



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

**February 8, 2009**

**THE GREAT WHY**

Dear Parishioners:

A few weeks ago, a man in Belgium entered a kindergarten classroom, killed the little children with a knife, and then walked away. Why did God allow a gruesome thing like this? Why? Can God still be called good? Fr Donders asks this question in his book, "With Hearts On Fire".

*It is the great question all of us carry under the surface of our skins in the dark depths of our hearts. Why? It is a question answered in so many different ways, that it seems as if no answer has ever been given.*

*In his book The Conversations at Curlow Creek, award-winning Australian author David Malouf relates the answer as given by an old Irishman, Eamon Fitzgibbon:*

*God may exist -- I do not deny that, though as you know I am no great friend of the Church -- and be responsible for all of this. It is our business to make good by his mistakes, to achieve as far as we are able that just world of perfect reason and order that He, for whatever reason, has failed to provide for us. Perhaps because the greater glory is to stand by and let His creatures do it through the gifts he's given us.*

*Is that the answer? Maybe it is. If God would have done all for us, we would have nothing to do. We would be glorified dummies and nothing more.*

*Something is surely happening all around us in the world and definitely also within us. God and we are partners in what is happening. Is it so that in the end we will be able to say, that -- with God's help -- we were able to do it? Fr. Donders*

God Bless You *Fr. Pierre*

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- Sun. Feb. 08:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)  
 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)  
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
- Mon. Feb. 09:** 8:00am **No Morning Mass -- See 7:00pm**  
 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
 6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)  
**NEW!!** 7:00pm Mass (Church)  
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Feb. 10:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)  
 6:30pm Baptism Preparation Class (Church)  
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)  
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Feb. 11:** 10:45am Willingdon Park Mass (4435m Grange St)  
 11:00am World Day of the Sick Mass (Church)  
 6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)  
 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)  
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)  
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 12:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)  
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)  
 7:30pm SMYAC (Rectory Dining)  
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 13:** 9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (Rect Bsmt.)  
 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Avenue)  
 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. 14:** 10:00am Echoes (Church Basement)  
 10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)  
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)  
 1:00pm Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)  
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)  
 7:00 pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
- Sun. Feb. 15:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)  
 2:00pm Couples for Christ - (Church Basement)  
 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)  
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)

**PARISH NEWS**

**JR. YOUTH MINISTRY INVITATION**

If you are in grades 6 to 8 then this is your week. First we have the Jr. YM - Faith in Action on **Monday February 9 at 6:30pm** in the rectory basement. Come and join us as we celebrate our faith in Jesus through many fun games, plays and much more. Of course there will be pizza and snacks. Then, on **Saturday February 14 at 1:00pm** in the rectory basement we have our movie of the month "**Narnia**". Don't miss out on these great events. Bring a friend. More info: Arda at 604-435-9611 ext #6.

**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

**"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** in the church basement. Every session is an independent session. Everyone is welcome. You can attend Echoes on any Saturday until March 28th. **February 14 topic is entitled "Whose Story?"**

**BOOK SIGNING BY MARIE LUTTRELL**

Next **Sunday, February 15**, Marie Luttrell, a favourite columnist from the BC Catholic for 23 years, will be signing copies of her newly published book "*At the Back Door - Where God Comes Into Our Lives*". Book signing happens after the 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 1:00pm Masses. Cost of the book is \$12 and Marie is donating \$2 from every book to St. Mary's Parish. All profits from the book go to a Kenya Water Project and local charities.

**SPEAKERS NIGHT -- TWO CURRENT TOPICS**

The current economic situation has many people worried about personal finances. In line with this issue, the Catholic Women's League has lined-up two speakers for topics that have been of interest lately. The event is on **Tuesday February 17 at 7:00pm** in the church basement. **Assistance For Renters** will be presented by BC Housing and we will hear about two of their subsidy programs, who qualifies and what the process involves. **Tax-Free Savings Accounts & RRSP** will be presented by CIBC. Both talks will be open to discussion.

**HANDS OF VERONICA**

If a loved one is a patient at Burnaby hospital and would like a visit from a member of the Hands of Veronica, please contact the Parish Office with information.

## 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

Envelopes are ready for pickup at the registration/information table in the foyer for people who registered in the last couple of months or let us know they would like a box this year. Many boxes not claimed since November have been returned to the parish office. Contact the office with any questions.

## MINISTRY IN FOCUS

As youth, we respond to God's call through the Holy Spirit to be connected to each other, the church, and the world so that our lives proclaim with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord! If you are between the ages of 11 and 18, please come and join us so you can see for yourself the difference Jesus can make in your life. And if you are 19 or older, Youth Ministry is an amazing opportunity to serve our Lord by using the gifts He has given you. No experience necessary. Call Arda: 604-435-9611 extension #6

## 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](http://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](http://www.rcav.org)

### MASS/DINNER FOR ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS RAYMOND ROUSSIN

Mass and dinner to honour Archbishop Emeritus Roussin on **Sunday February 15, 2009** at St Francis Xavier Parish. 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

### 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 will be held at St. Stephen's Parish Hall (Mtn. Hwy @ East 24 Street in North Van) on **Feb 13 - 15**. Presenter is Fr. Jim Nisbet of Spreckles, California. Registration fees: 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.

### RAISING CHASTE TEENS -- A FREE PRESENTATION

**Wednesday Feb 18 - 7:00pm at Vancouver College**. Before children can come to treasure the pure life, parents must first understand the challenges they face. Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary sex educators of their children. *See the poster in the foyer for more details.*

### ENSPIRE FOUNDATION PRESENTS RESONANCE CHOIR FESTIVAL

**Broadway Church (2700 East Broadway)** hosts a benefit concert on **Saturday February 21**. Proceeds go to the Bulacan Community Project. Choirs include Corpus Christi College Chamber Choir, Ensemble Etoile, Immaculate Conception Elementary School, St. Patrick's High School, and St. Paul's Parish 6:30pm Choir. Doors open at 6:30pm, music starts at 7:00pm. Cost is: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, free for children 5 years and under. For more info. visit [www.enspire-foundation.org](http://www.enspire-foundation.org)

### 3-DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO PORTLAND OREGON

**GROTTO OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER, FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2009**  
Rev. Father Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP of St. Mary's Parish Vancouver will be the Retreat Master. We begin with Holy Mass at 8:00am on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Parish and then depart for Portland. A Mass has been booked for the group on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 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

## PARISH INFORMATION

**MASSES :** Monday 7:00pm  
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](mailto:stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca)

### **ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)**

Leader: Joseph D'silva  
Email: [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca) Website: [www.smyac.ca](http://www.smyac.ca)

### **YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)**

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu E-mail: [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.saintmarysyouth.com](http://www.saintmarysyouth.com)

### **ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal) Website: [www.stmary.bc.ca](http://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:** (currently on leave) Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.  
**Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:** Arda Akoglu  
**Parish Secretary:** Margherita Bordignon