

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY DEC 25: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



Today in the city of David,
a saviour
has been born for you
who is
Messiah and Lord.
- Luke 2:11

MONDAY DEC 26: ST. STEPHEN (Parish office is closed)

7:00pm Additional Mass (Church)

TUESDAY DEC 27: ST. JOHN (Parish office is closed)

WEDNESDAY DEC 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

THURSDAY DEC 29: ST. THOMAS BECKET

7:00pm Mass/Adoration (Church)

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

FRIDAY DEC 30: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

4:00pm Couples For Christ-FFL (School Gym)

7:00pm Couples For Christ (Church Basement)

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

9:00pm Benediction (Church)

SATURDAY DEC 31: ST. SYLVESTER I

2:30pm Baptism (Church)

3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Living Room)

SUNDAY JAN 1: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

When the
fullness of time had come,
GOD sent his **SON**,
born of a woman.

- Galatians 4:4

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 of the Blessed Sacrament 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 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 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

Coordinator: Edwin Cruz

E-mail: prep.smarv@rcav.org

Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30-8pm / Teen Prep Wednesdays only

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

PASTORS & STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P. (ext. 6)

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, O.P. (ext. 3)

Assistant to the Pastors: Theresa De Ocampo (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: Marianne Peraro (ext. 0)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday: 8:45am to 5pm
Ph:604-435-9611 Email:parish.smarv@rcav.org Web:www.stmarysvancouver.ca



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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web: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysvancouver

DEC 25, 2016

Pastor's Corner

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Prayer

*On that holy night,
Somehow,
It happened.*

*Somehow,
God took a handful of humanity;
Proud, petulant, passionate;
And a handful of divinity;
Undivided, inexpressible,
incomprehensible:
And enclosed them in
one small body.*

*Somehow, the all too human
Touched the divine,
And was not vaporized.
To be human was never the same,
But forever thereafter,
Carried a hint of its close encounter with the perfect.
And forever thereafter,
God was never the same,
But carried a hint of the passion of the mortal.*

*If God can lie down in a cattle-trough,
Is any object safe from transformation?
If peasant girls can be mothers to God,
Is any life safe from the invasion of the eternal?
If all this could happen, O God,
What places of darkness on our earth
Are pregnant with light waiting to be born this night?*

*If all this could happen, O God,
Then you could be, and are, anywhere, everywhere,
Waiting to be born this night in the most unbelievable places,
Perhaps even in our own hearts. Amen.*

Ian Oliver

(Ian Oliver serves as pastor for the University Church, Yale University)

Pastor's Corner Continued...



Pastor's Corner Continued...

This beautiful poem speaks so well to me about the Mystery of Christmas. It is the Mystery of Incarnation – the Word, the second Person of the Trinity, takes on our flesh, not to be turned into flesh, but to elevate our flesh into his divine nature. God became man, so that men can become God. In order to do this, God had to become vulnerable, like a little baby, laid down in a cattle-trough, the manger where cattle eats. Here, the son of a peasant girl lies, amidst a cruel world, so that we may not be afraid of God. Who can be afraid of this baby in need of help and in poverty. “He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness.” (Pope Benedict XVI) He also takes away the fear of our personal call to share in his greatness. “He has travelled the greatest part of our journey towards him.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

Merry Christmas!

God bless you, Fr. Pierre

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Dec 24 Sat: 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm

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

Dec 31 Sat: 5pm, 11pm (Eucharistic Adoration at 10pm)

Jan 1 Sun: 9:30am, 11:15am, 1pm, 3pm(Tagalog), 5pm

DEC 26 MASSES

There will be an extra Mass on Monday Dec 26 at 7pm. Thus, there will be two Masses on Dec 26: 8am and 7pm.

NO CONFESSIONS

There will be no confessions on Dec 24 & Dec 25, and Dec 31 & Jan 1.

HEALING PRAYERS

There will be no Healing Prayer teams from Dec 19 – Dec 30. The regular Wednesday and Friday evening Healing Prayers in the church will resume on January 4.

