



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

March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Why is it so hard to believe in Jesus Christ?

In our days and times, the media speaks highly about those who are critical of the Christian faith. They are praised for their independence of mind, their non-conformism, their critical mind. The believers are seen by the media as the weak, the conformists, the naïve. Today's Gospels -- both the year A Gospel for the 9:30am RCIA mass, and the year B Gospel for the other six masses -- tell a different story.

"And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed." John 3:19-20

Let us apply this to ourselves, to that part of unbelief in ourselves, to that voice in ourselves that says, *"I believe but not that much. What if this faith stuff does not turn out to be true? There is so much at stake here."* When we hear that inner voice, it is mostly because our desires and deeds are not all good. We know that if we examine our conscience thoroughly, with the light of the Gospel and the grace of God, we will have to renounce a lot of false desires and evil habits, to conform our deeds to God's will.

Simply put, in plain English, much of our unbelief stems from our attachment to our sinful ways and our reluctance to renounce them. We have a vested interest in sin. It is tempting to doubt our faith in order to do what we please.

On the other hand, the more we renounce sin and do what is right and true, the more we desire to come to the light, and the easier it will be to believe in Christ. To say it again, in another way, it is hard to truly believe in Christ, because then we will have to observe his commandments and lose the false happiness of sin. We would rather choose the illusion of short-term quick happiness than the promise of long-term lasting joy. But the more we experience the joy of living out the commandments, the more we trust God.

Pastor's corner (con't)

Once, there was a funambulist walking on a tight rope over a deep chasm. He had been practicing hundreds of times, walking across the chasm, pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with a big bag of sand weighting 75 kilos. A bystander had been watching him for many days. Finally, the funambulist asked the bystander "Can I carry a man of 75 kilos in the wheelbarrow instead of a bag of sand? I believe I can do it easily." To this, the bystander replied "Of course, I believe you can do it easily and safely. You have done it a hundred times with a similar weight."

Then the funambulist asked, "Do you think I could ask my only son to jump into the wheelbarrow and cross the chasm on the tight rope?" -- "Of course came the reply, I trust you can do it." -- The funambulist replied, "I have no son. Can you be my son? Can you jump into the wheelbarrow?" -- The other said, "No way!!"

He believed, but he did not trust. Do you trust God?
 God Bless You. **Fr. Pierre**

PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During **all Fridays in Lent**, Stations of the Cross will be at 6:30pm and then our regular evening Mass will follow at 7:00pm

JR YOUTH MINISTRY -- (Grades 6- 8)

Games, testimony, skits and pizza. Yes it is Jr. Youth Ministry time. Did you know that our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Arda, is the only Christian in his whole family? Yes, it is true. He will share with us his testimony, full of interesting stories. We will also have games and skits to entertain us as we learn more about God and one another. Come and join us on **Monday, March 23 at 6:30pm in the Church Basement.** You'll be glad you did

FREEDOM FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Join us for the 10th Anniversary of FREEDOM: a Powerful, one-of-a-kind reconciliation event for youth (grades 8 - 12) and young adults. Music, skits, drama, teaching and an examination of conscience are part of the energetic and emotional program that prepares the participants for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join us here at St. Mary's on **Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm in the Church Basement.** Come and be set free!!!

CHANGE TO FRIDAY MARCH 27 MASS

Because of the Freedom event, there will be **no adoration or healing ministry** after the 7:00pm Mass on **Friday, March 27.**

PARISH NEWS

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Saturday, March 28 at 7:00pm at Vancouver Alpen Club (4875 Victoria Drive at 33rd Avenue). Circle that date on your calendar and remember to bring a friend along. This month we experience German, Swiss, and Austrian culture! We'd love to see you for an enchanted evening of faith, food & friendship, and maybe even dancing. **RSVP** to smyac_team@yahoo.ca by **Wednesday, March 25.** Carpooling available -- let us know.

INVITATION FROM SINGLES FOR CHRIST

Singles for Christ (a Family Ministry of Couples for Christ) is inviting all single men and women, aged 21 - 40 to a Christian Life Program, **Saturday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.** The **Orientation is on March 28 in the Church basement** Singles for Christ aim to provide a Christian support environment for men and women who are at the crossroads of their state of life, choosing between marriage or single blessedness.

Why should you attend? To discover your faith, God and the community of Singles for Christ. To meet new people — Fun and Fellowship. For more info, see members in the foyer.

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Several priests will be available for confessions on **Friday, April 3, after the 7:00pm mass.** This will be one of the last opportunities before Easter to take part in this sacrament. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Our annual yard sale to support Respect Life will take place on **Saturday, April 18.** We hope you have started your spring cleaning and are saving any items that you may want to donate. This includes garden items, jewelry, dishes, books etc. **NO CLOTHING PLEASE.** There is a big wooden box in the foyer marked "YARD SALE". Please bring your donations over the next couple of weeks. (Before Easter Sunday) Thank you.



ANNUAL SPRING DANCE

Our Knights of Columbus will have their Annual Spring Dinner and Dance Party on **Saturday May 23** in the St. Mary's School Gym. All proceeds will go to Birth Right Program. For tickets call Bro. Rene Montilla at 604-454-9679, Bro Joe. Pellingon at 604-438-3821 or Bro. Manny Mendoza at 604-430-3647.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Where flowers bloom, so does hope. The **Flower Ministry** has helped spread hope by creating flower arrangements for the church week after week. More than a beautifying agent, we believe that flowers help enhance your encounter with GOD by promoting a sense of peace and welcome in the church. We meet at 9:00am Friday mornings at the church basement. Everyone is welcome to join (drivers are urgently needed). For more information about our ministry, please refer to the display poster and handouts at the back of the church.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER -- MARCH 27 - 29

Attention Married Couples! You deserve to give each other a weekend to enhance your marital love. For more info. or to register please contact Steve & Mary Bohnen at 604-876-7298.

FAMILY MATTERS -- PRO-LIFE CONGRESS

Speakers: Archbishop Emeritus Adam Exner and Mrs. Colleen Roy at St. Paul's Parish, 8251 St. Alban's Road, Richmond on **Saturday, March 28** from 8:00am - 4:00pm. The fee is \$10 and sponsored by Couples for Christ. Info and registration: 604-270-9463 or www.bc.cfc.ca/Pro-Life.

MORNING OF RECOLLECTION

Madonna House invites you to a morning of recollection on **Saturday, March 28** from 9:30am - noon. Dr. Brook Herbert will be talking about Eucharist and St. Paul's letters. Please bring your bibles and rosaries. Call 604-267-1757 for more info.

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI TRIVIA NIGHT

Fun, snacks and prizes on **Saturday, April 3** in the Notre Dame Auditorium. **Cost is \$10 per person.** To register please leave a message for Lana (your name, phone number and number of players) at the ND office: 604-255-5454.

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS

Do you need help around the house? The L'Arche Community in Burnaby is proud to present their program "Neighbours Helping Neighbours". An enthusiastic team of men and women with developmental disabilities have experience and training and are willing to help seniors and others in your neighbourhood. Working under the direction of a supervisor, the team enjoys helping with jobs such as: lawn care, light carpentry such as fixing fences, jobs that need a little muscle, recycling and debris clean up. They offer services for free but always welcome a donation to L'Arche. To contact us for more information, please call Magda Van Zyl at 604-435-9544 ext. 29.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Mar. 22:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)
10:15am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
2:00pm Music Ministry Mtg (Rectory Dining)
2:00pm Couples for Christ--FFL (Church Bsmt)
- Mon. Mar. 23:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Jr. Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Mar. 24:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Marriage Prep Course (Church Bsmt)
- Wed. Mar. 25:**  8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (school)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Mar. 26:**  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. Mar. 27:**  9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (Rect Bsmt)
3:00pm & 6:10pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00pm Mass only - **(Adoration cancelled)**
7:00pm FREEDOM **(Church Basement)**
7:40pm Healing Prayer **(cancelled)**
9:15pm Benediction **(cancelled)**
- Sat. Mar. 28:** 10:00am Echoes - **Last Session** (Church Bsmt)
10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining Room)
3:00pm Knights of Columbus (Church Bsmt)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:30pm Singles for Christ (Church Basement)
7:30pm Couples for Christ-- CLP (School Gym)
- Sun. Mar. 29:** 10:00am RCIA (Rectory Basement)

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)

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

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