

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



SUNDAY DEC 15: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

MONDAY DEC 16:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church)

TUESDAY DEC 17:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm CWL (School Gym)
7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Basement)

WEDNESDAY DEC 18:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 19:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 20:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:40pm Penitential Service (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 21:

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Rectory Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
4:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)
7:30pm ARC (Church)

SUNDAY DEC 22: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am Simbang Gabi (Church)
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)
3:00pm Filipino Mass (Church)
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 Chadarevian, 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

5251 Joyce Street

Vancouver BC V5R 4G8

tel: (604) 435-9611 fax: (604) 439-9413

email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

DECEMBER 15, 2013

*Pastor's
Corner*

THE BLOOMING DESERT

Nelson Mandela who died very recently spent about 27 years of his life in one of the most horrible jails in the world. His cell was so small that he could not even stretch his legs while lying on the floor. During those years he prepared for his role in the freeing of South Africa. When he became president, at his inaugural banquet, he invited the lawyer that had obtained the life sentence against him, and also some of his jailors. He put at the head of his personal security service a white man. Mandela knew his life wasn't about himself but about the freedom of South Africa. He said, "Our deepest fear is not about the darkness within self, but it is to reveal the great light that is within."

Yes, we are inhabited by God, but we must stay many years in the "desert" to find that light in ourselves. For Mandela, the desert was 27 years in a dark cell. For Victor Frankl it was many years in a horrible concentration camp of Hitler. Every great man of the Bible went through a time of desert. Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Elijah, Paul, Jesus. John the Baptist, in today's Gospel is in jail waiting for his execution. He sends messages to Jesus asking Him, "Are you the Messiah or not? Did I hope for you in vain? How long will we have to wait? Where is your power?" Jesus answered by drawing his attention to signs of a new life that John didn't see.

Most people, during their lifetime, will go through a depression of some kind. A time of desert! You could almost say the greater the call God has for you, the more you will have to face the discouragement within you. But your desert will flower, as we hear in today's first reading. The great prophet Elijah wanted to die in the desert. He begged God to take away his life. Even Jesus had to fight discouragement. At Gethsemane, He sweated blood and exclaimed, "My soul

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

is sad unto death." Before that, He had wept over Jerusalem because they would refuse His salvation. Yet, Jesus turned this moment of despair into a climax of self-giving surrender, and strength. He walked out of Gethsemane as the strong one of God, ready to give love and forgive His enemies, down to the last drop of His blood. He defeated Evil!

What does your "depression" look like? What will you do about it? Will you be able "to turn tragedy into triumph" alongside with Jesus and the saints? Our moments of depression may not be as "sublime" as the "depression" of great heroes. But it hides the same power of resurrection that is in Jesus. Maybe you don't know what Christmas will be for you as you mourn the recent death of a father, of a husband. Or the loss of a job. Or the loss of health. Or you feel empty because of that recent retirement. Or you have been betrayed by a friend, a spouse, by a financial adviser. Whatever it is, you may be going through a desert, or simply, fear that the desert time will come again. It could be depression, failure, deep anxiety, self-reproach.

Don't go to quick fixes, like alcohol and divertimento. Be patient, very patient. You are like the small, apparently insignificant, unattractive seed, waiting for the rain, What God, the gardener, has in mind for you? You don't know! How He is going to work it out? You don't know. When will you see the signs of a springtime? You don't know.

What is the best spiritual stance? Patience. "And a great confidence that God can make desert bloom and in fact sometimes the bloom only can come after and through and because of the desert. With patient prayer you wait, while God in His deep mystery works in you, to cultivate you. Keep that image of the blooming desert in mind." (Sermon 205 of www.wordonfire.org.) Just hold Christ's hand as you pray with Him in Gethsemane. Resurrection is working in your soul.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

*Even if the fig tree does not bloom and the vines have no grapes,
even if the olive tree fails to produce and the fields yield no food,
even if the sheep pen is empty and the stalls have no cattle-*

I will be happy with the LORD.

I will truly find joy in God, who saves me.

The LORD Almighty is my strength.

Habbakuk 3:17-19

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Dec 16 @ 7pm Our Lady of Sorrows 555 S. Slocan St. Van.

Dec 17 @ 7pm Corpus Christi 6350 Nanaimo St. Vancouver

Dec 17 @ 7pm St. Jude's 3078 Renfrew St. Vancouver

Dec 17 @ 7pm Holy Cross 1450 Delta Ave. Burnaby

Dec 19 @ 7pm Our Lady of Fatima 1423 E. 13th Ave. Van.

Dec 20 @ 7:40pm ST. MARY'S 5251 Joyce St. Vancouver

Dec 23 @ 7pm St. Helen's 3860 Triumph St. Burnaby

THE ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. The branches are 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 **Dec 14/15** and **Dec 21/22**. 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 Christmas.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Dec 24: 5pm, 7pm, 9:30pm, Midnight

Dec 25: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm (Filipino), 5pm

* No confessions on Dec 24 or Dec 25 *

Dec 31: 5pm, 11:30pm

* Confession from 4:15pm-4:45pm and 10:45pm-11:30pm *

Jan 1: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm

* No confessions on Jan 1 *

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

We are accepting kindergarten applications for the 2014/15 school year. Applications are available at www.stmary.bc.ca.

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.

LIVING ROSARY

Thank you to all volunteers, prayer leaders, coordinators, singers (Ryznar Family), and to those who joined and prayed the Living Rosary. The celebration of Immaculate Conception was a wonderful and prayerful evening. We also thank Archbishop Miller for inspiring us with his presence and support!

PARISH NEWS

PROJECT ADVANCE

Our total stands at \$141,800. Let us make a last big push before Dec. 31 to try to reach our parish goal of \$200,000! You can give on line at rcav.org, where you can choose to donate monthly by credit card. Remember, all donations received before Dec. 31 may be used as a charitable donation on your 2013 tax return.



YOUTH CORNER



NO YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT MEETING

There will be no meeting on Dec 26. Next meeting is Jan 9.

SPARK POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY (GR. 6-8)



Celebrate Christmas with friends, exciting games and good food. Join us on Monday Dec 16 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement. Let us thank the Lord for all His blessings and remember to bring food to share. Contact Rocelyn at 604-435-9611 ext.247 or email youth.smarv@rcav.org.

FLAME POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY (GR. 8-12)

Two days after Christmas, we are still celebrating! Join the senior youth and leadership team in making a memorable Christmas experience on Friday, Dec 27 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement. Don't forget to bring food to share. Contact Rocelyn at 604-435-9611 ext.247 or email youth.smarv@rcav.org.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR P & W BAND

Interested to play in a Youth Band? Come to our first Youth Band Gathering on Thursday, Dec 19 from 4:30-6:30pm in the Church basement and learn praise & worship songs. No experience required. Bring your own instruments, if you have. To register, contact Mildred at mmoy_ca@yahoo.com or call 778-885-9611.

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS WANTED



Join us in singing Christmas carols to the homeless at the Door Is Open on Sat, Dec 21 from 10:30am-12pm. We will meet in front of St. Mary's School Gym at 9:45am. Practice is required on Fri, Dec 20th 8-9:30pm at the rectory basement. Minors (at least Gr.9) require permission forms from their parents. Space is limited. Contact Youth Ministry for more info.