



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

November 15, 2009

**FATHER, WHAT DO YOU SEE IN YOUR CRYSTAL BALL?**

I don't have a crystal ball. I don't consult seers and fortune-tellers. I hope you don't either! But we do have the Word of God. And he said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." In that gospel, today's gospel, Jesus said, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near." (Mark 12:2)

Are we in the Springtime of the Church as John Paul II and our own Archbishop Adam Exner foresaw? I believe so, and this is good news. Summer is coming after spring, with all its fruits and its fulfillment of the promises of spring. An eternal summer? Don't panic! The end of the world as we know it, is not so much the end of time but the fulfillment of time, the accomplishment of all "those who are being sanctified." (second reading). In other words, of all "those who let this sanctification process take place in them by God's act of love, of all those who do not refuse it." (Cardinal Balthasar).

This "springtime" of the Church may last several generations or several centuries -- these are some of the scenarios proposed in the apocalyptic books of the Bible. You will probably die before the beginning of the eternal summer! So, in any case, you must always be ready. Your heart, your soul must be in springtime mood, ready to enter into God's eternal Summer of Love.

And these times are the best time to do that, if indeed we are in the springtime of the Church. Now that springtime of the Church is more advanced in some parts of the world than others, so that the first can help the last to board "the moving train." I believe St. Mary's Parish is well entered into the springtime of the Church, not because of its leaders, but mainly because God and Mary willed it. Since the year 2000, our Sunday attendance went from 2,500 to over 4,000 persons. The number of parish groups and ministries grew from 10 to 45, and the collection increased by almost 80%. . . . . (con't)

(Pastor's corner cont'd ...)

But there is something far more significant than the increasing numbers. It is the deepening of the personal relationship to God that is occurring for so many of you. Each week we hear about twelve to thirteen hours of confession (in the year 2000, only 1.5 hours) plus many more hours of spiritual direction. Each day, I am in awe of the many ways in which God is touching people's lives sometimes in ways that are truly supernatural. Yes, the Holy Spirit is moving, right here, right now. He is ministering to individuals and to the faith community of St. Mary.

Do you want to have a deeper relationship with God through the Holy Spirit? Check out our journaling prayer group by contacting Fr. Pierre. Check out CFC and CFC-FFL, Singles for Christ, Youth for Christ, Light of Jesus and Youth Ministry. To contact other groups, take a copy of our Ministry booklet in the foyer.

God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre Leblond, OP*

**PARISH NEWS**

**SR. YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 8-12) - CAREER DAY**

Are you in high-school? Do you know what you want to do when you graduate? Sr. Youth Ministry is here to help you plan your future. **Join us on Monday, November 16 for our Career Day** and hear different guest speakers share about their professions in light of their faith. It's never too early to start thinking about your future. We will **meet at the rectory basement at 6:30pm**. Bring a friend if you can!

Career Day



**PARISH LIBRARY -- WE'RE OPEN TO SERVE YOU**

The organization of the Parish Library is still in progress, but will be open for 30 minutes after 5:00pm Saturday and all Sunday masses (except 7:00pm). This week's theme is about the saints, and books about them will be set up at the foyer for borrowing.

**PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PRAYER PARTNER**

Are you willing to pray for the healing and salvation of the homeless, of women in prostitution and people in addiction? Street Ministry will recruit prayer partners for our less fortunate brothers and sisters **after all masses today**. Sign up as a general prayer partner, or to offer up your health condition and suffering, sign up as a Suffering Intercessor. Volunteers will be at the foyer. Thanks to the 100 new partners who signed up last week!

**DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS?**

If there is a possibility that we do not have your most current info., please e-mail us. In a few days we will print labels for the 2010 envelope boxes and this updated info is appreciated.

**PARISH NEWS**

**LOVING BLESSINGS FROM GOD**

The photo poetry book "Loving Blessings from God" by John Oakley and Alan Chiu is **available after mass today at the foyer**. Please bring your voucher to pick up your copy. Those who have not ordered the book can purchase copies by cash or by cheque. One book is \$25, 2 or more are \$20 each, and 10 or more copies are \$16 each. We welcome donation of the books back to Street Ministry to give away to people in need. All proceeds go to St. Mary's Street Ministry and the Union Gospel Mission. Please get your **signed copies** after mass today! Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**CONSECRATE YOUR FAMILIES TO THE SACRED HEART**

Families who signed up for the free Sacred Heart/Immaculate Heart consecration kits can claim them in the church foyer before the mass they attend on **Sunday, November 22. Strictly, one kit per family**. Please make an effort to come to the church early so as to give you and your family extra time to claim your package before the mass starts. We've ordered extra consecration kits for families who want to participate but did not have the chance to sign up. We cannot guarantee kits for everyone, but will try to accommodate as many families as possible. Let us all come as individuals and families to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, for the blessing of their love and protection.

**ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, November 22, from 8:30am - 3:00pm**. Start the day with pancake breakfast in the school gym then shop for food items, gifts, and knick knacks made by local crafters. Come and enjoy a couple of hours with friends and fellow parishioners. Lunch menu is also available. For table rental contact John at 604-433-0884. Please help spread the word about this event.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CAKES SALE**


On **November 21/22 and November 28/29**, 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.

**ATTENTION FAMILIES**

We are inviting family groups to participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath candles at the beginning of each Saturday evening and Sunday Mass during Advent. To participate, e-mail Ann Marie Carlson at amcbac@telus.net. Include your name, a contact number (you will get a reminder call the day before), and the mass you will be attending. As this will be first come, first served, please give an alternate time and/or date if possible.

## PARISH NEWS

### **YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18+) COFFEE NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION**

Join us on **Friday November 27, at 8:00pm** in the School Seminar Room. Topic is on Devotion. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact us at [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca). 

### **BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH "GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE"**

Come out to support and enjoy this Christmas Concert which has become an annual event here at St. Mary's. The performers are an award winning male barbershop harmony chorus who generously donate 50% of the proceeds to Talitha Koum Society (a society that we have volunteered at and supported in many ways over the last few years) The society helps and houses women who are making a commitment to "turn their lives around" after addiction. Please, join us on **Saturday, November 28 at 7:30pm in the church**. Call Sr. Denece (604-985-4872), or Pollyanna (604-376-9210) for ticket info

### **RECEIVING GRACE**

Jacqueline Loh of **Grace that Reigns** will be presenting a topic on *"Receiving Grace through the Prodigal Son"*. It will be held on **Monday, November 30, at 7:00pm** in the Church Basement. The evening will consist of presentation, healing prayer, benediction and confession. Please see [www.gracethatreigns.com](http://www.gracethatreigns.com). If you are looking for concrete ways to find peace in your heart, or just curious to know about this parable, please come.

### **SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

All Parishioners, **65 years or older**, are invited to attend the annual Seniors Christmas Lunch. Circle **Saturday, December 12** on your calendar. The lunch will follow an 11:30am Mass where anointing of the sick will take place. You must register to attend but **please wait until after the Christmas Craft Fair (November 22) to register**.

### **"SET FREE TO LIVE AND LOVE" -- A SPIRITUAL HEALING RETREAT**

**On December 18 - 20**, Fr. Elias Vella from Malta and Diana Mascarenhas from India will present a Spiritual Healing Retreat at Rosemary Heights, Surrey. In order to obtain the maximum benefit, the live-in option is suggested. However, there will be some space reserved for the commuters. To register, visit [www.eliasvella.org](http://www.eliasvella.org) or call Bertha at 604-936-4669 or Rozalia at 604-944-1554. The capacity is limited to 200 places, so early registration is important. **Registration deadline: Nov. 30, 2009.**

Topics include: Understanding types of Healing — Spiritual, Psychological and Physical, Healing of Memories, Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Healing and deliverance, Healing through the Sacraments, Healing through God's word, God's plan for Healing of the Family.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Sun. Nov. 15:** 2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Avenue)  
2:00pm Light of Jesus Ministry (School Gym)

**Mon. Nov 16:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)  
6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)  
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living Room)

**Tue. Nov 17.** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)  
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)  
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)  
7:00pm CWL (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Journaling Prayer Grp (Rec Living Room)

**Wed. Nov. 18:** 6:30pm PREP (School)  
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)  
7:30pm Development & Peace (Rectory Dining)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Thu. Nov. 19:** 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rec Living Room)  
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)  
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Fri. Nov. 20 :** 9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study (Rec. Bsmt)  
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)  
5:00pm Eucharistic Apostolate (Rectory Dining)  
7:00pm Catholic Bible Seminar (Church Basement)  
7:00pm Mass/ Adoration /Confession (Church)  
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)  
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



**Sat. Nov. 21:** 9:00am Catholic Bible Seminar (Church Basement)  
12:40pm Quick Journey through the Bible (Gym)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining Room)  
6:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (School Seminar)

**Sun. Nov. 22:** 9:00am Catholic Bible Seminar (Church Basement)  
9:45am Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)

## 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 8:30am**

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

**BAPTISMS:** To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

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

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

Leader: Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: [smyac\\_team@yahoo.ca](mailto:smyac_team@yahoo.ca) Website: [www.smyac.com](http://www.smyac.com)

**YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)** E-mail: [stmarys\\_ym@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarys_ym@yahoo.com)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: [www.saintmarysyoung.com](http://www.saintmarysyoung.com)

### **ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (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:**

**Assistant Pastor**

**Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:**

**Office Manager**

**Parish Secretary:**

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Arda Akoglu

Ossie Fernandes

Margherita Bordignon