

St. Mary's Parish

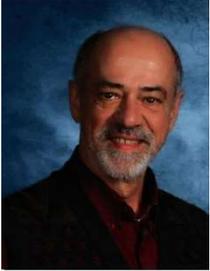
Vancouver, BC



"For it is in giving that you receive."
St. Francis of Assisi

Ministry Booklet

2018



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

When God created you, He had a purpose for you. He wanted you to bring something unique to His people. What is the message God is asking you to deliver? What is the special act of love God is expecting from you? What's your role in the unfolding of God's plan in this world and in this parish?

By volunteering in the parish, you could find the answer to these questions. You could experience the joy of becoming the person you were called to be. You could experience the joy of being closer to God and closer to the parish community.

God has already blessed this parish community abundantly. By becoming one of its active members, you will share personally in these blessings and we will be blessed by your contributions.

God bless you,

Fr. Guy Rivard, O.P.

2000 HAIL MARYS

2000 Hail Marys prays to the Blessed Mother asking for her true and powerful intercession. Participants gather from 6:30am to 4pm on the first Saturday of the month in the rectory dining room to pray the 4 mysteries of the Holy Rosary and the 20 petitions. For every petition, 100 Hail Mary's are prayed with an offering of one white rose and a candle. Everyone is invited to join once a month to pray to our Blessed Mother. Those who cannot commit to the whole day are still welcome to join and stay for however long they can.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are an integral part of the Mass. Good, attentive altar servers enrich the celebration and provide important assistance to their pastor. This ministry is open to young people from grade 6 and up. Special training seminars are provided for those who would like to join this ministry.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptism preparation sessions are held for parents of babies who want their children to be baptized at St. Mary's. The sessions are every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Church. As a volunteer in this ministry, you may be expected to assist the pastor at this session and also at the baptism, either on the first or last Saturday of the month.

BIBLE STUDY

The goal of Bible Study is to help participants grow in their knowledge of God. The more we know God, the more we see His love for us, thereby bringing us to a closer relationship with Him.

Here, participants gain life-giving insights by exploring Sacred Scriptures' historical and cultural context, biblical references in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the relevance of God's word to our life today. Coming to the study also deepens our appreciation of the Catholic faith and provides a chance to fellowship with others by sharing life experiences and personal views in a supportive environment.

In general, session format is: a talk or teaching on video is presented, then a group discussion follows using the prescribed study guide. Sessions occur weekly on Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the church basement. Visit the parish website or see the weekly parish bulletin for current information. Everyone is welcome.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN & PROFESSIONALS (BCBP)

The BCBP is a community of like-minded Christian businessmen and professionals who have consciously decided to band together to bring about the transformation of the marketplace. To accomplish this vision, we aim to bring into our community men and women of significant influence in business and in the professions who together will be the instruments of Christ in the business milieu. This requires from every BCBP member an on-going personal conversion together with a commitment to the practice of Christian values in the workplace. Thus, to win the marketplace for Christ means the radical change in the value system of business to one that is based on genuine and sustainable Christ-centric business tenets of steward leadership, justice and integrity, and professional excellence.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

NAME OF MINISTRY: Side by Side Cancer Support Group

GROUP COMPOSITION:

Facilitator: Gina Pedrano – email at sprakit_67@yahoo.com.ph / cel# 604.783.3787

Members: 8 cancer survivors and their families

MEETINGS:

Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 6 to 8pm, at a member's house
(no meeting during summer, July & August)

OVERVIEW:

The group was created just in Sept 2016. It's a faith-based group that aims to give hope and courage during a cancer journey.

We start our meeting with a prayer to St. Peregrine for healing of cancer. Sharing follows. We end the meeting with another healing prayer of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace. We pray not only for the members but also for our family, relatives and friends who had had cancer and those who are still battling cancer.

We also offer support to people who are undergoing treatment. We can share what we had gone through and offer advice on coping and moving on physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We have a private Facebook account available to members only.

Most members are from St. Mary's Parish but we also have members from other Catholic parishes.

We hope to reach out to more cancer survivors and cancer patients. We prefer referral rather than publication. We also welcome those people who have a family member, relative or friend who has cancer.

