

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



Third SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY MAR 8: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)
6:30pm Bible Study (Church basement)

MONDAY MAR 9:

6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (Church basement)
7:00pm Catholic Forum (Church)

TUESDAY MAR 10:

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

WEDNESDAY MAR 11:

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

THURSDAY MAR 12:

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

FRIDAY MAR 13:

6:00pm CFC-SFL (Seminar Room)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration/Confession (Church)
7:00pm CFC (Church basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying room)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY MAR 14:

9:15am DNA Men's Group (Rectory basement)
10:00am Handmaids of the Lord (Seminar Room)
10:00am YM Basketball (School Gym)
1:30pm CFC Youth (Church basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Library)
7:00pm CFC (School Gym)

SUNDAY MAR 15: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

1:00pm CFC-YFL (Church basement)
6:30pm Youth Ministry (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.marisyouth.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 Chadarévian, O.P. (ext. 3)
Pastoral Assistant: Vesna Jankovic (ext. 6)
Finance & Property Manager: Ossie Fernandes (ext. 7)
Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Rocelyn Catris (ext. 247)
RCIA/PREP Coordinator: Edwin Cruz (ext. 5)
Reception: Theresa De Ocampo (ext. 0)



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MARCH 8, 2015

*Pastor's
Corner*

BUILDING UP YOUR LIFE ON SOLID GROUND

Our first reading this Sunday brings us to meditate on the Ten Commandments. These are objective, not determined by subjective choice or opinions of lawyers or majority vote. They are based on our human nature, the nature of the world and of God. Today, a lot of people believe that their moral life is simply a matter of their own whims and choices. "Whatever is good for you is not good for me." But a very easy observation contradicts this: whenever you take something seriously, you do not accept that relativism. If you love a sport, you will want to know the rules about it and practice them. The same for music, painting, science, technology, and engineering. If you want to play violin, you learn the rules about it and observe them. So if you take your moral and spiritual life seriously, then you want commandments based on objective knowledge. Not just subjective whims. Otherwise the bridge you are building will collapse. That is, **you will collapse**. That is why many people want spiritual direction.

The first three commandments, on the First Table of the law, have to do with God...because He is the source and ground of all morality. Without God, without a firm and final anchor, the door is wide open to relativism. To get our relationship with God right is the key to get everything else right in our moral and spiritual life. So the First Table of the law has to do with God, the Second Table has to do with our relationship with each other. Let's look at the commandments.

First Commandment:

1) "I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods besides me."

The best way to understand what a person is about, is to inquire as to what he/she worships. What you worship is what you hold as the highest value. And that will determine everything else about you. What is the anchor, what is the

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Pastor's Corner Continued...

centre of gravity of your life? That is what you worship. This commandment is asking us: "What do you worship?" God? Or something else: sex, pleasure, money, power, position, status?

2) Third Commandment: "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day" (Sunday)

Our worship of God, our willingness to place God at the very center of our concerns has to be embodied, or it will fade away. Several years after my first conversion, I stopped going to Mass on Sunday, because it was "boring." After a while, God became for me an abstraction and an irrelevancy! Making worship optional is as contradictory as making practice optional for a musician, a choir, a basketball player. You have to practice your faith.

Let us now look at the **Second Table of the Law: Our relationship with one another and with our neighbour.** If we are ordered to God, then we will love what God loves, so we will love our neighbour and family. By this, I don't mean warm feelings but willful commitment.

3) Fourth Commandment: "Honour your father and mother."

If you claim to love God but you don't honour (respect and promote) people closest to you, there is something false and hypocritical in your moral and spiritual life. The family is the building block of society. The integrity of society depends upon the child's respect for their aging parents. The fourth commandment is a **social commandment about what makes society healthy and happy.**

4) Fifth Commandment: "You shall not kill."

All legitimate moral codes hinge upon the respect for innocent human life. If we can find an excuse for taking an innocent life, then anything goes. God is the giver of life, even through procreation, therefore we have no business interfering with His prerogative. But most of us have not murdered someone. Let's broaden it. God is the Giver of life. Are you someone who enhances life or diminishes life for the people you are dealing with? Do people feel more alive or less alive after dealing with you? Or is their life diminished?

