



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

February 1, 2009




Every once in a while comes a public man on whom nations place great hope. Kennedy was one of them. Now we have Barack Obama. Will he be like the others? Will everything end in even greater delusion? Will he confirm his beautiful works with effective actions? Speaking with authority is not necessarily acting with authority.

Jesus asserted his teaching with deeds of authority. In Today's Gospel, he casts out an evil spirit and sets a man free. Like God the Father, His words create. In the beginning, God said "Let there be light" and light was created. During His ministry, Jesus always backed up His teachings with effective deeds, healings, deliverances, conversions, reconciliations.

He gave that power to His disciples. "In my name, you will cast out demons, heal the sick and proclaim the freedom of the Kingdom of God." He went on to say to His disciples, "You will do greater thing than I." And it did happen. A sociologist studied the rise of Christianity from Jesus' time up to Constantine in the fourth century. He could not explain how Christianity grew so fast despite so many gruesome persecutions, without accepting the reality of the signs and wonders that backed up the preaching of the believers. When Jesus died there were only a few scared apostles and disciples hiding themselves behind locked doors! Their leader, Peter, had denied Him three times!! Yet within a few years, the fervour and number of Christians became a source of anxiety for the Jewish authorities. Within a few decades, Christianity was spread throughout the major cities of the Roman Empire. And after a few centuries, it conquered the Roman Emperor himself.

How could this have happened? It happened through the joyful and fearless testimony of the lives of many ordinary people who became extraordinary because they were set free by Christ: free from sins, from fears, from evil influences. Signs and wonders accompanied them. That same Spirit is still with us today. Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Will you accept the freedom he is offering you today? With His Spirit, will you accept to speak and live with authority? By this I mean, "Will you accept the gift of freedom and the authority to set others free? God Bless, *Fr. Pierre*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 01:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 02:** 8:00am **No Morning Mass -- See 7:00pm**
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
NEW!! 7:00pm Mass (Church)
7:00pm Lay Apostolate (Church Basement)
7:00pm Catholic Women's League Exec(Rec Dining)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Feb. 03:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Knights of Columbus Exec (Church Bsm)
- Wed. Feb. 04:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Street)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
7:00pm Exodus Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Thu. Feb. 05:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Fri. Feb. 06:** 9:00am Bible Sharing for Moms (Rect. Bsmt.)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/ Sacristy)
7:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Sat. Feb. 07:** 9:00am 2000 Hail Marys (Rectory Dining)
10:00am Echoes (Church Basement)
10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
7:00 pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
8:00pm SMYAC Coffee Night (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Feb. 08:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Couples for Christ - (Church Basement)
2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU FROM TALHA KOUM

Over **\$5,000** was raised for Talitha Koum Society!! Our heartfelt thank you for your generosity last weekend. For those who still wish to support, more details will soon be available on our website: <http://www.talithakoumsociety.org>

SOCKS AND T-SHIRTS DONATIONS

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is collecting NEW socks and men's T-shirts. This is the last weekend to deposit the items into the marked boxes in the foyer and we will donate to the Sisters of Atonement. Thanks in advance for your support

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT

Sr. Youth Ministry (Grades 8 - 12) continues with another exciting event. **Being a Christian, Why Bother?** Come and join us on **Monday February 2** as we try to figure out the answer to this odd question. You may be surprised with what you find out. We meet at **6:30pm in the Rectory Basement**. See you there!

"ECHOES" PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

Echoes is a program designed to provide the key knowledge and skills needed to understand and hand-on the Catholic Faith in a knowledgeable manner. Sessions are **every Saturday, 10:00am to 12 noon** until March 28 in the church basement. Everyone is welcome. **February 7 topic is entitled "Who Teaches?"**

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18+) COFFEE NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION

Saturday February 7, at 8:00pm in the rectory basement This month's topic is Movies and Catholic Values. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact us at smyac_team@yahoo.ca.



CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD)

Single? Divorced? Separated? Widowed? Join us in our upcoming Christian Life Program (CLP). The CLP brings forth a personal relationship with God and renewed faith in Jesus. It will be on **Saturdays starting on February 7** at 10:00am in the gym. The sessions consist of teachings, group discussions, and fellowship with refreshments. This program is free. For more info: Theresa Vale at theresavale@gmail.com; Tess De Ocampo at 778-231-6906; Yolly Montefalcon at 604-728-4635 or Yolly-montefacon@yahoo.com; Mila Zipagan at 604-728-4635.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

On **Wednesday February 11**, Archbishop Miller will be the celebrant. This Mass of Anointing will be held here at St. Mary's Church **beginning at 11:00am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PARISH NEWS

ST MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

On **April 2** there will be a meeting at **7:00pm** in the **School Gym** for new families who wish to enter St. Mary's School in September 2009. You **must attend** to receive an information package because they are not handed out from the school office.

