



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

November 29, 2009 - 1st Sunday of Advent

TO STAY OR NOT TO STAY....

This is the question in the hearts of many of our youth. So many parents, grandparents etc. suffer because they see their child, brother, sister or cousin stop coming to mass. We witness this in our every day life, we hear of so many people who suffer because their kids no longer go to church. We hurt deep in our hearts because we wish we could do something about it. We witness the secular lifestyle and we are shocked to see the things our children are exposed to. The tide that comes their way is just too strong, and we wonder what can be done to offset the imbalanced input that bombards their hearts and minds: immoral music, shows that misrepresent our faith, comedians that disrespect what we hold most sacred and teachers that teach against love. We wonder and we complain, asking: What can we do? Who will help us? What can be done to fight for their future?

Pope JP II was fond of saying that young people are the future of the Church. The Church recognizes this and so a lot has been done about this matter. One example is all the wonderful youth programs that have been established in many parishes to bring our young ones back to Jesus. Here at St. Mary's we are happy and proud to say that we are blessed to have a great Youth Ministry (YM) program, which is designed to provide a safe environment where the youth of our parish can find peers that share their same values, faith and priorities. The programs that are run in St. Mary's are carefully designed to provide the right balance of fun, fellowship and catechesis. With much love and prayer these programs are planned and developed so that every week our youth can participate in exciting events. Now there is a challenge that the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) faces every week, and that is: how to bring the most amount of participants to each event, so that each program will have the greatest impact bearing the most fruit for our Lord. Great participation is the result of youth responding to the announcements that are read at the end of each Sunday mass. These announcements can sometimes seem a bit long to some people, but I am appealing to you and I ask for you to patiently listen to them, offering up these few extra minutes after Sunday mass for our youth: for conversions, for their future.

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(Pastor's corner con't)

Isn't it great to know that each one of you can truly have an impact on the youth without having to be great evangelizers? All you have to do is assist the efforts of the YMT here at St. Mary's. You can support their efforts by: encouraging the youth you know to participate in the different events, by offering up the few extra minutes after Sunday mass when the announcements are being read for coming activities and fundraisers, taking the time to pray for their success, and by donating from your time and treasure to the Youth Ministry. You can be sure your reward will be great not only in heaven, but also here as you witness how, little by little you make a great difference in our children's life.

The youth loved John Paul II because he didn't talk down to them. He didn't condescend; he didn't water down his message. Instead, he challenged the youth. He told them not to let their youth and inexperience hold them back but, instead, to put their lives fearlessly at the service of the gospel. This is our desire here at St. Mary's, this is our goal. So I urge you to encourage our Youth Minister and his team - they work tirelessly to achieve these goals. Will you help them? Will you do whatever it takes to save our youth? I am confident you will!

God Bless You *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

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. If you are looking for concrete ways to find peace in your heart, or just curious to know about this parable, please come.

FREEDOM

St. Mary's Parish is hosting an evening of Reconciliation on **Friday, December 4, 2009**. The evening will begin with mass at 7:00pm followed by Praise & Worship, Testimony, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction. There will be 6 - 8 priests available to hear confessions. We would like to encourage parish wide participation in this event in an effort to fulfill an objective of our parish goals: **"To challenge each individual to encounter and embrace Christ in their personal lives"**. Please come and experience the power and grace of the Holy Spirit!

SPONSOR A LIGHT

All lights for the Light Up Event (Nov 28 @ 6:15pm) have had to be replaced. To offset the cost, we are asking you to consider "Sponsoring a Light". A big bottle is in the foyer for donations.

PARISH NEWS

CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

Have you ever wondered what's behind the altar? What the tabernacle looks like inside? Where does Father hang out before Mass? Curious?? Come to our second church Open House at **6:15pm on Saturday December 5. Everyone is welcome!** (the Young Ones and the Young Once) -- this is our spiritual family home, come and check it out! (Father Pierre will conduct colour coordinating fashion lessons in the Sacristy.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

The event is on **Sat. Dec. 5 at 7:00pm** at Ukrainian Village Restaurant (815 Denman St.) Circle the date and be there with a friend or two. RSVP smyac_team@yahoo.ca by **Thu. Dec 3**. Meet in the parking lot after 5:00pm Mass. Carpooling available

ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society, is once again coordinating a Giving Tree. The branches will be covered with gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged newborn to 16 years old. Please bring the **unwrapped** gift and place it under the tree during the weeks of **December 5/6 or December 12/13**. We, along with other interested ministries in St. Mary's will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you again for helping these loved ones. Your generosity will make this another successful Xmas.

SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES & TOQUES FOR THE HOMELESS

During the month of December, St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations of **NEW** socks, gloves, scarves and toques as part of our outreach program for the homeless. They will be distributed during this Christmas season when we make our weekly visit to the corner of Hastings and Main with our sandwich truck. Drop your donations into the box marked **"Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Toques"**. **Please note that we are NOT collecting any other clothing at this time.** Again we thank you in advance on behalf of the poor. With your generosity we will have another great year.

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. Please call Margherita in the parish office:604-435-9611.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS?

Labels for the 2010 envelope boxes have been printed. If you did not advise of an address change then they are incorrect. If in doubt, you can still notify us so that our records are up to date.

PARISH NEWS

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 books that will be in the foyer include general spirituality, prayer books and a few pamphlets on reconciliation. Please stop by and see us.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO-LIFE MASS & VIGIL

On Saturday December 5, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am at Our Lady of Fatima Parish (315 Walker Street, Coquitlam). A peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents will follow at Royal Columbian Hospital.

NOTRE DAME PRESENTS "SANTA'S WORKSHOP"

Notre Dame's Music and Drama departments present Santa's Workshop on Monday December 7. Evening performance is at 7:00pm at a cost of \$10. The matinee at 12:00 noon is free for seniors and \$5.00 for others.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Celebrate the Feast of lady of Guadalupe with Madonna House as we look at "The Dignity and Vocation of Women in the Church". This takes place on **Saturday, December 12 from 9:30am - 3:30pm** at St. John the Apostle Parish hall at 5457 Trafalgar St. Register at madonna02@shaw.ca or call 604-267-1757. Lunch will be served and cost is by donation.

"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 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.

RAISING CHASTE TEENS -- A TALK BY JASON EVERT

Before children can come to treasure the pure life, parents must first understand the challenges they face. In this **free** session, Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary educators of their children. **When: Tue. Dec. 15 at 6:30pm. Where: St. Jude School Gym (15th and Renfrew)**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Nov. 29: 12:00pm Light of Jesus Christmas Party (Gym)
2:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)

Mon. Nov 30: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm Receiving Grace Presentation (Church Bsmt)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living Room)

Tue. Dec 01: 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm K of C Executive (Church Basement)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm Journaling Prayer Grp (Rec Living Room)

Wed. Dec. 02: 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. Dec. 03: 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. Dec. 04: FIRST FRIDAY
8:00am Mass followed by Adoration all day (Church)
9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study (Rec. Bsmt)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm CCO Cornerstone (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Freedom (Church)
7:40pm FREEDOM (see ad in PARISH NEWS)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:30pm Benediction (Church)



Sat. Dec. 05: 9:00am 2000 Hail Marys (Rectory Dining)
12:40pm Bible Sharing (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:15pm Church Open House (see article)
6:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (Church Basement)

Sun. Dec. 06: 4:30pm Youth 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 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

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders 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.saintmarysyouth.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:

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