



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

Sunday February 17, 2008

From Loneliness to Transfiguration



Dear Parishioners, Forty percent of Americans live alone! They are singles, or divorced, or widowed. But even among those who live in the company of their families and friends, loneliness is prevalent. We turn on the radio and get busy to forget it. We have very few moments of intimate communication with one another, even with our parents, our children, our spouse, our boyfriend or girlfriend. Don't we remain stranger to one another? Do we get a glimpse of the true person behind the mask and the "busy-ness"?

Last week, I attended the viewing and funeral of Janine Lieu, a twenty-three year old woman who drowned in an icy lake. Even her own family didn't know all the things she accomplished, all the impact she made on so many people, and so many priests. I myself discovered many things about my own dad after his death. Our true self remains largely unknown and unloved. And we think we don't have enough time to know and to love those around us. We will, in heaven.... But can we start doing it Now?

The answer is yes. The way to do it is to become a saint, according to our own capacity enlarged by the grace of God. Mother Teresa did exactly that. The famous BBC journalist, Malcom Muggeridge describes the impact she had upon an audience of people, saying, "Every face... was rapt, hanging on her words; not because of these words... but because of her. Some quality came across, over and above the words, that held their attention. A luminosity seemed to fill the school hall, penetrating every mind and heart." This miracle of Transfiguration being communicated from one person to many others is documented in the movie that Muggeridge made about Mother Teresa. They filmed a sequence in "The House of the Dying" where Mother Teresa and her nuns assist the dying. That place was so dark that the cineaste expected to see only a few shadows. How surprised was he when he viewed the movie. Everything was filled with a luminosity and a peace that came from the people caring or being cared for. It was a miracle they could never duplicate. (Contd..)

(Pastors corner contd ..) This is what happens when someone truly lives in the Presence of God. That person shines the Presence and communicates something of his/her true self by sharing his/her relationship with Christ. And we receive through that person the consolation of God and the revelation of our identity, as beloved sons/daughters of God. Now...that is communication! This is victory over loneliness!

"As we gaze in the dark faith of prayer upon the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ, we are transformed into his likeness. May our every action be done in imitation of him."
 (Magnificat). God bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND!
 The CELEBRANT SINGERS will be at St. Mary's this weekend: Feb. 16 & 17. They will provide the music at all our Sunday liturgies and a 2nd collection will be conducted at all masses for them. They will also perform a concert this Sat. Feb. 16 at 6:30pm in the church. Admission will be by donation and their CDs will be on sale for the entire weekend. Come listen to the Celebrant Singers share the gospel through their apostolate of music. It will be a musical celebration of faith, hope and joy in perfect harmony!



UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST - CONFERENCE AT ST. MARY'S
 Great opportunity! Fri. Feb. 22 & Sat. Feb. 23. St. Mary's has invited Neal Lozano, an international speaker and author of many books, to Vancouver. He has been helping people for over 30 years to achieve levels of peace and freedom in their lives, which they had never hoped to experience. He offers an understanding of the role evil plays in our Christian journey. Have you ever felt stuck, bound up, unable to move forward and experience the love and freedom you see other Christians experience? This Conference will present a sound practical road map to greater freedom from the influence of evil. Contact by email: Carolina: carolturkia@yahoo.com or Sister Marie Bouchard: smariebou@yahoo.com. See posters in the foyer, or purchase tickets at the parish office this week.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH MINISTRY GOES TO FREEDOM!
 FREEDOM, a well-attended youth night of Reconciliation, prayer, skits and testimonies will be at IC Delta on Fri. Feb. 22. St. Mary's Youth Ministry is putting together a group of teens to attend this amazing event. We will take the school bus and space is therefore limited and will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. **There is no fee to join this event but pre-registration is required.** This is open to all youth in Gr. 8 and up. If you are interested to join us, please sign up! Registration sheets are available in the Church foyer.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 17:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)
 2:00pm Couples for Christ-FFL (Church Basement)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 18:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Dining)
 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
- Tue. Feb. 19:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
 6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
 6:45pm PREP 1st Reconciliation (Church)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Feb. 20:** 5:00pm L'Arche Mass (7401 Sussex Avenue)
 6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
 6:45pm PREP 1st Reconciliation (Church Bsmt)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm CWL Meeting (School Gym)
 7:30pm PEC (Rectory Library)
 7:30pm Diocesan D & P Meeting (Rectory Dining)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 21:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 22:** 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration (Church)
 7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm "UNBOUND: Freedom in Christ" Conference by Neal Lozano (Church Bsmt)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 23:** 8:30am - 8:00pm **"UNBOUND: Freedom in Christ Conference"** (Church Bsmt)
 9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Crying Room)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (CANCELLED)
- Sun. Feb. 24:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange Street)
 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
 2:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)



PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S PARISH MISSION RETREAT : FEB. 25 - FEB. 27

The theme for this year: "Treasure In Heaven" will be preached by Fr. Mark Goring, who was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 at age 26, with the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, Ontario. A frequent speaker at conferences and retreats, Fr. Mark brings energy and enthusiasm to the gospel message, combining straightforward and humorous delivery with an inspiring depth of faith in Christ. He is a priest in love with the Lord, devoted to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother and deeply committed to living a life of faith. He also works in the area of youth evangelization. Fr. Mark will be preaching the homilies at all the masses on Sun. Feb. 24. Retreat topics: **Mon. Feb. 25 - "David & Goliath"**, **Tue. Feb. 26 - "7 Principles of the Desert"** and **Wed. Feb. 27 - "Power From On High"** Venue: Church @ 7pm with mass on Wed.



SKATING WITH SMYAC STARS

Sat. Feb. 23, 8pm. Burnaby 8 Rinks (6501 Sprott St., Burnaby). For all young adults, ages 18 to 39. Cost: approx. \$10. You may bring your own skates. Carpooling is available. For more info, please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca.



DOMINICAN "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND: THE WAY OF THE PREACHER: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT DOMINIC

For men interested in exploring a vocation with the Dominicans of Vancouver, you are invited to a Dominican "Come and See" Weekend to be held from **5pm Fri. Feb. 29 to 12.30pm Sun. Mar. 2**. Presenters are: **Fr. Claude Noel, OP, Fr. Gabriel DeChadarevian, OP, Fr. Mark Hoo, OP, and Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP.** The event will be held at the Dominican House and at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver. Deadline for registration will be Wed. Feb. 27. Cost will be \$25/person. For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Hoo, OP at frmarkhoo@yahoo.com or refer to the advertisement on the church bulletin board.



YOUNG ADULT MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Sat. Mar. 1, 7pm. Vassilis Souvlaki Greek, 6558 Kingsway, Burnaby. This month's theme: Greek! Carpooling is available. For more info, please contact smyac_team@yahoo.ca.

VISITATION OF THE SICK BY HANDS OF VERONICA

If a loved one is a patient in Burnaby General Hospital and would like to have a visit from a member of the Hands of Veronica group, please contact the Parish Office with information.

PARISH NEWS

LOST AND FOUND

Please note, due to the large number of items in the Lost and Found box, it shall be emptied monthly on the fourth Sunday of the month. All suitable items will then be donated to charity. Please check the box, which is kept at the Registration Table, for any lost items. A reminder to all members of the Hospitality Team: please use the Log book, which is also kept at the Registration Table, to record any Lost and Found items.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM AT ST. MARY'S

Are you looking for a program that will help: 1) bring you and your spouse or loved ones to a personal relationship with God and a renewed faith in Jesus, 2) empower you in the Christian life through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and, c) integrate you into an environment where you can receive support for your individual and your families' Christian life? **If your answer is YES**, Couples for Christ, a Catholic community movement, invites you and all couples, including those separated, divorced and widowed to a Christian Life Program (CLP). **The CLP will be held starting Sat. Mar. 1, 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Church basement.** This program is conducted free of charge, transportation will be provided upon request. Sessions consist of: a teaching, a group discussion, and a time for fellowship with free refreshments. Each session would normally last for about 2 1/2 hours. For further details, pls. contact: Ning & Edith Dinglasan (604)240-6770.

CWL - NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to invite any newly registered parishioners to our first informal "Welcome Reception" on **Sun. Mar. 2** at the church basement from 2 - 4:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. We encourage any new registered parishioners to attend. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parishioners and learn more about the parish. Sign up sheet is available at one of the desks at the church foyer. So, come and join us for a fun gathering.

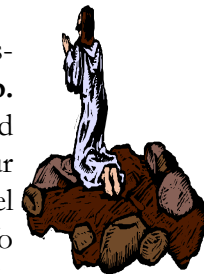
ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST. MARY'S

CWL RETREAT on "Contemplative Prayers for the Busy Women of Today" by Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, OP. Come to a one day retreat on **Sat. Mar. 15** (8am-5pm) to ease and nurture our mind, heart and spirit in a serene setting of Rosemary Heights. Cost will be \$23.50 /person, includes transportation coffee/snack/full lunch. To register contact Chit Bauzon (604) 999-8574. Deadline is Mar 3.

COMMUNITY NEWS

"LET US PRAY" RETREAT

We invite single Catholic men to join us for a discernment retreat from **Fri. Feb. 22 to Sun. Feb. 24** at Westminster Abbey, Mission. Come and discover your vocation through **Prayer** with our guest speaker Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller. Do not wait! Register now! For more info or to register call the Vocations Office 604-443-3254 / 604-785-7088 or email: vocations@rcav.bc.ca.



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES Mon. - Fri. 8:00am; Sat. 12:00 pm
Wed. - Fri. 7:00pm followed by Adoration
& Benediction at 9:15pm

Saturday - 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)

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

RECONCILIATION Sunday & Weekdays - Before and after all Masses.
Saturday - 11:15-11:45am; 4:15-4:45pm;

(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
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: 9:15pm

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)

Leader: Jonquil Francis and Joseph D'silva

Contact: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Website: www.saintmarysyoung.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