



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

February 15, 2009

ENTER INTO GOD'S HEART!

Moved with a gut-wrenching emotion Jesus stretched out his hand and touched the leper, and said to him "I do choose, be made clean." (Mark 1:41)

In our missal, we read "Moved with pity." That is a very weak translation of the Greek word. Pity in our culture is not good. It is understood as either looking down on someone, or as being superficially emotional. But the Greek verb used by Mark, is meant to feel a very deep, and gut-level, disturbing compassion for someone. This feeling is accompanied by a determination to help the one in suffering even to the point of taking on the suffering oneself.

In fact, Jesus is so touched by the situation of the leper who is condemned to be forever excluded from society, that he does the unthinkable for a Jew: he touches the leper, rendering Himself legally unclean and outcast. Matthew describes Jesus' actions by quoting the words about the Servant of God: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases".

Christians who meet others in suffering or distress often don't experience this kind of "being with" those who suffer. We might feel some pity or concern. We often lack real compassion. Compassion is more than identifying with someone, or praying about the problem.

Just think of the physicians, dentists, chiropractors, and mental-health specialists who are unwilling to treat anyone with the AIDS virus, and all those others who would reject an offer to open an AIDS hospice -- or even a soup kitchen -- for the poor and homeless of their neighbourhood.

It would, however, be unfair to remember only those among us who fail. Let us also remember all those who, like Jesus, do assist others with word and touch -- the word and touch that should be ours as we reach out to all those who turn to us in their worries and distress" Fr. J. Donders

God Bless You *Fr. Pierre*

*Our lives no longer belong to us alone;
 They belong to all who need us desperately* Elie Wiesel

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 15:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)
- Mon. Feb. 16:** 8:00am **No Morning Mass -- See 7:00pm**
 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
 7:00pm Mass (Church)
 7:00pm Communication Skills Training (Ch. Bsmt)
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Feb. 17:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
 7:00pm CWL Meeting with Guest Speakers
 (see information under Parish News)
- Wed. Feb. 18:** 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)
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Thu. Feb. 19: 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Fri. Feb. 20: 9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (Rect Bsmt.)
 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 6:30pm Development & Peace (Rectory Dining)
 7:00pm Great Adventure Bible Study (Ch Bsmt)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/ Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
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Sat. Feb. 21: 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)
- Sun. Feb. 22:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
 2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 7:00pm Young Adults Info Night (Rectory. Bsmt)

PARISH NEWS

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be collecting pennies and other Canadian coins/currency in order to support vocations to the Priesthood. Please bring donations to the foyer before and after **all Sunday masses (Feb/March)** and put them in the BIG bottle. Your donations will be used for the education and personal needs of our seminarians God Bless You.

BOOK SIGNING BY MARIE LUTTRELL

This **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 all the morning Masses plus the 1:00pm Mass. Cost 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Patience pays off. Yes it is Sr. YM time again. I know you had to wait a while but you will see that it was worth the wait. Come and join us on **Monday, February 16 at 6:30pm** in the Rectory Basement as we try to discover if there is such a thing as sin. Do you think you know the answer? Let's find out together. Come and bring a friend. Did I mention that we will have pizza and games?

Donation?

Youth Ministry needs a new/almost new microwave oven and a DVD Player. If you would like to donate, please call Arda at 604-435-9611 ext 6.

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.

2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES FOR NEW PARISHIONERS

Have you recently registered and requested Sunday envelopes? PLEASE check the registration table for your box. If you cannot find your box this week, it will hopefully be ready by next weekend. Call the parish office with any questions.

PARISH NEWS

"ECHOES" PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

Echoes is a program that provides key knowledge and skills needed to understand and hand-on the Catholic Faith. Sessions continue **every Saturday, 10:00am to 12 noon** until March 28 in the church basement. Every session is an independent session and everyone is welcome to attend any of the remaining sessions. **February 21 topic is entitled "Who are we?"**

THE GREAT ADVENTURE -- CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Cavins is known internationally as an exciting Bible study teacher and creator of The Great Adventure Bible Study System, invites all St. Mary's parishioners to attend "*A Quick Journey through the Bible*" an 8-part introduction to the *Bible Timeline learning system*. This study is designed to give the student a brief overview of Salvation history from Genesis through the resurrection of Christ and the establishment of the Catholic Church. Students will learn about the spiritual benefits of Bible study and how to enter deeper into "**His-story**" as they begin their study of the Scriptures. Facilitated by members of Couples for Christ, the Bible study starts on **February 20 at 7:00pm** in the church basement and continues the 3rd Friday of each month. Student workbook is \$25. To register and more info: Rod/Marilyn Trigo (604-603-6856) or Serge/Marilyn Saunar (604-419-4589).

ARE YOU TURNING 18 THIS YEAR? // ARE YOU ALREADY 18?

Are you turning 18 this year? Are you a young adult between the ages of 18 - 39? If so, come to a "**Meet & Greet**" hosted by SMYAC (St. Mary's Young Adult Community). Join us and find out what we are all about on **Sunday, February 22 at 7:00pm in the rectory basement**. Refreshments provided!

YOUNG ADULTS (18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

St. Mary's Young Adult Community invites you to note **Saturday, February 28 at 7:00pm**. Circle that date on your calendar and make yourselves available! Bring a friend or two! We would love to see you for an enchanted evening of faith, food & friendship. Restaurant will be Korean with further details TBA.

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.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Rooted in Christian tradition from the earliest times, **Christian Meditation** is a way of simplicity in which we quiet the mind and become still and attentive to God. It is a prayer of silence, which takes us beyond words, thoughts and images to experience the divine presence of God within us. "The contemplative experience is simply pure attention to God in the present moment" -- Laurence Freeman OSB. "Our aim in meditation is to allow God's presence within us to become a reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do -- to everything we are" John Main OSB.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TRAINING

These sessions that were to begin on Monday, February 16, **have been cancelled** due to the small number of registrations.

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

RAISING CHILDREN TODAY

Dr. Ray Guarendi, noted clinical psychologist, author, public speaker, and radio host, will be speaking on the challenges of raising children today. Date and venue: **March 14 at 8:30am - 12:15pm** at Pacific Academy, 10238 - 168 Street, Surrey. For more info and to register visit www.pife.ca.

SEARCHING IN THE SPIRIT LEADERSHIP TEAM- www.youthmin.com

Youth Ministry Office is looking for older teens and young adults to apply for our Searching in the Spirit Leadership Team. This dynamic team of youth and young adults will lead recently confirmed youth at our 5-day post-confirmation event in August 2009. This is an amazing leadership training opportunity!

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:

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.

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.saintmarysyoung.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: (currently on leave)

Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon