



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

January 25, 2009

ANATOMY OF AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Dear Parishioners,

*“Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,
 “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”
 Saul asked, “Who are you Lord?”
 The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what to do.”*



The first component of this encounter is its personal character. Christ Himself speaks to Paul, calling him by name, and identifying Himself as Jesus after Paul requested it. Until now, Yahweh had refused to give His name. The context of this encounter is also very personal. Christ does not reproach Paul for persecuting Christians values, but he reproaches Paul for persecuting Him through the persecution of the Christian disciples. In other words, what Paul did to the disciples affected Jesus personally. You too can affect God personally. But this relationship with God is bi-lateral. God is affecting you as much as you are affecting Him. He touches you from the inside. That is what Paul is saying when he speaks of the “conversion-encounter” in Galatians 1:4-16. “God chose to reveal His Son in me.” Paul received the imprint of the Son in his heart. A burning fire from within. From now on, Paul will preach Christ out of this deep inner Presence, that longing Paul will write later, “Jesus gave up His life for me.”

There are other components of this encounter. The whole Gospel of Paul is contained in it as a seed. Paul learned at that moment the core of His Gospel, not from human teaching, but from God. We can summarize it in one sentence, “Salvation comes not from the works of the Law, but through surrendering completely to Jesus”. (See Galatians 1: 4 - 16)

God Bless, Fr. Pierre

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 25:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
 2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Jan. 26:** 8:00am **No Morning Mass -- See 7:00pm**
 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
 6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
NEW!! 7:00pm Mass (Church)
 7:00pm Catholic History Seminar (Church Bsmt)
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Jan. 27:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
 6:30pm CWL (Church Basement)
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Jan. 28:** 8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
 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. Jan. 29:** 6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Jan. 30:** 9:00am Bible Sharing for Moms (Rect. Bsmt.)
 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/ Sacristy)
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Jan. 31:** 10:00am Echoes (Church Basement)
 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
 7:00 pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
- Sun. Feb. 01:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
 2:00pm Youth for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)
 3:00pm Baptisms (Church)
 5 :00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY - DISCOVERY

Did you miss the Senior Youth Ministry Discovery last week? Well, good news. Discovery is being repeated so now you don't have to miss out. Senior Youth Ministry Discovery (**Gr. 8 - 12**) on **Monday January 26 at 6:30pm** in the rectory basement. Junior Youth Ministry Discovery (**Gr. 6- 8**) is on **Thursday January 29 at 6:30pm** in the rectory basement. Come and DISCOVER. You can also win a cool CD. See you there.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE CHANGE TO MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Catholic Women's League regular membership meeting has been changed from every 3rd Wednesday to every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the church basement. However, as an exception, this month's meeting will be on the 4th **Tuesday, January 27**. We invite any Catholic women aged 19 or over to join us

"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. Echoes sessions are **every Saturday from 10:00am to 12 noon** until March 28 in the church basement. Everyone is still welcome to join us. **January 31 topic is entitled "Why the New Catechism".**

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Saturday January 31, 7:00pm at The Reef Restaurant: 4172 Main Street, Vancouver! 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! Please **RSVP: smyac_team@yahoo.ca** by Wednesday **January 28**. Carpooling is available – please let us know

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD)

Single? Divorced? Separated? Widowed? Join us in our upcoming Christian Life Program (CLP). The CLP brings forth a personal relationship with God and renewed faith in Jesus. It will be on **Saturdays starting on February 7** at 10:00am in the gym. The sessions consist of teachings, group discussions, and fellowship with refreshments. This program is free. For more info: Tess De Ocampo at 778-231-6906; Theresa Vale at there-savale@gmail.com; Yolly Montefalscon 604-728-4635 or Yollymointefacon@yahoo.com; Mila Zipagan at 604-728-4635.

SOCKS AND T-SHIRTS DONATIONS

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) will be collecting NEW socks and men's T-shirts today and next weekend. Deposit the items into the marked boxes in the foyer and we will donate to

PARISH NEWS

2009 SUNDAY ENVELOPES—GOING, GOING, GONE !!!

By Monday morning, all Sunday envelopes that have been in the church basement since November will be returned to the parish office. If you are a recent registrant, or if you looked for your envelope and notified us that you could not find one, we probably have one ready for you - check downstairs. Next week newly assigned envelopes will be at the information table in the foyer.

Thank you to those of you who have notified the office of any address/name/phone changes. **Please** continue to keep us updated, but **please stop using envelopes that are not 2009.**

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

As Exodus Ministry we respond to the call to love others as Jesus loves us and to promote the concept of restorative justice. We minister with love, respect and hope to the lost and the outcast of our society by sharing our time and musical talents once a month with the women of Talitha Koum and youth at the Burnaby Youth Detention Centre. All are welcome -- join us in serving our Lord. We are woefully short of people who play musical instruments.

DIOCESAN NEWS

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

On **January 31 at 3:00pm** The Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Luigi Ventura, will formally welcome our new Archbishop to Holy Rosary Cathedral. An Apostolic Letter marking the occasion will be read, and in the presence of Archbishop Emeritus Raymond Roussin, SM and other bishops, priests, religious and the lay faithful the Nuncio will escort Archbishop Miller to the *catbedra*. All are cordially invited to the Mass and to the reception that follows in Holy Rosary Hall.

CATHOLIC PRESS // BC CATHOLIC

Next weekend, **February 1**, is the **Special Collection in Support of the Catholic Press**. There is a specially marked envelope in your box of Sunday envelopes. Your contribution helps parishes send The BC Catholic to about 20,000 homes every week. Thank you for your generous support. Would you like to subscribe to the BC Catholic? **The cost is \$20 per year through the church. On your own the subscription is \$35**

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.

DIOCESAN / COMMUNITY NEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

What is as old as Christianity, brings joy and peace to those who practice it, and is the best-kept secret in the church today? The answer is Christian Meditation. In an age of rush and noise it is essential that we find time to be still and quiet. Christian Meditation is silent prayer in which we find God who dwells within our own heart. In finding God we also find our true self and thus we are renewed. Christian Meditation is the natural progression of our prayer life towards a deeper experience of God. Come and learn more on **Friday January 30 from 7:30 - 9:30pm in St. Mary's Church Basement**. Everyone welcome.

GOING DEEPER: A WORKSHOP FOR MEDITATION GROUPS

This workshop will be led by Rev. Phil Barnett, National Coordinator for the Canadian Christian Meditation Community. It is suitable for members of meditation groups as well as group leaders. The objectives of the day will be to identify the benefits of meditation groups, reflect on the various leadership roles within the meditation community, explore tips and tools for sharing this form of prayer, share collective experience. The day will include meditation times. Join us on **Saturday January 31 from 10:00am - 4:00pm at St. Edmunds small gym (535 Mahon Ave., North Vancouver)**. Brown bag lunch. Admission by donation.

THE CENTER FOR JESUS AND MARY -- CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

Spring 2009 Session of the Catholic Bible Seminar will be held at St. Stephen's Pariah Hall on Mtn. Hwy @ East 24 Street in North Van on the weekend of **Feb 13 - 15, 2009**. The presenter is Father Jim Nisbet of Spreckles, California. Registration fees are: 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.

3- DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO PORTLAND OREGON

GROTTO OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER, FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2009

Rev. Father Gabriel de Chadarevian, OP of St. Mary's Parish Vancouver will be the Retreat Master. We begin with Holy Mass at 8:00am on Feb. 27th. at St. Mary's Parish and then depart for Portland. A Mass has been booked for the Group on Feb. 28th 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 Bureau at 604 -874-9533 local 105 or Lennie 604-594-7296.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES

Monday & 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

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.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal)

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312

Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

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: Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon