

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



MONDAY DEC 2:

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm YM (Church Basement)
7:00pm Lay Apostle (Church)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm MVA (Rectory Library)

TUESDAY DEC 3: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Basement)

WEDNESDAY DEC 4:

7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 5:

6:30pm Knights of Columbus (School Gym)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 6:

6:00pm Youth For Christ (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 7: ST. AMBROSE

9:00am 2000 Hail Mary (Rectory Dining)
11:00am Seniors Mass of Anointing (Church)
12:30pm Seniors Christmas Lunch (School Gym)
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
1:30pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
2:30pm Baptism (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
6:00pm Knights of Columbus (School Gym)
7:00pm CFC-FFL (Church Basement)

SUNDAY DEC 8: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
1:30pm CFC (Church Basement)
6:10pm EPIC Journey (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

WEEKDAY MORNING MASS: Monday - Friday: 8am

Weekday Morning Rosary 7am / Weekday Morning Lauds 7:30am

WEEKDAY EVENING MASS: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7pm
followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9pm

SATURDAY MASS: Our Lady's Mass 8:30am

SUNDAY MASS: Anticipated Mass Saturday 5pm

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

FILIPINO MASS: every 2nd & 4th Sunday 3pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

Wednesday 6pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:

Thursday: 8am & Saturday: 8:30am

DIVINE MERCY: Friday 3pm & 6:15pm

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration throughout the day after morning Mass

CONFESSION:

Weekdays: After all Masses (except Thursday Evening Mass)

Saturday: 9am-9:30am, 4:15pm- 4:55pm, 6:10pm- 7pm

Sunday: Before & After all Masses

An appointment for confession may be made through the Parish Office

HOLY COMMUNION: Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

BAPTISM: To register your child, see website or contact Parish Office.

MARRIAGE: One of the couple must be Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish before requesting the sacrament of marriage. Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz Email:rcia.smarv@rcav.org

PREP/TEEN PREP: Catechism for children attending public schools on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30pm-8pm / Teen Prep Tuesdays only

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz E-mail: prep.smarv@rcav.org

YOUTH MINISTRY: Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris

Email: youth.smarv@rcav.org Website: www.marysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Phone: (604) 437-1312 Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday: 8:45am to 6pm

Phone: (604) 435-9611 Fax: (604) 439-9413

E-mail: parish.smarv@rcav.org Website: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

PASTORS & STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. (ext. 6)

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, O.P. (ext. 3)

Pastoral Assistant: Vesna Jankovic (ext. 6)

Finance & Property Manager: Ossie Fernandes (ext. 7)

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris (ext. 247)

RCIA/PREP Coordinator: Edwin Cruz (ext. 5)

Reception: Edwin Cruz/Joseph Mendoza (ext. 0)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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DECEMBER 1, 2013

Pastor's Corner

Preparing this first Sunday of Advent's Pastor's Corner, I finally understand something that had always escaped me. It is this often quoted saying from St. Augustine and later from St. Thomas Aquinas that we must love God above all and everything else for the love of God. That is what eluded me: how can I love everything else other than God, for the sake of God? It always seemed to me too lofty, way out of my capacities. Only the great saints, it appeared to me, could love everything for the sake of God. After all God is invisible, God is Spirit. How can we love Him above all and love everything else for the sake of God's love? This "everything else" is sometimes so fleshy, sometimes so attractive. We feel so much passion for the good things, for power, prestige, possessions, pleasure. I misunderstood the real meaning of love, in my day to day life. I had it right intellectually but not concretely. Our degree of love for God is not to be measured by the intensity of our felt passion, nor is our degree of love for "everything else" is to be measured by the intensity of our felt passions. But it is to be measured by the radicality of our submission to God's purpose for us, therefore also to the divine purpose of "everything else" that is not God. In other words, I have to submit my will, my mind, my heart to the purpose that God has for me and use lovingly everything else to the degree that it serves and contributes to God's purpose for me and for them. Yes I can love this "everything else", my friends and family, the goods of this world, but respecting God's purpose for me and for them. We are not asked to feel more love for God than we feel love for our spouse, our children. We are asked to put our first commitment toward God and effectively let God order everything else towards Him.

Here is the Good News. What God asks us corresponds to what can make us really fulfilled. Because God

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

has created us and asked us according to what and who we are. In choosing the way He wants us to choose, we are integrating all the passions, preoccupations and dreams of our lives into one all comprehensive, all inclusive goal, one transcendent meaning and passion. Thomas Merton wrote: "Man is not at peace with his fellow man because he is not at peace with himself because he is not at peace with God." Only when we are in communion with God, putting His purposes above all other goals and loves, only then will we be in communion with ourselves and our fellow man. "When we discover our deepest identity and our deepest center in God, we discover the same identity and center in anybody else." (Fr. Barron, sermon 516, 2010) This applies also at the international level. We find that all the nations can be peacefully united by serving God's purpose.

But the opposite is true. If our ultimate goal is not God, but something else, that "something else" will slowly but surely destroy us at the end. Because you will not know what to do with it. Whether it is pleasure, possessions, power, prestige, they will destroy you in the end...because we become what we worship. If we worship something less than God, we become like it. We become an "it", a depersonalized person slaving for something that is not God, that is even less than us. That "thing" is power, possessions, pleasure, prestige. We become a money-making machine, a pleasure-seeking body, a prestige-seeking addict, a power idolater. The same is true at the international level. There is no ultimate choice but God. But in choosing God, we become like Him, free to love, free to "be." That is the mystery of Christmas.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Will be celebrated on Monday, Dec 9 beginning with Mass at 7pm celebrated by Archbishop Miller, followed by a Living Rosary. After the Living Rosary there will be a potluck in the Church basement, and all are welcome. Please note that because of bingo on Monday night, parking will be limited. Please make use of the back School parking lot, entrance off Clive St.

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT BOOKLETS

After all Masses this weekend we will be selling Advent booklets for \$2 each. These booklets provide a daily reflection to help you prayerfully journey through the season of Advent.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Our total is \$135,400, and our parish goal is \$200,000. Please donate through the Sunday collection basket, or online at rcav.org where you can give monthly by credit card. Thank you for your generosity.

2014 ENVELOPES

The 2014 offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the Church basement. Please look for envelopes by last name. If your address has changed, please fill out the forms at the envelope table.

Offering Envelopes



EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Please continue to give to the Development and Peace emergency humanitarian campaign for the typhoon-stricken Philippines. You can donate directly to Development and Peace (Caritas Canada): by phone: 1-888-664-3387; by sending cheques made to Development and Peace (Philippine Relief) 1425 Rene Levesque Blvd. West. 3rd Floor Montreal QC H3G 1T7. Tax receipts issued. The Canadian Government has promised it will match dollar for dollar every donation given before Dec 9.

COLLECTION FOR PHILIPPINES - CFC ANCOP

Couples for Christ ANCOP International Canada will continue to collect donations for typhoon Haiyan victims to take advantage of the Canadian government's grant to match donations received until Dec 9. CFC ANCOP will take your donations in the Church foyer on Sunday Dec 1, and next weekend Dec 7/8. You can also give online at www.ancop.ca, or mail a cheque to ANCOP International Canada Inc., 250-2981 Simpson Road, Richmond, BC V6X2R2. Tax receipts will be issued for donation of \$20 or more.

ST. MARY'S SIMBANG GABI

All parishioners are invited to celebrate Simbang Gabi with Fr. Rey Usman from Dec. 16-24, daily at 6am. As per the Filipino tradition, there will be a salo-salo (traditional foods and refreshments) after Mass. We invite and welcome those who wish to sponsor one of the Masses and/or the salo-salo (food and refreshments) after Mass. Please contact Ven Azarcon at 778-323-8242 or venusius@yahoo.com.

PARISH NEWS

SENIOR'S ANOINTING MASS & CHRISTMAS DINNER



Mass of Anointing will be on Saturday Dec 7 at 11am. Anointing is for those **60 years of age or over**. Seniors Christmas Dinner follows at 12:30pm in the School Gym. Parishioners, if you are **60 years of age or over**, join us for a delicious turkey dinner, along with entertainment by St Mary's School Choir, and a visit from the "man in red". **RSVP by Dec 4** to reserve your spot with Eileen 604-436-3655 or Nancy 604-437-1312.

ADVENT WITH ST. FRANCIS - SPARK (GR.6-8)

Make me an instrument of peace, St. Francis says. How? Come on Monday Dec 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm to the Church basement and learn ways to prepare for the coming of Christ. Fun games are included!

ADVENT PRAYERS - FLAME (GR.8-12)



Prepare the way of the Lord!

We are all called to prepare for the coming of Christ, but how? Join us on Friday Dec 13th from 6:30-8:30pm at the Church basement and find out. Grow friendship with your fellow youth and with Christ.

YOUNG ADULT BOARD GAMES (AGES 18-39)

Games are not only for youth! Join other young adults in this night of board games on Sunday Dec 8 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Rectory Dining Room. Please access through the back door and bring snacks to share.

NO SPARK NIGHT ON DEC 9

Please join us in the Living Rosary!

YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING

Come and sing praises to the Lord! Be filled with His love & receive healing on Thursday Dec 12 from 4:30-6pm in the Church basement. Doors along Euclid Street are open from 3:30pm. Refreshments are provided.

YOUTH NEEDED FOR P&W BAND

Are you interested to play in a Youth Praise & Worship band? If you are, come to our first Youth Band Gathering on Thursday Dec 19 from 4:30-6:30pm in the Church basement. No experience required. Bring your own instruments, if you have. To register, contact Mildred at mmoy_ca@yahoo.com or call 778-885-9611.

