

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



Second Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY DEC 7: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)
- 1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
- 1:30pm CFC (School Gym)
- 6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)

MONDAY DEC 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

- 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)

6:00pm Mass (Church)

7:00pm Living Rosary (Church)

TUESDAY DEC 9:

- 6:00pm Baptism Prep (Church)
- 7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory basement)
- 7:30pm Ablaze Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Basement)

WEDNESDAY DEC 10:

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

THURSDAY DEC 11:

- 7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)
- 7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)
- 9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 12: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

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

SATURDAY DEC 13: ST. LUCY

- 9:00am Bible Study (Church Basement)
- 9:15am DNA Men's Group (Rectory Basement)
- 11:00am Seniors Mass of Anointing (Church)
- 12:30pm Seniors Christmas Lunch (School Gym)
- 1:30pm CFC Youth (Church Basement)
- 3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
- 4:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)

SUNDAY DEC 14: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
- 1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)
- 6:15pm Bible Study (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 Sunday 3pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

Wednesday 6pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:

Thursday: 7:20am & Saturday: 8am

DIVINE MERCY: Friday 3pm & 6:15pm

FIRST FRIDAY: Adoration from 9am-9pm

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. Email the Parish Office: parish.smarv@rcav.org **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 5pm

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)

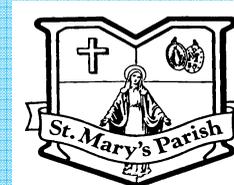
Pastoral Assistant: Vesna Jankovic (ext. 6)

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

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris (ext. 247)

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

Reception: Theresa de Ocampo (ext. 0)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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DECEMBER 7, 2014

*Pastor's
Corner*

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

Last week, we saw that sin in our life is like an addiction. I say to myself, "Pride has me. I'd love not to be so self-preoccupied. I'd love not to be so self-defensive, I'd love not to focus on my own prerogatives at every turn. But somehow, I can't avoid it. I can't stop it. Same with envy. I'd love not to be so preoccupied with someone else's success." Same for all the other capital sins, whether it is greed, sloth, lust, gluttony, anger. It would be foolish to say "I know that I am prideful, but I can stop it anytime I want, if I set my mind and my will to it." Admitting I cannot get rid of my addictions and sins by my own power is the first step to freedom.

Before proceeding to the next step, let us take a look at the mood of sin. Let's try to feel it. Sin is experienced as separation, as a distance, filled with obstacles, separating us from God, from others, for ourselves. Think of a time when you broke a friendship. You felt there was a wall between the two of you and you could not bridge the gap. This is what happens when we let attachment to something pull us away from God, and from the service of God towards others. You feel a rupture. Yet you fear that you cannot be happy without this addiction, this sin, this attachment. But this very addiction is numbing you from experiencing God's love, and your neighbor's love. You develop a tunnel vision, that gradually closes you off from God and others. You become absorbed in your addictions. It becomes your master. And a cruel one. It will demand everything from you: your time, your talents, your treasures. And your dignity, perhaps even your membership in the Body of Christ.

You will try to justify your sin by your past suffering. "I have been bullied, or put down. Now I need to cultivate pride. I have been unloved. Now I need to put myself in the center. I need to indulge in lust and gluttony, to fill my emptiness. But

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

a suffering that is not dealt directly— with Jesus— turns into bitterness. These evasive strategies don't work. Don't try to replace one addiction, or a sin, by another one.

This week, the first reading reminds us that God Himself is building a highway to bridge the gap between Him and us. Like that Sea to Sky Highway that cuts through the mountains, and jumps over the valleys. This highway is Jesus who said 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' Isaiah says He is coming with power, with divine power. A power to save, not to condemn. This is the Good News. The power of God is at hand, and is far greater than the power of addiction. In Christ, God takes on our weaknesses, our sinfulness, and gives us in exchange, His Divine Power, the Holy Spirit. "It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal. 2:20) "I can do everything in Him who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13) I begin to be free of the "rewards" of addiction: reputation, power, possessions, pleasures. I am less inclined to look for love in all the wrong places. I am no longer trying to feed my soul with the esteem of others, no longer enslaved to the affirmation from others.