CATHOLIC STREET MISSIONARIES

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)

Rooted in gospel values, the Catholic Women's League (CWL) is dedicated to the preservation of the Christian family values and the sanctity of life and to uphold human dignity by working to make life better for all people, especially the disadvantaged. Membership is open to women, 16 years or older, who want to experience spiritual enrichment, personal growth and leadership development. CWL is active in fundraising in support of various charities, and parish-building events. There is an annual membership fee of \$28 and the meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm. Join CWL not only for the fun and camaraderie, but to share your talents and skills and, in turn, be richly rewarded in your life journey –spiritually, socially and in parish/community building.

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Provides Children Liturgy during Masses, childminding for important parish events such as parish retreats, seminars, and conferences.

CHOIRS

The primary function of music ministry is to enhance the liturgical celebrations by leading the assembly in song and praise. The goal is to encourage full, conscious and active participation. Eight choirs serve the weekend masses and all practice at various times and days during the week. Singing skills are essential and qualified musicians and instrumentalists may be accepted, depending on the choir's need. All members are expected to attend choir practices as scheduled.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation is a group that meditates, and practices contemplative prayer as passed on through the teaching of the late Fr. John Main OSB. Rooted in Christian tradition from the earliest times, meditation is a way of simplicity in which we quiet the mind and become still and attentive to God. It is a prayer of

silence, which takes us beyond words, thoughts and images to experience the presence of Christ within us.

The meetings are held every Tuesday at 7pm in the rectory basement. The session lasts for an hour and consists of listening to an inspirational talk on meditation based on scriptures, followed by 25 minutes of silent meditation. There is also a time of sharing and questions if needed.

Our group is affiliated with the BC Community for Christian Meditation, consisting of meditation groups from different parishes and homes in the province. Nationally, we are also part of the Canadian Christian Meditation Community and worldwide, thru the World Community for Christian Meditation of which Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB is the current director.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

CLOISTER OF ST. PETER

Cloister of St. Peter looks after general church housekeeping such as maintaining flower arrangements, watering plants, cleaning the candle holders, replacing the candles and keeping the pews tidy. No experience is necessary as training is provided.

COFFEE / SOCIAL GROUP

Coffee /Social Group promote friendship among parishioners by serving refreshments after certain weekend masses in the Church basement. Different teams are assigned to serve coffee each weekend for approximately 2 hrs, led by a team leader. Summer break is from July to August.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC)

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a Vatican-recognized lay community dedicated to the renewal of the Christian family. CFC's mission statement is "Building the Church of the Home, Building the Church of the Poor." Every member belongs to a household, which is a group of 4–6 married couples who support one another spiritually. CFC members meet in their homes weekly for household prayer meetings, as well as monthly as a large group on the 1st Sunday of the month in the Church basement. Key elements of CFC spirituality include charismatic worship, frequent group sharing and intercessory prayer, intergenerational faith building, and a special love for the poor.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST – FFL (CFC-FFL)

CFC Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) is an evangelistic and missionary community. Membership is open to any validly married Catholic couple, and to other individuals through its Family and Special Ministries. Those who want to join go through a Christian Life Seminar (CLS) for adults or a Youth Camp for young adults and are made part of a small cell group called a household. The household members meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement in the Christian life. Household meetings, normally in the members' home on rotation basis, usually involves a time for prayer, sharing or discussion and fellowship. As part of the larger family of CFC-FFL, a global family of many different nationalities and culture, we are an integral part of the Catholic Church. We submit to our bishops and to the Pope and make ourselves available to serve our parishes and dioceses, especially in the areas of family and life.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. The organization encourages Canadians to act in solidarity with the poor through education, advocacy, personal choices and financial assistance to the projects and programs of its overseas partners.

At St. Mary's, two events are held every year: the Fall Action Campaign and the Share Lent Campaign. Volunteers distribute literature, show videos, set up displays in the foyer and give talks during masses informing parishioners about what the campaign is all about. In the fall, the volunteers encourage everyone to sign petition cards lobbying the Canadian government for specific policy changes. The lent campaign is mainly a fundraising event through the Share Lent Collection. During this time the volunteers encourage every parishioner to give generously to support our partners in their work for peace, justice and development.

D&P is also a member organization of Caritas Internationalis, based in the Vatican. It is a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations working on behalf of the poor and oppressed in 198 countries and territories. The St. Mary's D&P committee also helps in soliciting funds for reliefs and emergencies. One best example is \$30,000 raised in the parish as emergency relief to help the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The funds raised helped in the building of St. Francis Village in Leyte, Philippines.

There are no regular monthly meetings, but meetings are scheduled before and after the fall and lent campaigns.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

The Divine Mercy group tries to spread devotion to the Divine Mercy. All are welcome every Friday at 3pm and 6:15pm in the Church (all year round).