2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES FOR NEW PARISHIONERS

Sunday envelopes are now ready for pickup at the registration/information table in the foyer for people who have registered in the last couple of months or contacted the office that they would like a box this year. Over 240 boxes were removed from the church basement last week because they had not been claimed since November. Contact the office with any questions.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Catholic Women's League (CWL) is dedicated to the preservation of Christian family values and human dignity by working to make life better for all people especially the disadvantaged. We do fundraising to support various charities and organize/help out parish activities whenever needed. This is for women, 16 years or older, who want to experience spiritual enrichment, personal growth and leadership development. The annual membership fee is \$21. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, at the Church Basement. Share your talents and skills with us and in turn, be richly rewarded!!

DIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC PRESS // BC CATHOLIC

Today's second collection is the **Special Collection in Support of the Catholic Press**. There is a specially marked envelope in your box of Sunday envelopes. Your contribution helps parishes send The BC Catholic to about 20,000 homes every week. Thank you for your generous support. If you already receive the BC Catholic and would like to continue doing so, please note that **the cost is \$20 per year through the church. On your own, the subscription is \$35.** If you would like to be added to the subscription list, contact the office and likewise, let us know if you no longer require the subscription. We'd like to keep the BC Catholic up to date with the subscription list..

MASS/DINNER FOR ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS RAYMOND ROUSSIN

Sunday February 15, 2009 at St Francis Xavier Parish there will be mass and dinner to honour Archbishop Emeritus Roussin. Mass begins at 4:00pm followed by dinner. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$15 for children under 9. Call the parish office if you are interested. **Deadline** to order and pay: **10:00am Mon. Feb 9**

DIOCESAN / COMMUNITY NEWS

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Sunday February 8, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm you have the opportunity to meet students, faculty and staff. You may also sit in on mini-lectures, take tours, and meet with advisors. Learn more about our courses, special programs like Social Justice and Peace Studies, and opportunities for international travel. More info at www.corpuschristi.ca or call the college at 604-822-6862.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ROSEMARY HEIGHTS

- 1) Head Chef/Cook - responsible for: preparing delicious and healthy meals for a variety of groups/special diets, fostering team spirit and working with minimum supervision.
- 2) Part-Time Bookkeeper - responsible for daily bookkeeping archive management and other general office duties .

Application **deadline is February 9, 2009.** Details: www.rcav.org

VOCATION LIVE-IN

On the weekend of **February 13 - 15** there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. For more information call 604-826-8715.

THE CENTER FOR JESUS AND MARY -- CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

Spring 2009 Session of the Catholic Bible Seminar will be held at St. Stephen's Pariah Hall on Mtn. Hwy @ East 24 Street in North Van on the weekend of **Feb 13 - 15, 2009.** The presenter is Father Jim Nisbet of Spreckles, California. Registration fees are: single adults \$55, married couples \$100. Special youth and daily fees are available. Flyers are in the church foyer or in the parish office. Please pre-register as space is limited. For more info contact Gerry or Zela Maingot at the Center 604-882-9205.

COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TRAINING

Beginning **Monday February 16**, there will be seven Monday evening sessions from **7:00pm - 9:15pm** here at St. Mary's Parish. Cost is \$60 per person and \$90 per couple. For more info call Catholic Family Services at 604-443-3220.

3- DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO PORTLAND OREGON

GROTTO OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER, FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2009

Rev. Father Gabriel de Chadarevian, OP of St. Mary's Parish Vancouver will be the Retreat Master. We begin with Holy Mass at 8:00am on Feb. 27th at St. Mary's Parish and then depart for Portland. A Mass has been booked for the Group on Feb. 28th at the Grotto followed by the Stations of the Cross. In the afternoon we visit Mount Angel, a Benedictine Abbey for Adoration, pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet ending with Benediction. Tour price is \$278.00 including Motorcoach, hotel accommodation, and breakfast. More info: Sampaguita Travel Bureau at 604 -874-9533 local 105 or Lennie 604-594-7296.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Monday & Tuesday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am & 5:00pm) & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 6:40pm
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 Masses

Masses: 8:00am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction: 9:15pm

BAPTISMS: 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.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

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)

Leader: Joseph D'silva

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca

Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Smith (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. Mark Hoo, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon