



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

Sunday January 13th, 2008

Baptism of the Lord



Dear Parishioners, on this Feast Day of the Baptism of our Lord, we notice in today's Gospel that the Holy Spirit descended upon our Lord when he was baptized with water. And, that is certainly what our Catholic Catechism teaches about us as well when we too are baptized with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As #'s 1262 and 1268 of the Catholic Catechism tells us, "the two principal effects [of baptism] are purification from sins and *new birth in the Holy Spirit,*" and that God also gives us "*the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*" What does this say but that baptism implies that we are *born again anew, to live our Christian lives in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Given these wonder filled realities that result from baptism, how is it then that many of us Catholics still live out our faith in a rather lacklustre way that, too often, seems indistinguishable from the rest of our Canadian society? This in contrast to what is happening in other parts of the world, especially Africa, where the Catholic Church has grown 6700% in the 20th century alone, no doubt in great part through Catholics living out their faith and sharing their faith to others!

Could it be that part of the answer to the situation of Catholics in Canada may lie in the fact that many of us may still be in the situation of being "*sacramentalized but not evangelized?*" By this I mean that we can go to church every Sunday and partake of the sacraments and yet still not have a lived expression of Christ as source, centre, and summit of our lives. Cardinal Avery Dulles, in a recent article on baptism noted that, "according to the primary Christian documents, salvation comes through *personal faith in Jesus Christ,* followed and signified by sacramental baptism." In other words, it is faith in Jesus Christ that saves, as is signified and expressed by the sacrament of Baptism.

But if parents themselves do not see their Catholic faith as an expression of a lived intimate relationship with Christ, lived out daily in the power of the Holy Spirit, how do we expect them to pass on their Catholic faith to their children? (Contd...)




(Pastors corner contd....) It is no wonder then, that I am told often by young Catholics that they don't go to Church regularly because their parents themselves don't go to Church regularly. In other words, Christ isn't all that important in their parents' lives!

As we enter this new year of 2008 then, let us take the opportunity to renew our intimate faith relationship with Christ, through a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit, so that the sacraments that we partake may truly be the source, and lived expression of our faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

God bless, Fr. Mark.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 13:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. Jan. 14:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Theology of the Body (Church Basement)
- Tue. Jan. 15:** 12:00pm Seniors Lunch Bunch (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Teen PREP (Rectory Basement)
6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Grade 2 Parents Meeting (School Gym)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
- Wed. Jan. 16:**  6:30pm Elementary PREP (School)
6:45pm Grade 2 Parents Meeting (School Seminar Rm)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm CWL Meeting (Gym)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Jan. 17:**  7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Pastoral Council Mtg. (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Jan. 18:**  3:00pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:30pm Young Adults Games Night (Rect.Bsmt.)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jan. 19:** 10:00am Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Basement)
- Sun. Jan. 20:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)

PARISH NEWS

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FAITH SERIES AT ST. MARY'S

Mon. Jan 14, 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 7-9pm in the Church basement. Hunger 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. Suggested donation: \$5.

ST. MARY'S CWL PRESENTATION "NURSE NEXT DOOR SERVICES"

The Catholic Women's League would like to invite all interested parishioners to attend a presentation by a guest speaker from the "Nurse Next Door Services" on **Jan. 16** at 7pm in the school gym. Their services provide care around your needs, your budget and your time. Services include companionship, home management, personal care, live-in care, complex care, nursing care, respite care to child care. All care givers are professionally screened. So, don't miss this interesting presentation, it may be the kind of services you are looking for now or in future for yourself, your family members or your friends.

YOUNG ADULT GAMES NIGHT

Fri. Jan 18, 7:30pm, Rectory basement. Join us for a fantastic evening of fun and games. Bring your favorite board games, or other simple "indoor" games {just bring something!!!}, and share them with other young adults. It's more fun that way! We hope to see you there! Bring a friend or two!

NEXT SAT./SUN Jan.19/20 is VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

To all Volunteers of St. Mary's Parish – please remember to wear your Volunteer tag **next Sat./Sun.** which is the 3rd Sunday of the month, when we will recognize the tremendous assistance and support provided by you to our Parish. Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Mary's Street Ministry would like to thank all who supported a former street woman to move out of the downtown eastside to her sponsor's place in Ladner. We received more than enough donations for the truck rental, and we had good strong brothers who helped in the loading and unloading. The move went very smoothly and we finished within 3 hours. The woman is now safe. God Bless you all for your generosity.



