



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

November 01, 2009

WHY SHOULD I PRAY FOR MY BELOVED DECEASED?

Why do we have to pray for the souls in purgatory? Why especially for our loved ones? To answer this, we must understand the effects of our sins, in this life and in purgatory. When we sin, we not only hurt others and offend God, but we damage our own inner core, our soul. Our will becomes weaker and inclined to fall into the same sin again and again. It gets more and more difficult to desire God. Holiness of life becomes repulsive. Self-centeredness governs our choices, instead of love. The more we sin the more we see love as an unrealistic option. These are some of the long-term "side effects" of sin in us. We are like a smoker who stopped smoking but still has to clean his lungs of nicotine and restore his body of all the side effects of the habit of smoking.

How can we do this? We repent, confess our sins and live according to the Word of God. We are forgiven, but the side-effects of sin are still there. Just like the ex-smokers, we still need healing. And it takes time and effort. Prayer, penance (fasting) and alms giving are ways proposed by Jesus. These must be done out of love for God, for others, for our soul. Every act of love is healing. Slowly, by living a life of love, as Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, our inner being, our soul will be healed. The things of the Kingdom of God will become desirable again. We will be set free. We will be purified. We should strive to do this before death.

What happens if we die before this purification is completed? In this case we are not ready to see God, because God is Love. We need to be rehabilitated in the ways of love. That is what purgatory is for. A "time" given to us to lower our resistance to God's love, so that we may accept fully the healing embrace of God. It won't be easy, because we will feel so unworthy of it. Our souls will still resent God's love. That is until we surrender in love.

This is why the souls in purgatory need our loving prayers. Especially the souls of our loved ones. They need to be forgiven of the wrongs they did to us. (con't ...)

(Pastor's corner cont'd ...) They need to be comforted in our love and encouraged to surrender to God's love. How can we reach out to them? Christ is our messenger, he is the bridge between earth and purgatory. Remember that the souls in purgatory are still members of Christ's Body. We are all interconnected!

The German mystic Mechthild of Magdeburg had a vision of purgatory during which she was filled with the compassion for the poor souls. She wanted to help them. The Lord said, "Take a thousand souls. You shall bathe them in the tears of love that flow from your eyes." And they entered into heaven, praising God!

You can do the same! God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP*
 (Note: This Pastor's corner was first published Nov 5, 2006)

PARISH NEWS

FAREWELL PARTY — POSTPONED

The November 1 farewell party planned for Sr. Marie Bouchard has been postponed. Sr. Marie had a fall, and though not seriously injured, her doctor has advised against her traveling back to Vancouver at this time. We will let you know if and when she can reschedule her visit. Please keep her in your prayers.

SR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 8-12) TIME TRAVEL

What an exciting adventure?! We will be time travelling to when it all began and find out for ourselves what really happened. Make sure to wear clothing that can withstand this adventure. Time for take-off: **Monday, November 2 at 6:30pm** Launch location: Rectory Basement. Bring a friend if you can.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

On **Tuesday, November 3, at 7:00pm** a candlelight Mass of Remembrance will be held at St. Mary's Church to honour all who have died and been buried from St. Mary's since November of 2008. As well as praying specifically for these men and women, we invite anyone to attend this beautiful celebration to remember and pray for loved ones who have passed away. There will be an opportunity for all present to light candles and pray for those people in their lives who have died.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR ALL SOULS NOVENA

All money we will receive from the envelopes marked "All Souls Day" will be divided into mass intentions of \$10 each. These mass intentions will be given to missionaries and to the Dominicans of Vancouver for private masses (i.e. Masses celebrated or outside of St. Mary's Church). We will continue to respect the rule of the Church that allows only one mass intention per day per priest.

PARISH NEWS

FRIDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE AND COFFEE BIBLE STUDY

God wants to do something wonderful in your lives! Do you want to discover friends that you did not realize you had? Come and gather around the table, in fellowship, for a warm Bible discussion and a hot cup of coffee. As we read the Scriptures together, let's try to find out what the Lord is asking us, and what He is telling us in a personal way! Join our new "Friday Morning Scripture and Coffee Bible Study" and let's discuss the dozens of questions, thoughts and insights that pass through our minds as we submerge ourselves in Holy Scripture. We will meet every Friday at 9:00am in the Rectory Basement **beginning Friday November 6, 2009.**

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PRAYER PARTNER

Are you willing to pray for the healing and salvation for the homeless, women in prostitution and people in addiction? Street Ministry will be recruiting prayer partners for our less fortunate brothers and sisters **on the weekends of November 7/8 and 14/15.** Please join us to be a prayer partner.

FALL DANCE: WISH UPON A STAR

Music, Dancing, Good Food, Star Lights. A perfect setting for having fun and enjoyment with family, loved ones and friends. St. Mary's Fall Dance comes true on **Saturday, November 14, from 6:30pm - 11:30pm at St. Mary's School gym.** Tickets, at \$20 are on sale at the church foyer. Proceeds will go to fund our community.

LOVING BLESSINGS FROM GOD

A few weeks ago we took orders for the photo poetry book by John Oakley and Alan Chiu. The book will be **available for pick up on November 14/15 after each mass.** Please bring your "proof of payment" voucher to pick up your copy.

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 22, from 8:30am - 3:00pm. More details will be available as we get closer to the date. In the meantime, circle the date on your calendar so that you don't forget to join us. Crafters be sure to reserve ASAP by contacting John Rudland at 604-433-0884. Tables are one for \$15, or two for \$25. All are welcome! Please help spread the word about this event.

CANDY DRIVE

Save your left over Halloween Candy for the poor!! **During the month of November,** St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Street Ministry are conducting a Halloween candy drive. If you have any Halloween candies to donate, please drop off in the boxes in the foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

CONDOLENCES

Please pray for repose of the soul of our dearly departed :

Marie Paquin - Funeral: Wednesday November 4 at 10:00am
*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord,
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her
May Her Soul Rest in Peace, Amen*



DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MASS FOR DECEASED BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS

The annual Mass for deceased bishops, priests and religious will be held at Holy Rosary Cathedral on **Thursday, November 5 at 12:00 noon**. All are welcome for this special liturgy that will be concelebrated by the priests of the Archdiocese.

Kindly remember in your prayers this month those who have laboured for the Church in Vancouver, and pray that the Lord will send dedicated men and women to continue this work.

CELEBRATE SOURCE AND PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Archdiocese of Vancouver Vocations Office invites families and young people from the Archdiocese to join the Vancouver East Deanery for a night of Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations and to experience and discover the SOURCE of our faith through reflections, music, confession and fellowship on **Saturday, November 7**, from 7:30pm - 9:00pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vancouver. For more information please contact the Vocations Office: 604-443-3254 or vocations@rcav.bc.ca

THE GLORY OF GOD - THE BLESSED TRINITY

Did you know that the Holy Trinity is the key to *unity* in all our relationships? Have you ever wondered how to explain the *mystery* of the Holy Trinity? Does your life reflect the power of the *love* of the Holy Trinity? Come join Madonna House as we explore **The Glory of God - The Blessed Trinity on Saturday, November 7**, from 9:30am - 3:30pm at St. John the Apostle parish hall (5457 Trafalgar St. Vancouver) Lunch will be served. Cost is by donation. Register by calling **Madonna House** at 604-267-1757 or e-mail madonna02@shaw.ca.

2010 OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Experience the Best Passion Play which is held only once every 10 years, featuring Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Rev. Father Matthew To, Pastor of Holy Family in Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast is Chaplain from June 2 - June 10, 2010. **Presentation and information night on November 16 at 7:00pm**. Where: Rooms 2 & 3 at Immaculate Conception, Delta. For more info please phone 604-594-7296.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Nov. 01:** **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
(If you forgot, set your watch BACK one hour)
- Mon. Nov 02:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Waiting Room)
7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Nov 03.** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Mass of Remembrance (Church)
7:00pm Kof C Executive (School Gym)
7:00pm Charismatic Core Group (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Nov. 04:** 8:30am Respect Life Meeting (Rectory Dining)
 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7557 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. Nov. 05:** 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Library)
 6:30pm Development and Peace (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
8:00pm Lay Missionaries of Charity (Rectory Bsmt)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. Nov. 06 : FIRST FRIDAY**
 8:00am Mass followed by all day Adoration (Church)
9:00am Scripture & Coffee Bible Study (Rec. Bsmt)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm Mass/ Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:00pm CCO (Church Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. Nov. 07:** 12:40pm Quick Journey through the Bible (Ch Bsmt)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (Church Bsmt)
- Sun. Nov. 08:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSSES:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday., Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm is **Anticipation Mass**
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
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: 9:00pm

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: Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyoung.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (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.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary: Margherita Bordignon