Stop carrying the weight of addictions and sins. Jesus wants to take on your burdens. But He needs your permission. Your sins and addictions have added much weight to the cross that you were supposed to carry. Let God take that extra load so that it becomes manageable. But we sometimes make the mistake to ask for an easy life. It would ruin us. We need struggles and temptations and challenges. "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks." (Phillips Brooks) "Endurance is the ability to bear a hard thing and to let God turn it into glory." (Philip Yancey, modified) Make a firm decision to commit fully to God, and Providence will move in.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre



PARISH NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Monday Dec 8 we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception and our Parish Feast Day with Mass at 6pm, followed by the Living Rosary at 7pm in the Church. Please join us.



ANNUAL GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE IN CHURCH FOYER

St. Vincent de Paul Society is coordinating a Giving Tree this Christmas. The branches are covered with angelic gift tags and you may select one or more. This will indicate your commitment to purchase a gift(s) for a child aged 5 to 16 years old. No baby or toddler items please. Please bring the unwrapped gifts and place under the tree during the weeks **Dec 6/7** and **Dec 13/14**. We will then distribute them to children who would otherwise be without gifts at Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Our total to date is \$133,802 or 67% of our parish goal. There are just a few weeks left to give, first to try to reach our goal of \$200,000, and second for you to be able to claim a donation on your 2014 tax return, so you need to give before Dec 31! You may donate through the Sunday collection, or online at rcav.org.

SPARK (GR.6-8) – CANCELLED

Instead of having our regular youth night, we are joining our parish community in celebrating our feast day – Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec 8. Invite your families and friends to join! Please NOTE: Spark Christmas Potluck Party will be on Dec 15.

YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT (GR.6-8) – CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas is almost here! Let us join in fellowship on Thursday, Dec 11 from 4:30-6pm in the Church basement and give thanks to our awesome God! Fun and prizes await! This is a potluck, please bring food to share.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Dec 10 @ 6pm Holy Family 4851 Beatrice St. Van.
Dec 10 @ 7pm St. Joseph's 1612 E. 18 Ave. Van.
Dec 15 @ 7pm Our Lady of Sorrows 555 S. Slocan St. Van.
Dec 16 @ 7pm Corpus Christi 6350 Nanaimo St. Van.
Dec 17 @ 7pm Holy Cross 1450 Delta Ave. Bby.
Dec 19 @ 7pm St. Francis of Assisi 2025 Napier St. Van.
Dec 19 @ 7pm ST. MARY'S

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S SENIORS - MASS & CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you are 60 or over, join us for Mass of Anointing of Seniors at 11am, followed by a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, on Saturday Dec 13 at 12:30pm in the School Gym. St Mary's School Choir will perform, and there may be a visit from the "man in red!" Contact Eileen 604-436-3655 or Nancy 604-434-7246 to reserve your spot. RSVP by Dec. 10.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School is now accepting applications for Kindergarten & Grade 1-7 for the 2015-2016 school year. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up from the school office 8:30-4:00 M-F.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards made by the Dominican Nuns are on sale in the foyer after all Masses for \$1 per card.

2015 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

The 2015 envelopes are now ready to be picked up from the Church basement.

LOVE WORKS CHARITY

Love Works Charity humbly asks for your support in our fund-raising effort to provide for the surgery needed for a 3 year old girl name Heny Hidalgo, born with medical condition called meningocele, a tumour on her face. After all Masses on Dec 13/14. we will be selling religious articles, the proceeds of which will be used for her surgery and milk. Thank you for your contributions and generosity.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Catholic Forum invites you to explore the theme "The Family in the Church Today", with Archbishop Miller on Tuesday, Dec 16 at 7pm in the Church. Info: <http://dominicanlaity.ca/forum>, or contact Dr. Paul Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy email: ve7cld@shaw.ca.

ARC ADORATION NIGHT

Join in ARC Adoration night with Youth Praise & Worship on Saturday Dec 20 from 7:30-9:30pm in the Church. Adoration, Confession and Healing Prayer Ministry. This event is organized by the Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Renewal. All are welcome!

ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH RELATIONS

We are looking for a parishioner who is interested in ecumenical relations and would like to represent the Parish to the Archdiocesan Commission. If you think this could be you, please email parish.smarv@rcav.org for more information.