



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor's
Corner

September 6, 2009

STOP STARING AT ME!

Picture yourself living your life as a deaf and mute person. You would look at another person without speaking because you would not be able to speak, and the other person would think you are staring at him, and be offended. However, *“one can look at another without limit of time so long as a conversation is going on”* (Walter Ong). If you were deaf and mute, how would you know if someone was speaking to you without first staring at him? A deaf and mute person may end up never looking at another person, therefore isolating himself into a silent, shut-in world. Being almost blind a few weeks ago, I have experienced some of that. I could not see clearly the eyes of a person unless I was very close. So, I had to guess whether a person was looking at me to engage in a conversation or to say “hi”. I avoided looking at people for fear of not “reading” their eyes correctly. Being deaf and mute leads us to alienating ourselves from others. It also prevents us from expressing our inner self.

If this is true for physical deafness, how much more it is for spiritual deafness. When Jesus says, “Ephphatha, Be opened!”, he is also healing a spiritual disability. All of us have or have had this spiritual disability at times in our lives. Spiritually, we live or have lived in a silent world. We don't know if God is looking at us or speaking to us. We cannot really speak to Him from our hearts. The words that come to our lips may be full of bitterness and rebellion, denouncing the Creator rather than trusting Him. All this is the consequence of original sin. But, when the priest says, “Ephphatha, Be opened!” at baptism, he starts the process of spiritual healing, just as Christ did for the deaf-mute of today's Gospel.

How can you help Jesus trigger this healing in your life? For today, I will mention one way. Read the New Testament and the Psalms. God will use the words of the Scripture to speak to you. During your day, He will help you remember some of the words to give you His guidance. Of course, you will have to desire this guidance in order to do His will not yours. As you read more and more of the Scripture, God will have more and more “tools” to “speak” to you. God Bless You, *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

RCIA/FAITH INSTRUCTION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for:

- A) Adult inquirers: the non-baptized or baptized in other faiths who wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic.
- B) Adult Catholics: baptized but not catechized, and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (Communion and/or Confirmation);
- C) All others are welcome.

So, if you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know someone who is, the RCIA program is the answer! You may still register for RCIA classes which began on September 2. For more info, call Michael McGrath at 604-431-6076 or mikejudy@telus.net.

THE PUZZLE

The Youth Ministry needs leaders. In a puzzle every piece has its own place. Just like in a puzzle, in Youth Ministry every person has their unique place and role which no one else can fill. We are all unique and what we can do no one else can do it quite the same. We have been given gifts and talents and the first place we need to use them is for building God's Kingdom. We need your help in building God's Kingdom together, using our talents, and by giving of ourselves. If you are a faithful Catholic between the ages of 19 to 99 and have the time to serve God then we need you. There is no pay but the benefits are out of this world!!! Contact Arda at 6074-435-9611 ext.6 or stmarys_ym@yahoo.com



OPENINGS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School has openings in **Grades K, 4, and 7**. Call the school at 604-437-1312 for a registration package.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL - - “MEET THE TEACHERS” NIGHT

A brief info meeting for all school parents will begin at 7:00pm **Thursday, September 10** in the school gym. This will be followed by two information sessions led by the classroom teachers.

THE FALL 2009 SESSION OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR

This seminar will be held in our church basement from **Friday, September 11 to Sunday, September 13**. Presenter is Fr. Jim Nisbet, noted Bible scholar from Spreckles, California and the topics include “The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians”, plus “Philippians” and “Colossians”. The Flyer/Registration Forms in the church foyer contain more info. Call Gerry/Zela Maingot at the Centre for Jesus & Mary at 604-882-9205.

PARISH NEWS

STREET MINISTRY COORDINATOR (MILDRED MOY) IS LEAVING

Mildred Moy leaves Vancouver to join a religious community in Nebraska in early October. You are invited to her **farewell party on Saturday, September 19**, beginning with the noon Mass and continuing with a potluck in the Church Basement. Please bring just finger food. **We also invite you to join us in praying for Mildred.** It could be three Hail Mary's every day for a month or until October 7, 2009 when she will enter the community. To take part in this spiritual bouquet please sign up at the foyer.

CONFERENCE: EXPLAINING AND DEFENDING THE FAITH

Have you ever been asked questions about the Faith by your children or friends but didn't know how to answer? Maybe you know what the church teaches, but not why. This conference is designed to do just that -- explain clearly and convincingly what the Church teaches and WHY, focusing especially on where we find these teachings in the Bible and the Early Church. Topics will include Papal Infallibility, the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, How are We Saved?. and much more. Graham Osborne will give a presentation here at St. Mary's on **Saturday, October 3 from 9am - 4pm**. Holy Mass at Noon.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is our Parish's Catechism Program. We are here to help the children of our parish build the foundation for a life-long journey of living and growing in faith as disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We support the parents in their roles as primary educators of the faith. We offer catechism classes on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for children from Grade 1 to Teens. We have more than 30 volunteers each year serving in this ministry. If interested in joining, e-mail Eli at stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

A DAY OF HEALING

Experience a day of healing on **Saturday, September 12** at Immaculate Conception Parish in Delta. The day begins in the school gym at 9:00am and continues to 5:00pm. Mass follows at 7:00pm. Linda Schubert, author of the famous *Miracle Hour* book, will guide us through a day of Healing, through the *Welcome of the Father*, the *Listening Heart of Jesus* and the *Power of the Holy Spirit*. Tickets at \$20 each include lunch and will be available after all Masses. For more info please call 604-594-7296.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

THE TRAVELLING EXHIBIT OF THE PILGRIM POPE

On September 18, 1984 Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Abbotsford and Vancouver. To commemorate the 25th anniversary, the Archdiocese has assembled a travelling exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia. The kick off will be on **Sun., Sep. 13 at 2:30pm**. Holy Rosary Cathedral will have Mass celebrated by Most. Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver and will be attended by other BC bishops and many people who helped with the Pope's visit. The exhibit includes digital photos, artifacts from the event, and six large banners to be displayed in Churches across the Archdiocese in the coming weeks. To get a taste to the exhibit, visit www.raav.org/jp2visit.

TWO WEEKS TO SIGN UP FOR RETROUVAILLE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **Friday, September 18**, email 1009@retrouvaille.org OR call 604-530-6710 OR visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

THE MESSAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

September 19, from 10am - 4pm at St. Bernadette's Parish, 6543-132 Street in Surrey. Keynote speaker is Dr. Bryan Thatcher. Please call Ruby at 604-507-0657 to register.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Deacon Alex Jones will be at this year's Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Conference, on **Sep 25/26, at Broadway Church**, 2700 East Broadway. Encourage others to attend. Tickets are \$10. Info: Lennie at 604-597-8227 / www.vccrs.ca under Events.

COULD RELIGIOUS LIFE BE FOR YOU?

Calling women who dare! You are invited to a Day of Conversation on Religious Life with sisters of several communities, led by Sister Toyleen Fook, SP, on **Saturday, September 26** from 10am to 3pm at 789 Alderson Avenue, Coquitlam (next door to the Convent). Easy transit access. For info and registration, call Sr. Anne-Marie Fransoo, SEJ, 604-936-2875, a-mfransoo@shaw OR Sr. Veronica Tang, SIHM, 604-936-3455, sihm@telus.net. Sponsored by: Sisters Association of Vancouver Archdiocese.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Sep. 06: 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)

Mon. Sep.07: LABOUR DAY (Office Closed)

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)

Tue. Sep. 08: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

Wed. Sep. 09: 7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)



7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Thu. Sep. 10: 6:30pm YM Leaders (Rectory Library)



7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)

7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)

8:00pm Lay Missionaries of Charity (Rectory Bsmt)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Fri. Sep. 11: 3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)



6:00pm CFC - FFL (Rectory Basement)

7:00pm - 9:00pm Speaker Fr Jim Nisbet

Presents "The 2nd letter of Paul to the Thessalonians"

7:30pm Mass/ Adoration /Confession (Church)

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)

9:15pm Benediction (Church)

Sat. Sep 12: 9:00am- 5:00pm Speaker: Fr. Jim Nisbet

Presents "The 2nd letter of Paul to the Thessalonians"

2:40pm Bible Study & Sharing (Church Basement)

1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)

6:00pm Couples for Christ - FFL (Church Bsmt)

Sun. Sep. 13: 9:00am - 5:00pm Speaker: Fr. Jim Nisbet

Presents "The 2nd letter of Paul to the Thessalonians"

2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 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 is **Anticipation Mass**

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am) & 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: 9:15pm

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: Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

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

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