Next week, we will address the five last commandments.

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

p.s. This write up is a transcription and a combination of two homilies from Fr. Barron supplemented by a personal example. See: [wordonfire/resources/homily/years 2009 and 2015](http://wordonfire/resources/homily/years%202009%20and%202015)

PARISH NEWS

SPARK (GR. 6-8) – FINDING DEEPER MEANING

Did you know that the Bible can be read in different ways: literal, allegorical, moral and anagogical? Don't let these words scare you, but challenge yourself to learn these ways. You'll be impressed with what you find out on Monday, Mar 9 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement. Invite friends and have fun!

YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT (GR. 6-8) – MOVIE: PATRICK

Saints were Spirit-filled people. One of the bravest saints we know is St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland and his feast is on Mar 17. Join youth on Thursday, Mar 12 from 4:30-6pm in the Church basement, as this movie brings to life the brave encounters of Patrick with the Druids, warriors and kings.

FLAME (GR. 8-12) – MOVIE: RESTLESS HEART

Like us, St. Augustine faced numerous temptations in his lifetime and succumbed to them, until God revealed His truth to him. Join us in watching an epic film about the life of one of the Church's most beloved and well-known saints. Reflect on its message of sin, conversion, and redemption on Sunday, Mar 15 from 6:30-9pm in the Church basement.

HELP NEEDED FOR REFRESHMENTS

Youth Ministry requests help to provide healthier refreshment options for youth during events. Times are very flexible. Please consider sharing your effort and talents with us. For more info, please call Rocelyn at 604-435-9611.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Please join us in saying the Solidarity Way of the Cross on Friday, Mar 13 at 6:30pm. As we follow Jesus and recall his suffering, passion and death, we also recall the suffering and passion of those who experience poverty and injustice in our world each day.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE KITCHEN MINISTRY

Hunger brings people to their knees. Almost one billion people go to bed hungry each night. In solidarity, please join us after the Saturday 5pm Mass and all morning Masses next Sunday Mar 15 to partake of a symbolic Hunger Repast of rice soup, bread and water. Donations received will go to Development and Peace Share Lent collection.

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLIC FORUM

We invite you to learn about the local preparation for the 2015 Synod on the Family with Pavel Reid from the Archdiocesan Office of Life, Marriage and Family. His talk, "Between the Synods: What have the local consultations uncovered and where are we going?" will be on Monday, Mar 9 at 7pm in the Church. More info dominicanlaity.ca/forum, Dr. Paul Ungar 604-588-5696 or Cathy at ve7cld@shaw.ca.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Save the dates, Mar 22, 23, 24 for our Parish Lenten Retreat with speaker Keith Strohm of the Catherine of Siena Institute. Many of you heard Keith speak recently at the Archdiocesan ONE Conference, so get ready for "**ENCOUNTER**", an opportunity to encounter the Lord in a deeply personal way through praise and worship, inspired teaching, small group process, and personal witness to help open our hearts to God and experience newfound freedom, peace, healing, and love! Stay tuned for more details!

ADORATION WITH TAIZE MUSIC

Thank you to those who came and prayed with us for the protection of Life, an end to sex trafficking, and for all our volunteers and loved ones last Saturday. Our next one will be on Saturday March 28. Please bring your friends.

SATURDAY 5PM CHOIR

The Saturday 5pm choir would like to invite singers and musicians to consider joining our choir to praise God through the ministry of music. We are especially looking for a piano or guitar player and singers. For more info please contact Cathy at frozentriqui@gmail.com.

SLEEP OUT AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered and supported us in our SLEEP OUT last Friday. For those who would like to sponsor us but didn't have a chance, you can still do so by using a "special intention" envelope found in the pew or in the foyer. Please write "Street Min SLEEP OUT" on the envelope. If you're writing a cheque, please make cheque payable to "St. Mary's Parish." and put "Street Min SLEEP OUT" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!