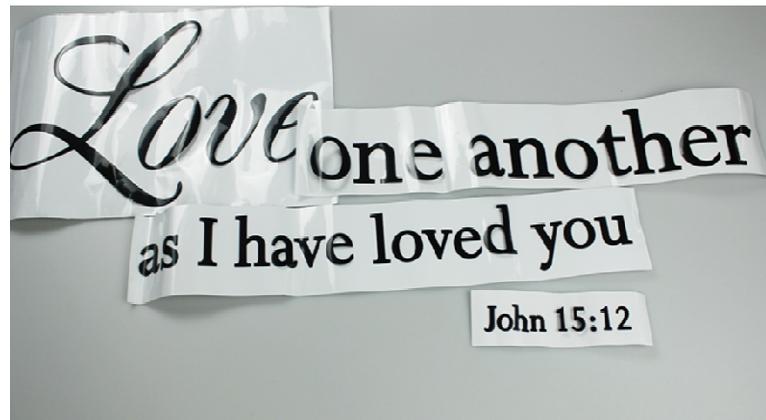


## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH



### **SUNDAY MAY 10: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

11:00am Mother's Day Luncheon (Church basement)  
12:30pm Light of Jesus (School Gym)

### **MONDAY MAY 11:**

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

### **TUESDAY MAY 12:**

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

### **WEDNESDAY MAY 13:**

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

### **THURSDAY MAY 14: ST. MATHTHIAS**

7:00pm **CONFIRMATION** (Church) \*NO Adoration/Benediction\*  
7:00pm RCIA (Seminar Room)

### **FRIDAY MAY 15:**

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

### **SATURDAY MAY 16:**

1:30pm CFC Youth (School Gym)  
2:30pm Baptism (Church)  
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory library)  
7:00pm CFC (Rectory basement)  
7:00pm CFC-FFL (Church basement)  
7:30pm ARC (Church)

### **SUNDAY MAY 17: ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

1:00pm CFC Youth (Church basement)  
1:00pm Migrant Ministry (Seminar Room)  
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 / 3pm (**Tagalog**) / 5pm / 7pm

**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 & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Coordinator: Rocelyn Catris

Email: youth.smarv@rcav.org

**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)



**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

5251 Joyce Street

Vancouver BC V5R 4G8

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email: parish.smarv@rcav.org

web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysvancouver

**MAY 10, 2015**

*Pastor's  
Corner*

### **CONDITIONAL LOVE?**

"Don't act out of guilt. Act out of love." That was a very firm and very good advice from my 30 day retreat spiritual director, Msgr. John Essef. By the way, he will preach our 2016 Lenten Retreat. You will love him. This problem of guilt, common among us, stems mostly from not having received an unconditional love from our father on earth. Day after day, in our early childhood, we get the message, mostly from our father, that we have to earn love through some activities or some excellence. And this is often how families go off the rail, and become dysfunctional. If children sense there is a great "if" quality to their parent's love, then things get messed up. In an ideal human family, and in God's family, love properly has an unconditional quality to it. It's not there because of anything. There are no "ifs" involved. It's given freely without any merit from us: we may displease our ideal parents, and even God by our bad behaviour, but they don't stop loving us unconditionally.

The second reading today affirms this unconditional love. "In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10) And Paul said "Even when we were sinners, God loved us and gave His life for us." (Romans 5:8) And in today's Gospel, Jesus Himself said: "As the father has loved me, so I have loved you." (John 15:9) That is astounding! Jesus loves us in the same way He is loved by the Father. That infinite, unconditional love that Jesus received from the Father, He pours it out into our hearts, in that same unconditional and infinite "measure." And again, in today's Gospel, in John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you." In other words, you did not seek me, but I Jesus Christ, am seeking you. I am hunting you down, like the Hound of Heaven, like the father of the Prodigal Son. The Lord is telling you "Don't worry so much about earning my love, about working your way into my Heart. "I am bringing

*Pastor's Corner Continued...*

Pastor's Corner Continued...

you in me, if only you let me do so.”

You and I would not even exist if it were not for God's love. That is because God needs nothing, therefore God has no self-interest. Therefore whatever exists outside of God, simply exists because God desired some good for it. And that is what love is: to desire the good of the other, for the sake of the other (not for our own self-interest) This means, as Fr. Barron said, that the existence of everything, from archangels to worms is a sign of God's gracious and unconditional love. Love precedes our intelligence. It precedes our courage, our will, our design, our purpose, our very existence. Love comes first. We don't need to deserve it, or merit it, or earn it. God doesn't love us because we are lovable, it's His love that makes us lovable. This is already happening at a human level. A baby that is not pretty becomes beautiful when he is truly and unconditionally loved by his parents. He/she will grow into a beautiful human being.

