



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

November 9, 2008

**A CHURCH WITHOUT BUILDINGS?**

Did you know that until the year 324, there were not any churches built? For almost 300 years, Christianity flourished without any buildings. We celebrate today the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome in 324. Originally known as the Archbasilica of the Most Holy Saviour, the church is called St. John Lateran.

This was the first church ever to be built. Before its construction, the Christians, who were all Catholics, met in private houses for the celebration of the Sunday masses and for every other kind of meeting. They were persecuted by the Roman Empire and could not have any public buildings. In fact, they would change the place of their meetings frequently, to avoid being caught by the Roman Police. It is amazing that the Catholic Church could not only survive, but flourish under such conditions. After the conversion of the Roman Emperor Constantine, it was allowed to have buildings and soon became a major force in the Roman Empire. It survived the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. To borrow the title of a famous Canadian movie by Denis Arcand, it will survive "the decline and fall of the American Empire".

The reason for that strength of the Catholic Church is that it does not receive its unity and its vitality from its individual members, like a secular state. Unlike a secular state, the Church is rooted in a supra-personal unity which

*"is prior to its individual members and forms the basis of their union. This supra-personal unity is rooted in the one Spirit of Jesus, in the fullness of his creative truth and grace. This life-giving fullness flows with an exuberant fecundity through all peoples and civilizations, purifying, stimulating, shaping, pervading; but because it comes from the Heart of Jesus, it never loses itself and its supernatural character. We should liken it, therefore, not to a grain of gold discovered in some mass of alien rock, but to a living seed which takes up foreign elements into itself and employs them for the building up of its own structure, yet always and ever according to the law of it being"*  
 Fr. Karl Adam

As a result we, the individual church members as well as the present Catholic communities, can experience the living God through Christ realizing himself in his Church. As Father Karl Adam wrote, "the Catholic does not come to Christ immediately

*Pastor's Corner (cont'd)*

and by literary channels, as by Scriptural records, but immediately through personal contact with Christ living in his community!" My gratitude to Magnificat for providing the quotations from Fr. Adam who was a remarkable German priest and Theologian.  
 God Bless, Fr. Pierre

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- Sun. Nov. 09:** 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)  
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)  
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)
- Mon. Nov. 10:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
 7:00pm Meditative Prayer (Rectory Basement)  
 7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. Nov. 11: REMEMBRANCE DAY (Office Closed)**  
 2:00pm Liturgy Committee (Rectory Basement)  
 6:00pm K of C Memorial Mass (Church)  
 6:30pm Baptism Prep Seminar (Church Basement)  
 6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
-  **Wed. Nov. 12:** 2:00pm Willingdon Park Mass (4435 Grange St)  
 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. Nov. 13:** 7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)  
 7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)  
 7:30pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining Room)  
 7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
 9:15pm Benediction (Church)
-  **Fri. Nov. 14:** 10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451 Sussex Avenue)  
**NEW!!** 10:30am 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. Nov. 15:** 12:30pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)  
 3:30pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)  
 3:30pm RCIA (Rectory Basement)  
 6:30pm CFC-Christian Life Program (Church Bsmt)  
 7:00pm CFC - FFL Unbound (School Seminar)
- Sun. Nov. 16:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)  
 2:30pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining)  
 3:00pm DAMIEN play (see bulletin ad)  
 5:00pm Youth & Young Adults Mass (Church)

**PARISH NEWS**

**PARISH MINISTRY FAIR - FOLLOW UP**

Our first Parish Ministry Fair last weekend was a great success. We thank all the ministries that participated by giving of their time and sincere effort towards it's success. Pictures of the Fair are posted on the parish web site. Anyone who took a parish participation or registration form is asked to return completed forms to the registration/info desk in the foyer. Thank you.

**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TRAINING SESSION**

Would you like to serve at the Sunday mass you attend? You can be an Usher, Greeter or work at the Registration and Information Desk. There will be a training session for the Hospitality Ministry on **Saturday, November 15 from 9:30-11:30am in the Church.** Please attend this training session and find out how you can serve.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

On **Sunday November 16, after the 11:15 Mass**, St. Mary's Street Ministry and Catholic Women's League invite you to a presentation on Human Trafficking by Sr. Deborah Isaac. This free session takes place in the church basement from approximately **12:20pm - 2:00pm.** Light lunch will be served. Inquiries: Mildred at 604-728-4284 or mmoy\_ca@yahoo.com.

**DAMIEN -- (A one-man play)**

**Sunday November 16 at 3:00pm in St. Mary's Church.** Damien is the story of a Catholic missionary who devoted his life to ministering to the lepers on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai. Fr. Edward Evanko will play the role of Damien. Cost : \$20 per adult, youth under 14 years are free. Proceeds support the Catholic Health Association of BC and St. Michael's Center Foundation. Tickets: 604-524-3427/604-434-1323 or at the door.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CAKES SALE**

On **November 15/16 and November 22/23**, our Respect Life Group will be selling beautiful Christmas cards and delicious Christmas cakes in the Church foyer. Shop early for a good selection and support the good works this parish ministry does.

**ECHOES: A PROGRAM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

Do you want to share your Catholic Faith with others? Many of us want to hand on the message of our Catholic Faith, but we don't know how, or we lack the training. Echoes is a program designed to provide the key knowledge and skills needed. Echoes is also a great way to explore in a deeper way the Catholic Faith. The Echoes program consists of eleven, 1½ hour sessions starting January 17th; but we would like to invite you to come to an introductory session to learn more about how it can benefit you. The introductory session will be on **Saturday November 22, in the Church basement from 10:00am until 12 noon.** Everyone is welcome.

## PARISH / DIOCESAN NEWS

### ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday November 23: 8:30am - 3:00pm.**

Start your day with pancake breakfast in the school gym, shop for gifts, knick knacks and more. Relax and enjoy yourself as you mingle with fellow parishioners and neighbourhood friends. Lunch will also be served. Even if you are attending the 100th anniversary Archdiocesan Mass, make sure to attend this popular annual event before heading off to G.M. Place. Tables are still available to crafters: \$15 each or two tables for \$25. Contact John at 604-433-0884.



### BENEFIT CONCERT FOR TALITHA KOUM HOUSE

**On Saturday November 29, 2008 at 7:30pm in**

**St. Mary's Church**, come and enjoy Christmas music as well as traditional and popular tunes arranged for four-part a cappella harmony. **The Gentlemen of Fortune**, an award winning male barbershop harmony chorus have performed here for the last two years and have been very well received. Don't miss this chance to enjoy great music at this concert which supports the women recovering at Talitha Koum House. For tickets call Denece at 604-985-4872, or listen for an announcement regarding sales in the foyer after Mass.



### CANDY DRIVE

St. Mary's Street Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul Society are asking for donations of wrapped candies. These are used in ministering to the street people. Please bring your wrapped candy donations to the boxes located in the church foyer over the next few weeks.



### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

D&P is asking the Canadian Government to support international action that will maintain peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and protect the millions of civilians caught in the crossfire of armed rebel groups fighting against government forces and the United Nations Mission. Urgent action is necessary to help the displaced Congolese. In partnership with **Caritas Internationalis**, D&P has already sent \$50,000 for an emergency relief project aimed at providing aid items to 90,000 homeless civilians.

Please help by making contributions by telephone (1-888-664-3387), online [www.devpo.org](http://www.devpo.org) or by cheque (marked "Emergency: Congo") to: Development and Peace, 1425 Rene Levesque Blvd, est 3rd Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7

## DIOCESAN/ COMMUNITY NEWS

### FINNEGAN BALL

Vancouver College, an independent Catholic K-12 school for boys, will again be having its very popular Finnegan Ball. This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Ball, so it promises to be a very special evening. The event will be at the Westin Bayshore Hotel on **Sat. Nov. 15th** and includes a wonderful dinner, dancing, and live entertainment, as well as two incredible auctions. For info & tickets orders please go to [www.vc.bc.ca](http://www.vc.bc.ca) and click on the link to Finnegan Ball. Also feel free to contact Kathleen Francis at [kayfrancis@telus.net](mailto:kayfrancis@telus.net) or 604-277-1794. Thank you.

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS—ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

**Sun. Nov 23 at 1:00pm: Celebration with Mass at GM Place** will feature music from Catholic High Schools, a Grand Procession highlighting each parish, Mass with Cardinal Marc Ouellette as the main celebrant and homilist. **Tickets are needed to enter GM Place.**

**Saturday, Dec 13 at 8:00pm: Handel's Messiah** at the Vancouver Orpheum Theatre, a special celebratory performance with the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Seating is limited! Costs are: \$45 for Lower Balcony seats and \$36 for Upper Balcony seats. (These prices are reduced from the regular public rate)

**'Traditions of Faith and Service'** -- the first ever popular history book (200 pages) published about the Archdiocese of Vancouver, written by historian Dr. Jacqueline Gresko. It covers the Archdiocese as a whole, as well as individual parishes. Cost is \$39.00 (tax included)

Order books and reserve tickets for Handel's Messiah through Margherita in the parish office or Nahtie at [nvcaro@shaw.ca](mailto:nvcaro@shaw.ca)

### MORNING OF RECOLLECTION

Madonna House invites you to join them for a Morning of Recollection on **Saturday November 15 from 9:30am - noon**. Bring your bibles and rosaries to 5450 Trafalgar Street, Vancouver (604-267-1757)

### IGNATIAN RETREATS AT MADONNA HOUSE

Madonna House is offering 5-day, individually guided Ignatian Retreats. These are available from **January 20 - February 8, 2009**. If you wish more information, please call 604-267-1757.

### BIRTHRIGHT URGENTLY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Birthright Vancouver is urgently seeking new volunteers willing to commit 3 to 4 hours each week to be present, to listen, and to assist women in finding a loving alternative to abortion. No experience is necessary; training will be provided. If you would like more information, kindly contact the Vancouver Birthright office at 604-687-7223 or visit [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org).

## 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](mailto:stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca)

**ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)**

Leader: Joseph D'silva  
Email: [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca) Website: [www.smyac.ca](http://www.smyac.ca)

**YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)** E-mail: [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com)  
Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: [www.saintmarysyouth.com](http://www.saintmarysyouth.com)

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal) Website: [www.stmary.bc.ca](http://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:** Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P.  
**Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:** Arda Akoglu  
**Parish Secretary:** Margherita Bordignon