TO ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

The January and February schedules are now available for pick up at the Lector's Room. For those who volunteered for the extra masses for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the schedule is also on the clip board to sign in. Thank you.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

We usually portray Mary as a gentle and devout Mother; she is actually a strong warrior. With the power from her Son, she shows us the effective way of fighting evil. Do you want to know more about the role of Mary in dealing with all forms of spiritual warfare? Come and join us on Saturday, Jan 7 at 9:30am.

MISSION ABLAZE PRESENTS “EVANGELIZING IN ASIA”

Are you interested in evangelizing in Asia? Would you like to hear the experience of a young adult from California who became a foreign lay missionary in Asia? Come join us in our Mission Ablaze Charismatic Prayer meeting on Tuesday, Jan 3, from 7:30 pm to 9 pm in the church basement. (please use Euclid Ave. entrance). Tricia Bolle, a foreign lay missionary, will share her experiences. We will begin with praise and worship and end with Healing Prayer ministry, followed by refreshments. An evening especially for young adults. Please bring your friends!

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT ADVANCE TEAM

Thank you again for everyone's support and generosity, the total amount of pledges to date is \$127,714 or 64% of parish goal. Just a quick reminder, you have until end of December to make your donations in order to claim 2016 tax credit. For those who would like to donate, please deposit your donations through the collection basket or donate online at www.projectadvance.ca. Thank you for everyone's continued support and participation.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Knights of Columbus Council 13072 worked with CWL and Couples for Christ to improve St Mary's Parish Christmas Lights. Together, these three ministries helped fund-raise to support the project. Special thanks to the Brother Knights and St Mary's Maintenance man, Kris Simpao, for installing them. Thank you to all, the additional Christmas Lights enhances this year's Christmas season and is much appreciated.

KINDERGARTEN 2017-2018

St. Mary's School Kindergarten interviews will take place for parishioners on Jan 5 & 6. Families intending to apply should do so as soon as possible.

2017 ENVELOPES

2017 envelopes are ready for pick up in the Church basement. Envelopes are filed by last name. If any information on your envelopes is incorrect, please fill out the appropriate forms found in the Church basement with any corrections. To prevent inaccuracy in recording your donations, please use the right envelopes for the right year, e.g. use 2016 envelopes for 2016, and 2017 envelopes for 2017.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ADVERTISE IN BC CATHOLIC

Build your business & your parish. Advertise in BC Catholic and reach 61,000 readers weekly to grow your business and 15% will go to St. Mary's Parish building fund. Quantity discounts available. For info on the Parish Incentive Program or a free strategic plan consultation, contact Raymond Loretan at ads@rcav.org or call 604 683 0281.

COUPLES CONNECT: A DEEPER BOND

Through teaching moments, demonstration, and practice, this 6-week workshop provides couples with a unique opportunity to practise skills learned and receive feedback from counsellors. Couples will learn how to manage and work through conflict, increase sexual intimacy, fondness and admiration, feel more connection with their partner, and build a long-lasting relationship of love. Couples will also receive a workbook containing handouts and reference tools to take home. Join us on Wednesdays, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, from 7–9 p.m., at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Cost: \$130 per couple. To register, visit rcav.org/event/couples-connect-deeper-bond

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE OPEN HOUSE

The St. Thomas More Collegiate Open House will be held on Wed Jan 11 at 6:30pm in the school gym. The evening is open to both parents and grade 7 students. The placement exam for students entering grade 8 in Sep 2017 is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 24 beginning at 1pm. To write this exam, an Application Form must be completed. Forms may be obtained from stmc.bc.ca, or the school office 8am to 4pm.

VANCOUVER COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Vancouver College is a K-12 Catholic school for boys established by the Christian Brothers in 1922. Join our Open House on Tuesday, Jan 10, 6:30pm -8pm at Vancouver College – Alumni Gymnasium, 5400 Cartier St, Vancouver.