The God of unconditional love is indeed presented consistently throughout the Bible, even in the Old Testament. But the God of the Bible is also a God who presents lots and lots of commandments. Some form of “If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,” in today's Gospel. (John 15:10) How do we put together God's unconditional love and God's conditional love? (Much hinges on that word “abide” or “remain” in the American Bible.) God's love is given unconditionally as a grace. But remaining in that love is indeed a matter of keeping certain commandments, of doing certain things. Here is how it works. God's love, which is given as a grace, which cannot be earned or merited, can remain in us, become our possession, only in the measure, we actively and consciously give it away. Here are the two ways that God's love does not remain in us. First of all, if we resist it, if we are opposing a block to it, maybe because we feel so unworthy or want to be self-sufficient. And this happens quite often. So resisting is one problem. The other one, though, is trying to cling to it, to have it. Either way, resisting or clinging to it, it will never work its way into our hearts, into our bodies, into our minds. “But if we take the love and then give it away as an act of love, then we get more of it, entering into that delightful stream of grace, water bubbling up to external life, as Jesus puts it to the woman at the well in John 4.” (Fr. Barron) In today's Gospel Jesus affirms this logic: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved

## PARISH NEWS

you.” Then this love remains in you. Otherwise, we are like a husband who is loved by his wife but doesn't return that love: he simply enjoys it selfishly, takes advantage of it, abuses it. He will get some pleasure from it, but he will never be transformed by it. But if he gives away that love, it transforms him into a loving person and great joy comes into his life. So we too can enter into God's joy, and remain in it by loving unconditionally. And we grow into an even deeper intimacy with God, becoming cooperator of His grace in us and for others. “I do not call you servants any longer, but friends.” (John 15:15) “I have said these things to you so that my joy be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)

*God bless you, Fr. Pierre*

See Fr. Barron's homily for this Sunday, 2012

### P.R.E.P. REGISTRATION

The Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.) offers religious instruction for children who attend public schools. P.R.E.P. will start on September 8/9. Registrations accepted: May 19, 20, 26, 27 at 6:30-8pm in the School office. There will be special registration dates on May 23, 30 & June 6 from 10am-3pm (School Gym entrance). *An early bird discounted rate will apply if you register during these dates until June 6.* Regular fees charged after June 6. DO NOT submit forms to the Parish office, they will NOT be accepted. Info 604-435-9611 ext. 5 or prep.smarv@rcav.org.

### R.C.I.A. ACCEPTING INQUIRERS

Are you an adult who would like to join the Catholic Church? Perhaps you are a baptized Catholic, but lack the Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation. Maybe you just would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and what the Church teaches. Welcome to RCIA! We start in early September and are taking registrations now. Please contact rcia.smarv@rcav.org.

### LOJ FAMILY GARAGE SALE

Sunday May 10 from 9am- 5pm in the entrance to the School Gym. Lots of New & Slightly Used items, check it out! 50% of proceeds will go to the Parish Building Fund. See you there!

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### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are on sale after Mass; win a trip to Disneyland, a cruise, or \$500 cash. Tickets are \$2 or \$20 for a booklet. Proceeds go to the Parish Building Fund.

### ARC ADORATION & HEALING NIGHT

Join us for a praise, adoration and healing on Sat May 16 from 7:30-9:30pm. Confession and prayer ministry available.

### ADORATION WITH TAIZE MUSIC

Join us on Saturday May 23 from 7-8pm in Adoration with Taize Music to pray for world peace, protection of life, an end to sex trafficking, and for all our volunteers and loved ones.

### SINGERS NEEDED FOR EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Singers are needed in our procession on Saturday June 6 after the 5pm Mass. Sign up in the foyer or contact mmoy\_ca@yahoo.com or 778-885-9611. First practise in the Church basement on Saturday May 23 from 12-2pm. Internet links to the songs will also be available.

### MIGRANT MINISTRY WORKSHOP

St. Mary's Migrant Ministry and ISSofBC will hold a free workshop about "Making a Will". Resource speaker is Nicco Bautista, a lawyer, who will discuss the importance of having a will, how and where to get help in making a will; on Sunday May 17 from 1-3pm in the School seminar Room. Everyone is welcome. To register, email Lenn Castro, stmarysmigrant@gmail.com or Chit Arma, resochita.arma@issbc.org or call 604-684-7498 ext. 1666.

### SPARK (GR.6-8) - MOM'S DAY

It's the hardest job in the world, yet it seems to be one of the least appreciated. Do you know what job it is? If you would like to show more appreciation for your mothers, find out on Monday, May 11 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Church basement. Bring friends to share helpful tips!

### NO YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT EVENT

Due to Confirmation Day, there is no Youth in the Spirit on May 14. The next one is on May 28.