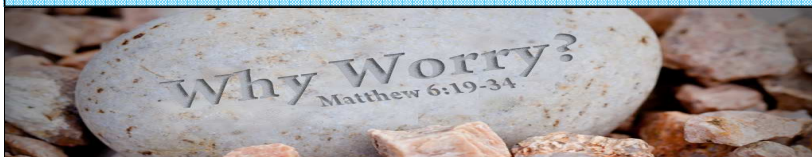


## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



### **SUNDAY MAR 2: 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am Retreat on Discernment (Church Basement)

6:10pm EPIC Journey (Church Basement)

### **MONDAY MAR 3:**

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church Basement)

7:00pm Lay Apostle (Church)

### **TUESDAY MAR 4:**

7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Basement)

### **WEDNESDAY MAR 5: ASH WEDNESDAY**

**8:00am Mass (Church)**

**10:00am School Mass (Church)**

**5:00pm Mass (Church)**

**6:45pm PREP Mass (School Gym)**

**7:00pm Mass (Church)**

**8:30pm Mass (School Gym)**

**NOTE: No Adoration, Confession, Benediction, Healing Prayer**

### **THURSDAY MAR 6:**

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 MAR 7:**

6:00pm Youth for Christ (Rectory Dining)

6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)

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

7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

### **SATURDAY MAR 8:**

9:15am DNA Men's Group (Rectory Basement)

10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)

10:00am Handmaids (Seminar Room)

1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)

2:00pm Youth for Christ (School Gym)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)

5:00pm Migrant Ministry (School Gym)

7:00pm CFC (School Gym)

### **SUNDAY MAR 9: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)

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

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web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

**MARCH 2, 2014**

*Pastor's  
Corner*

### **SHARP FOCUS AND SOFT FOCUS**

You are watching a good movie. A man and a woman, in that movie, come to a sidewalk cafe sitting face to face. As they get into a passionate conversation, because they are falling in love, they forget everything else around them. Their ultimate attention is given to that moment of ultimate importance. The cinematographer gives you a sense of their total presence to another by letting everything else in the background— the streets and other people— fall into a loose "soft" focus, a blur. You see very clearly only the man and the woman. You are drawn into their conversation— into their feelings for one another.

Keep this image in mind as we ponder today's Gospel. Jesus tells us that we all have an ultimate concern, that comes readily in our mind, a clear focus, that puts everything else in soft focus. The danger for us is that our ultimate focus may not be "big" enough to unify all our beings, all our lives. In fact, it might very well put God into soft focus, into the fuzzy background. We lose our awareness of God. He slowly disappears from our field of vision.

You may think, "No, it won't happen to me, I don't have any ultimate focus." Jesus says, "You do. There is always something, someone, in your life that is preferred to anything. I designed you like that so that you might order your whole life towards me. 'No one can serve two masters. He will hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.' Something has to get the focus."

Then, Jesus invites you to choose a focus that is big enough to bring all of you, all of your life, past, present and future into harmony and fulfillment. Is your ultimate concern about food, drink, clothing, or money, power, pleasure? These things are good but cannot be your ultimate focus. Why? Jesus says, "There is more to life than these things. You can pursue these things, but not as if they were of ulti-

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

Pastor's Corner Continued...

mate importance. Don't let them take all your attention. Rather pursue them in relation to Me, to My will. Otherwise you will be a slave of something lesser than you."

This is evident in addiction. Listen to this real story. A man developed an addiction to alcohol. His wife and children knew it but he was denying it. Every time, given the choice, he would drink. It was his ultimate focus, even though he was not clearly aware that he was losing sight of everything else. One day, he came back home from work, and found the house empty. A note was left on a table signed by his wife and all his children, "We love you. We will come back when you sign up with A.A. group..." He did and he stopped drinking and they came back.

Another example of an insufficient ultimate goal: romance. Many go from marriage to marriage because they are addicted to falling in love. This is an impossible pursuit. Romance cannot be the goal of your life. Marriage in view of someone and some goal greater than you is a great sub-goal that may help you focus on the Absolute Goal and find true joy. **But separated from God, it cannot bring authentic fulfillment.**

Again, another real story. In the sixties, a Dominican student was not given access to PhD studies in order to fulfill his goal as a university teacher. He was trying to compensate for his poor identity by having the prestigious letter PhD beside his name. He got so upset to be refused this recognition by the Dominicans, so he left the community. He went on to become slave to his ways to obtain a PhD in sociology. And when he did get it, he came to show it off to us. He had his revenge, but he had lost the main goal of his life, his calling to be a priest.

"Seek the Kingdom of God first, and everything else will be given to you as well." Jesus doesn't forbid us to seek these other things, But we need to seek Him first and above all the rest. He knows what we need.

Here is another "good news." If you put your focus on God first, you will still be able to remain actively aware of your sub-goals. Plus...they will come in the right order of priority. Why? Because God is not one being among others. He is the ground of all other beings. You can love Him in all the other beings that you love. In fact the love you have for God and this love for you will prevent you from being destroyed by the very abundance of life.

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

## PARISH NEWS

### **ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 - MASS TIMES**

8am Mass (Church)  
10am School Mass (Church)  
5pm Mass (Church)  
6:45pm PREP Mass (School Gym)  
7pm Mass (Church)  
8:30pm Mass (School Gym)



### **ASH WEDNESDAY FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

On Ash Wednesday we are called to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**

There will be no Adoration, Confession, Benediction, or Healing Prayer on Wednesday night.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

This Friday, and every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm. Please join this very important Lenten observance.

### **COUPLES FOR CHRIST CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM**

You are invited to a Christian Life Program (CLP) sponsored by Couples for Christ. The program will start on Saturday, March 8 at 7:30pm in the School Gym. CLP is an integrated course on the basics of Christianity leading to a renewed understanding of God's call to us as Christian individuals and/or couples. For more information, please contact: Dannie Raymond 604-710-6211 or George Paderes 778-668-7422.

### **BLANKET DRIVE BY CWL**

St. Mary's CWL is organizing a blanket drive for the homeless. Please drop off any blankets or comforters in front of the School Gym on March 9. CWL members will be collecting items from 9am-1pm that day only. There is great need for these items, so please consider donating and make it part of your Lenten sacrifice. Thank you for your generous support.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANING CANDLE GLASS**

Our candle cleaning group is in need of assistance with cleaning the candle glasses and candle stands every Thursday from 10am-11:30am. If you are interested, please contact Kit at 604-298-2961.

## PARISH NEWS

### **LENTEN BOOKLETS**

This weekend after all Masses we will be selling Lenten booklets. "40 Days of Hope and Healing" sells for \$1, and the "Magnificat Lenten Companion" sells for \$2.

### **LENTEN MISSION/HEALING PRAYERS**

Topic: Taking Sin Apart. Guest Presenter: Bishop Emeritus R. Gilmore. (Dodge City, Kansas Diocese and Jacqueline Loh) at St. Mary's on Thursday March 20 evening, Friday March 21 evening and Saturday March 22 all day. For more information please see: [www.GracethatReigns.com](http://www.GracethatReigns.com) and register [RSVP@GracethatReigns.com](mailto:RSVP@GracethatReigns.com). Free will offering. Tax receipts will be given for \$25 or more.

### **SPARK (GR. 6-8) – LENTEN PREPARATION**

L-E-N-T. What does this 4-letter word mean? Is it even important for us? Join this exciting journey of mapping our way through Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, on Mon March 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement.

### **JR. (GR. 6&7) & SR.(GR. 8-12) BASKETBALL**

The next Youth Basketball are on Sat March 8<sup>th</sup>. Junior practice is from 10am-12pm and Senior practice is from 12-2pm. Please get copies of the new schedule from the foyer or visit [www.marysyouth.com](http://www.marysyouth.com).

### **SPARK ENCOUNTER (GR.6-8)**

On Sat March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am-6:30pm in the School Gym, NET Ministries will conduct a youth retreat that aims to help young people come to a greater awareness of their goodness and uniqueness as God's sons and daughters. The retreat fee is \$10 (financial assistance is available) and space is limited. Please see registration forms at the foyer.

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

St. Mary's is accepting applications for its second Kindergarten class for 2014-2015. Applicants for other grades are also welcome.



## DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

### **YOUTH (GR. 8-12) & YOUNG ADULTS – FREEDOM**

Dare to experience a powerful night filled with music, prayer, witness, catechesis and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join Freedom, a FREE reconciliation event for youth and young adults on Friday, March 14 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond from 7-10:30pm. Youth requires permission forms available at the foyer, website or parish office. Deadline of registration for youth is on March 5.