PARISH / COMMUNITYNEWS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MASS LAUNCHES SUN. JAN. 20th

We are just one week away from this major initiative. We have received calls and emails about this awesome opportunity to be more involved in the Eucharist. We still welcome volunteers. If you would like to volunteer as a reader, usher, singer, instrument player, or you just want to help in the Youth Masses in whatever way you can, please get in touch with Eli Bautista at (604) 435-9611 ext 6 or via stmarys_ym@yahoo.com. See you all there on **Sun. Jan. 20 at 5pm.**



SMYAC MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Sat. Jan. 26, 7pm. Place to be determined! Stay tuned for more info in next week's bulletin. This month's theme: Chinese, celebrating the Chinese New Year early!

CELEBRANT SINGERS VISIT ST. MARY'S!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From a command performance for Pope John Paul II to the Halls of the Pentagon; Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize reception in 1979, World Youth Day in Denver (1993) and Toronto (2002), the internationally well known CELEBRANT SINGERS have sung to over 6 million people worldwide and **will visit St. Mary's for the entire weekend of Feb. 16/17.** Composed of 8-10 singers and a 12 piece orchestra, the Celebrant Singers will provide the music at all our Sunday Liturgies during this weekend. They will also perform a concert of contemporary, liturgical, praise & worship and gospel music at St. Mary's. Without YOUR help this endeavor cannot come to life. The parish has to provide host homes for the traveling group (20-22 people). If you have space or a spare bedroom and can host 1, 2 or more members of the group in your home for 2 nights - Feb. 16 & Feb. 17th, please sign up at the Registration table in the church foyer OR contact Aprille McCauley at 604-435-4776 or aprille@telus.net. Volunteers will also be needed for this particular weekend. Please sign up, and you will be contacted.



UBC PINOY MOM & TOT DENTAL SURVEY

-Attn Filipino moms! Free dental check up for your child 1 1/2 to 5 yrs old, at Collingwood Neighborhood House on **Jan. 20 & Feb. 3.** (Plus freebies for tots & raffle prizes for moms.) Book appointments with UBC's Dr. Khristine Cariño at 604-812-8960 or hthf2007@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TWO VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Little Mountain Place Senior's Care Home is in need of two volunteers. Located on Main St. and 36th Ave, we need help to bring residents down to the Chaplain's Hour of Prayer every Friday. We begin at 9am and the service is at 9.30am.. Please phone me at 604-760-7591 and I can arrange to meet with you. *Fr. Ron Rissling, OMI - Chaplain, Little Mountain Place.*

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE & INFORMATION MEETING

Tue. Jan. 22, from 5 - 9pm, 2855 Parker St. Vcr. All parents and students in Gr.7 are invited to attend. Parents must pre-register their child at this Open House in order to write the Placement Test (fee:\$25 cash only). **Gr. 8 Placement Test Thu. Feb. 21** in the NDRS auditorium. Parents please pick up students at 3pm. Selection preference must be given to students in our Region and selection is **not based only** on performance on this test. For more information call 604-255-5454 or email jugglers@ndrs.org or <http://www.ndrs.org>.

INFORMATION EVENING ON THE LAY APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST

"The Returning King" will be held in St. Mary's Church Basement, 5251 Joyce Street (1 Block from Joyce Skytrain) on **Tue. Jan. 22** at 7.30pm. For Further Info please contact Karen 778-990-0123 or www.directionforourtimes.com" (If you are not familiar with the Lay Apostolate, it is based on private revelations revealed to "Anne", a lay apostle. These messages are under the obedience of the catholic church and permission to publish the messages has been given by "Anne's" bishop. Sr. Breege McKenna, Fr. Kevin Scanlon, Howard Q Dee, (to name a few) are all supporting and involved in the propagation of these messages. I hope you take the time to read the website and especially the messages. Which can be downloaded for free on: <http://www.directionforourtimes.com/onlinevolumes.html> and <http://www.directionforourtimes.com/onlinelibrary.html> . Also, there is a youth division of the Lay Apostolate.... <http://www.recharge.cc/>.) I hope you take the time to discern these messages and you obtain the superabundance of graces attached to this messages by reading them. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at karen.regan@yahoo.ie or 778-990-0123 or www.directionforourtimes.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Our Lady of Good Counsel Society will be offering a 10 week volunteer training course on **Monday evenings Feb. 4 to Apr. 21,** at Christ the Redeemer Parish, West Vancouver. For information or registration phone 604-640-7549.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN PARISH - MARDI GRAS DINNER/DANCE

St. Mary's 2nd Annual Puschenya dinner/dance takes place on **Sat. Feb. 2** at 3150 Ash St. Vcr., (16th Ave. & Ash St.). Tickets are \$35 per person and \$20 for youth aged 20 & under. Enjoy a homemade Ukrainian buffet dinner, music by S-Bahn, free parking and door prizes. Don't wait - book your tables now. For tickets & info call Pat 604-433-0661, Henriette 604-291-0087 or the Parish Office 604-879-5930.



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, 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.saintmarysyouth.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