could! He **jumped into the playpen** with his son. There he comforted him with a warm hug and sang his child's favourite song. It was quite a sight to behold, this big man in a small playpen. Fr. Hampsch wondered who was the happiest of the two -- the toddler or the father? Of course it was the father who felt the most joy!

Fr. Hampsch understood the meaning of today's first reading from Zephaniah 3:17-18 "The Lord, your God, is in your midst (...) He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love. The Lord, your God, will exalt over you with **loud singing as on a day of festival.**" Can you imagine God, the **King of the Universe**, singing for joy **over you**, taking you to his cheek, coming down into your playpen, planet earth, to wipe your tears? Can you hear Him whisper "Come, enter into the joy of your Master"? (Matthew 24:21) This is what we celebrate at Christmas. God comes down into our playpen. It is called Incarnation. With His human arms, He hugs you.

When you were a little child, the sight of your mother and father rejoicing over you was your greatest source of joy, of affirmation, of security. Today, let God, your Father, take His delight over you. Let Him come down into your playpen! Accept that He rejoices over you even when you feel like an (con't)

Pastor's corner (con't)
 unworthy sinner. He came for the sick, not for those who think they do not need the doctor!

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice"(Philippians 4,4)
 God Bless You!! *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

2010 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

We are selling 2010 church calendars **this weekend after all Masses.** The calendars have been published and printed by St. Mary's Parish and list all feast days and all of our mass times. The proceeds will go to Catholic Missions in Canada and St. Mary's street ministry. Thank you for your generous support.

JR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 6-8)-THE MOTHER OF THE FUTURE!

Do I look like the mother of the future? I don't know do you? Maybe we all should? What are we talking about? Come and find out at our next Jr. Youth Ministry event on **Monday, December 14 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**



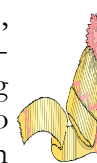
ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society, is once again coordinating a Giving Tree. 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. Your last opportunity to make your donation is almost here. Please bring the **un-wrapped** gift and place it **under the tree in the next couple of days.** **The gifts will be sorted on December 16** and then we, along with other interested ministries in St. Mary's will distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you again for helping these loved ones. Your generosity will make this another successful Christmas.



SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES & TOQUES FOR THE HOMELESS

During the month of December, St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **NEW** socks, gloves, scarves and toques as part of our outreach program for the homeless. They will be distributed during this Christmas season when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings and Main with our sandwich truck. Drop your donations into the box marked **"Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques". Please note that we are NOT collecting any other clothing at this time.** Again we thank you in advance on behalf of the poor. With your generosity we will have another great year.



PARISH NEWS

PARISH LIBRARY -- WE'RE OPEN TO SERVE YOU

For the month of December we are open for 30 minutes after 5:00pm Saturday and all Sunday masses (except 7:00pm). We will not be open on Dec. 26/27 or Jan. 2/3. Please come and visit us in the church basement. There will not be any books on display in the foyer during the month of December.



NEED CONFESSION BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

Avoid the line-up!! Seven priests will be here at St. Mary's to hear your confessions. Avail yourself of this opportunity, this **Friday, December 18 after the 7:00pm Mass.**

2010 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

Sunday envelopes for 2010 are now available for pickup from the Church Basement. Please help this endeavour run smoothly by doing the following

- Please take time to go downstairs and **get your box today**
- **Do not open or use your new box before Jan 1, 2010.** The number on your box this year is different than last year so we do not want to accidentally credit someone else for your donation.
- When 2009 is over, **please destroy (recycle) any Sunday envelopes dated 2009 or older.** By doing this you will not be tempted to use an old number which leads to inaccurate posting.
- If the label on your box has corrections to be made (spelling or address) **please note the info to be corrected** on the yellow sheet on the table by the boxes.
- When you begin to use your new set of envelopes, please write your name and address on at least the first four or five envelopes you use. **Note: the name you write down has to be the same as the name on the label.** i.e) someone else in your household, or a visitor to your home should not be "borrowing" a numbered envelope from you.
- **If you have looked for your new box and cannot find it,** please put your name and phone number on the blue sheet so that we can arrange to get a set ready for you

PARISH PHOTO PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

This directory will be **available for pick up next weekend (19/20).** Your copy is free if you had your photo taken in May. Please be available next weekend as we do not know if/when we can accommodate another distribution date. An adult member in the picture will have to sign for the directory. A few copies will be available for sale in the parish office in the new year for \$10. First come, first served. Thank you for your patience.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Friday, December 18, 2009

Parish Reconciliation after 7:00pm Mass

Thursday, December 24, 2009 -- Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm and Midnight (all are anticipation)

Friday, December 25, 2009 -- Christmas Day

9:30am, 11:15am, and 1:00pm

Saturday, December 26, 2009 -- Boxing Day

12:00 noon and anticipation Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 27, 2009

Usual Mass Times (see PARISH INFO on back of bulletin)

Thursday, December 31, 2009 -- New Year's Eve

5:00pm and 11:30pm (both are anticipation Masses)

Adoration: 10:00pm - 11:15pm

Friday, January 1, 2010 -- New Year's Day

9:30am, 11:15am, and 1:00pm

Saturday, January 2 and Sunday January 3, 2010

Usual Mass Times (see PARISH INFO on back of bulletin)

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

RAISING CHASTE TEENS -- A TALK BY JASON EVERT

Before children can come to treasure the pure life, parents must first understand the challenges they face. In this **free** session, Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary educators of their children. **When: Tue. Dec. 15 at 6:30pm. Where: St. Jude School Gym (15th and Renfrew).**



SIMBANG GABI AT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Come join with Fr. Romeo Lopez (from the Philippines) for the 9-day Christmas Novena of Masses (Simbang Gabi). This will take place from **December 15 - 23, 2009** at 7:00pm except for Saturday and Sunday December 19/20 when it will begin at 5:00pm. The Novena is to spiritually prepare us for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISA DE GALLO (pre-Christmas novena)

A special novena of evening Masses will be celebrated at **Saint Patrick Parish** (2884 Main Street & 13th Avenue, Vancouver) from **December 15 - December 23**. Festive music, Filipino food and guest preachers will make this novena a memorable event and an ideal spiritual preparation for Christmas. Masses will be celebrated at 7:00pm Monday to Friday, 4:30pm on Saturday and 5:00pm on Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Dec. 13: 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

Mon. Dec. 14: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living)

Tue. Dec 15: 1:30pm School Christmas Musical (Church Bsmt)
6:00pm Catholic Women's League Mass (Gym)
6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Catholic Women's League Meeting (Gym)

Wed. Dec. 16: 10:00am School Christmas Musical (Church Bsmt)
6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:30pm D & P Diocesan Council (Rectory Dining)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. Dec. 17: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

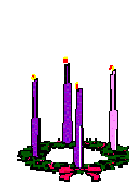
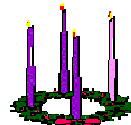


Fri. Dec. 18: 9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study (Rec. Dining)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Youth Band Rehearsal (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Advent Penitential Service (Church)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)



Sat. Dec. 19: 12:40pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
1:00pm RCIA Christmas Party (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:15pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

Sun. Dec. 20: 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**

** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm

Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm is **Anticipation Mass**

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses

Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm

Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)

--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

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

FIRST FRIDAYS: Adoration Throughout the day after 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

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Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

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

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

E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (Principal) Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312 Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon