



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday February 3, 2008



Dear Parishioners,






If I were asked to condense the eight beatitudes in one sentence, I would suggest this one: Blessed are those who are compassionate as my Father in heaven is compassionate, for his joy will be theirs. What I mean by being compassionate is not what we usually think: somehow looking down in people, having pity on them. No, compassion means to feel what the other person is feeling, to suffer from what he suffers, to rejoice with him about what gives him joy. Compassion enlarges your heart to the dimensions of Christ's heart. Nothing remains foreign to you. Every good thing that happens to someone becomes a source of blessing for you. Every suffering moves you to love more. The whole Christian journey is a journey into compassion until we feel, think and act as our Father in heaven feels, thinks and acts. The last three and a half years , the Lord has given me a lot of opportunities to grow in compassion. Sometimes, I would find it in my heart when I least expected it, as a spring flower pressing through the melting snow.

But the biggest surprise for me was to discover the healing power of compassion as I began to hear more and more confession and do more and more spiritual direction. I was lead to pray for the inner healing of those persons who shared their burdens with me. Whenever I feel a deep compassion for a person, it is a sign to me that God is doing something about that situation. It is a sign that God wants me to join him in his healing words. It is a sign that the Father requests my prayers and is already answering them. The fruit may blossom later but some healing process is undergoing already. This is what was going on in Jesus when he was healing the sick and forgiving the sinner. This is what can happen in your life. Are you ready for the gift? The world needs it very badly!

God bless you, Fr. Pierre




THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Feb. 03:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)
- Mon. Feb. 04:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Theology of the Body (Church Basement)
7:30pm Lay Apostle Of Jesus Christ Mtg. (Church)
- Tue. Feb. 05:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm K of C Executive (School Gym)
- Wed. Feb. 06**  **ASH WEDNESDAY - Fast and Abstinence**
8:00am Mass with Imposition of Ashes (Church)
9:30am School Mass with Imposition of Ashes (Church)
10:45pm Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
7:00pm Mass with Imposition of Ashes followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Feb. 07:**  7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Feb. 08:**   10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Ave)
3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration (Church) 
7:00pm Bible Sharing (CANCELLED)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Feb. 09:** 9:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Church Bsmt)
9:30am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
2:00pm Youth Ministry Open Gym (school gym)
- Sun. Feb. 10:** 11:15am PREP Special Classes (School)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Bsmt)
NEW: 5:00pm Youth & Young Adult Mass (Church)

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MASS ATTENDANCE DOUBLES!!!

The participants during the 2nd Sunday of the Youth & Young Adults Mass doubled. We expect this Mass to continue to grow. Be a part of this opportunity to be more involved in the Eucharist. Join us again this **Sunday at 5pm** for another opportunity to celebrate, pray and just be together as God's young people. 

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FAITH SERIES AT ST. MARY'S (Part 4)

Mon. Feb. 4, 7-9pm Church basement. Hungering for truth? For deeper meaning to your life? Did it ever occur to you that the answers to life's most important questions are stamped right in your own body & sexuality? Learn how, as St. Mary's Young Adult Community presents *Created and Redeemed*, a 4-part faith series based on Pope John Paul II's universal teaching, Theology of the Body. This powerful and beautiful message is for everyone at any age and stage of life. It is an education on being human and offers the truth that will set you free. This is the last session of the first half of the Faith Series. The last 4 talks of the Faith Series will resume after Lent. We will keep you posted.


LAY APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST MEETING

The Monthly prayer Meeting of Jesus Christ, the Returning King, will be on **Mon. Feb. 4** at 7.30pm in the Church. Where the monthly message will be read, and the luminous mysteries will be prayed. All are welcome.


IMPORTANT PREP ANNOUNCEMENT

This **Wed. Feb. 6**, PREP will have its own **Ash Wednesday Mass**. Parishioners who attend the regular Parish Ash Wednesday Mass (in the Church at 7pm) are welcome to join us in the School Gym if that Mass runs out of seats. The church parking lot will be very busy and therefore PREP parents MUST pick up their children from the back parking lot of the school. Pick up from the front doors of the school will **NOT BE PERMITTED**. This change is for the safety of our PREP students and parishioners. Thank you for your cooperation.

YM OPEN GYM

St. Mary's Youth Ministry invites all youth in Grades 6 to 12 to their Open Gym on **Sat. Feb. 9** at 2:00pm in the School Gym. See you there! 

SMYAC BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mon. Feb. 11, 7:30pm - 9pm Rectory Library. (Note the change in date). We will discuss chapters 9 & 10 of Mother Teresa's book, *Come Be My Light*. 

PARISH / COMMUNITY NEWS

THE CELEBRANT SINGERS VISIT: INCLUDES INVITING ALL TALENTED MUSICIANS AND SINGERS FOR AN AUDITION!!!

The CELEBRANT SINGERS with their founding leader Jon Stemkoski will visit St. Mary's on the weekend of **Feb. 16 & 17**. Since **Jon Stemkoski** founded the group in 1977, they have grown to seven full-time teams that travel throughout North America and overseas. They also have a summer internship program called the "Summer Celebrants". Each summer several new members join their internship program or their full time teams. This year they are expanding again by launching a new ministry called RE-PRISE! composed of "mature adults" (over 40) who will travel and minister internationally for three weeks. Following their **concert on Sat. Feb. 16 at 6:30pm in the church**, The Celebrants will host **auditions** for any talented musicians & singers who may be interested in joining their ministry. If you would like to travel **and** share your talent at the same time, do consider auditioning. Concert admission will be by donation and CDs will be on sale. Any inquiries - please contact: **Aprille McCauley at 604-435-4776 or email: aprille@telus.net**



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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM ST. MARY'S CAROLING GROUP

A Big **THANK YOU** to all parishioners for their generosity and support to the St. Mary's Grade 1 Caroling Group. We raised a total of \$1,916.12. This money will be shared among BC Children's Hospital, Red Cross, Development & Peace & Christian Children's Fund of Canada. We will also be sponsoring a child through Christian Child Care International, a Catholic Sponsorship Program.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

We would like to thank all the parishioners for making our giving tree and sock drive a great success. With your overwhelming response we were able to assist a number of families in need as well as the Christmas Bureau. The socks, mitts and toques were given out to the homeless at Main and Hastings as part of our outreach program. It was amazing and heart warming to see the appreciation and gratitude in their eyes. We thank you again on their behalf and God Bless you for your generosity

ST. MARY'S - DEVELOPMENT & PEACE COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Fall Action Campaign. We collected close to 400 signed petition cards calling for an independent ombudsman for Canadian mining companies operating in developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. We thank you for your continued support and hope you will give generously during our forthcoming Share Lent Campaign.

VOCATIONS LIVE-IN

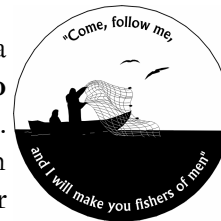
On the weekend of **Feb. 15 - 17** there will be a Vocations Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, in Mission. For more info, call 604-826-8715.

CATHOLIC CAFÉ PRESENTATION

Fr. Gabriel de Chadarevian, O.P.: My Life and conversion / reversion to the Faith. A cradle Catholic's journey away from the Church and back..... then into religious life and the priesthood. **Sun. Feb. 17**, at 6:15pm at St. Jude's Parish Hall. Please bring approx. \$10 to cover light meal and other costs. Let us know you are coming! Call Harold Waldock 604-763-6984 or email hwaldock@yahoo.ca. For more about Catholic Café visit www.catholiccafe.ca.

"LET US PRAY" RETREAT

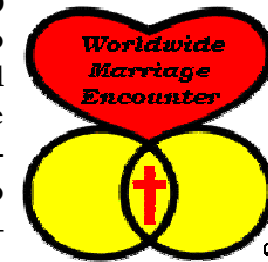
We invite single Catholic men to join us for a discernment retreat from **Fri. Feb. 22 to Sun. Feb. 24** at Westminster Abbey, Mission. Come and discover your vocation through **Prayer** with our guest speaker Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller. Do not wait! Register now! For more info or to register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



COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Tired of Hallmark? Do you want to give your Valentine something that will be remembered for a lifetime? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great Get-away for just the two of you. Register for an upcoming Weekend, **Mar. 28-30**. Call Steve & Mary : **604-876-7298** sbohnen@interchange.ubc.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