DOMINICAN LAITY (MYSTERIA LUCIS CHAPTER)

Are you being called to a deeper relationship with God, in the spirit of St. Dominic? Mysteria Lucis Chapter is the lay Dominican community in Vancouver. As a branch of the Order of Preachers, the community shares the charism encapsulated by St. Thomas Aquinas “to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of that contemplation”. The pillars of lay Dominican life include prayer, study, community and mission, the mission of evangelization, sharing the Truth. The group meets in the rectory basement, usually on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 9:15am until 12:15pm. Enquirers explore their vocation through formation on Dominican spirituality, saints and lay Dominican life, including the Rule and Statutes, and participate in prayer and ongoing formation with the entire community. There are periodic retreats and Dominican Family celebrations with the friars, nuns or sisters. Please visit www.dominicanlaity.ca for more information.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion assists the pastor and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion to the community. Though voluntary in nature, names of volunteers are submitted to the pastor for approval. The list of EMs is then submitted to the Archdiocese of Vancouver. EMs are commissioned and appointed every two years.

FAMILIES FOR CHRIST

Families for Christ Community (FFCC) is a charismatic covenant community established in 1993 and it is on a mission to bring the faithful into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Its membership spans several generations and includes families, couples, singles, young professionals, seniors and students. A year-long calendar of activities and programs foster spiritual growth. More importantly, members come together in joyful celebrations of praise and worship through community assemblies, small group meetings, retreats, Lord’s Day celebrations, charismatic masses, and other occasions of fellowship. Outreach activities include Alpha Courses, Life in the Spirit Seminars, Men’s Brunch and several charitable efforts. FFCC is affiliated with The Sword of the Spirit, an international ecumenical community of communities, and with Christ the King

Association, an international Catholic charismatic association of communities. Interested in a life of joyful service and community? Then visit us at www.familiesforchristcommunity.org for more information and contact details.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The volunteers in this ministry provide flower arrangements in the church to enhance and beautify our place of worship. Duties include picking up flowers and supplies and preparing the arrangements. The meetings are in the church basement every Thursday at 9am. Anyone with a passion for flowers is welcome!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

GREETERS

Greeters welcome parishioners as they enter the church for weekend masses and provide them with a bulletin. They answer basic questions or direct parishioners to the appropriate sources for information. There is no regular meeting and it is a perfect opportunity for those who want to volunteer when they attend Sunday Mass. The average commitment is thirty minutes before mass starts. Greeters must present a modest appearance, be friendly and be able and willing to assist other hospitality ministries, such as Ushers and at the Registration Desk as needed.

HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD

CFC Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD) was established by Couples for Christ (CFC), a Vatican-recognized lay association for the faithful, in response to God's call for a holistic family ministry. It is a work of Christ that raises up Christian women with Mary as their model, thus winning the world for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a Christian renewal and support ministry for mature women such as single parents, widows, separated or divorced women, single mature women, married women whose husbands are based in another state or country, or are, for some reason, not able to participate in the CFC and religious affiliation.

Our Vision is:

Women in the Holy Spirit, joyfully proclaiming the greatness and glory of God as Mary did by living out her fiat: "I am the Handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word," in selfless love and discipleship.

Our Mission is:

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord is a creation of God distinctly called to the mission of personal transformation, evangelization to bring her family and others, especially women, to a renewed life in the Lord, and wholehearted service to bring glad tidings to the poor.

To be a CFC HOLD member, adult Christian women are invited to undergo a free 12-week seminar called the Christian Life Program (CLP). CFC HOLD CLP is an integrated course intended to lead the program participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian women.

HANDS OF VERONICA

This ministry brings the presence of God to the sick. Members attend masses once a month at the three nursing homes within our parish boundaries. We also provide a Eucharistic or ecumenical service once a month. Volunteers wheel residents from their rooms to masses or services. Team of Eucharistic Ministers distributes Holy Communion at nursing homes and also to shut-ins. In addition, the Ministry of Friendship volunteers visit with residents who have no one to visit them. These members are required to have a police check and a Tuberculosis check. There are three meetings a year. There is a great need to increase the membership. There is a particular need for more Eucharistic Ministers.

HEALING MINISTRY

Healing Ministry is a group of men and women who are dedicated to praying with those in need of healing. The Healing Ministry' mission is to bring God's love and healing to anyone who is in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing; healing of painful memories, loss, anger, despair, or other concerns. The Healing Ministry consists of prayer teams who make themselves available during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday and Friday from 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm in the Church children's room. Healing prayers may also be requested by appointment for those who seek a longer prayer session or for the "Unbound" prayer (deliverance prayers). The Healing Ministry prayer team also includes intercessors and prayer warriors who intercede for the prayer team and the supplicants during regular or individual prayer sessions.

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

Holy Trinity Community (www.htcna.org) is a lay community who aspires to achieve the goal of Christian life and to develop fully in the Life of Prayer, which will then be manifested in our service to the people. Our spirituality blends the silence and contemplation of the Carmelites with the Renewal in the Spirit. Our

vision & mission are as follows: “In the power of the Holy Spirit, to experience and to live the loving and saving presence of God until the union of love and to bring others to the same experience.” Our basic life is from a cell meeting, where members support one another through praise & worship, prayer, sharing and teaching. We welcome every one of all ages. For more information, please contact us at westcanada@htcna.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Are you concerned with the Church, community and would you and your family like to share in wholesome fraternity and fellowship? If the answer is YES, then it is time for you to become a proud member of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights strive to grow spiritually while responding to those who need their help: the disabled, unborn, orphans, youth, widows, the Church and more. Give generously of yourself, your time and talent, while building self-esteem and satisfaction by socializing with new friends. Strengthen family life through various family activities such as Rosary night, family bowling, family picnic, memorial mass, Christmas party, etc. Insurance for the protection of your family is also available. Optional and flexible benefits are conceived to meet any of your needs. Now is the time to join the Knights. You need to be a practicing Catholic gentleman, 18 years or older, willing to get involved and help the Church and community.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EXERCISE

LAY APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Several years ago, “Anne” a wife and mother of six, started receiving messages from God the Father, Jesus, Mary and the Saints. These messages, received in the form of inner locution, are spoken with divine love, clarity and authority. Anne has received permission from her bishop to publish the works. Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ meets every first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the church to pray the luminous mysteries of the Rosary and to read the monthly message. All are welcome. The messages known as The Volumes and The Heaven Speaks booklets are available free to download from: www.directionforourtimes.com

LECTORS / READERS

The lector ministry is active at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Those involved in this ministry assist the priest by proclaiming the First and Second readings and reading the Prayers of the Faithful. Though a person may volunteer for this ministry, there may not be an immediate opening. However, all volunteers will be contacted, and a training session will be set up as new lectors are needed.

Commitment to this ministry involves attending a training session and a yearly meeting, preparing for readings in advance, and arriving fifteen minutes before mass on assigned days. A clear, well-paced voice is an asset.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on 7 September 1921. It is a lay catholic organization whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work. Legion of Mary is a group of lay people committed to work hand in hand with the Blessed Virgin Mary; to do Christ works of mercy with love for God Almighty and for the salvation of souls. Legionaries can either be active or auxiliary. Active members perform the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy, visit the well and the sick residents in the hospitals and nursing homes, give communion, pray the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. Every two weeks, we bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue to requesting families. We distribute rosaries and rosary guides, teach them how to pray the rosary, listen to their concerns regarding confessions and Holy Eucharist. Auxiliary members pray daily the TESERA (prayer card of the Legion). The group meets every Saturday at 3:00pm in the church basement and/or rectory dining room.

LEGION OF MARY JUNIORS

LIGHT OF JESUS FAMILY

Light of Jesus Family (LOJ) was founded by renowned international Catholic lay evangelist Bo Sanchez in Manila, Philippines more than three decades ago. LOJ Family wants to help its members to become all that God wants them to be. LOJ Family wants to see its members blessed in every area of their life- spiritual, family, physical health, career, business, and financial life. LOJ welcomes everyone with open arms, especially those who feel far from God. The mission of LOJ is to make disciples and the vision is the dream of 1000 Feasts all over the world. The community meets and celebrates The Feast every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at St. Mary's School gym from 1pm to 2:30pm.

LISTENING MINISTRY

LITURGY COMMITTEE

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word with Children is celebrated during the 9:30am mass every Sunday during the school year. Children from Kindergarten to grade 5 are invited to the church basement during the Liturgy of the Word to hear the readings of the day which are proclaimed in language that the children can easily understand. Volunteers can choose to be presiders or helpers/supervisors and commit to approximately one Sunday every six weeks. No experience is necessary and training will be provided.

MASS COORDINATORS

Mass Coordinators assist the priest in ensuring that the Liturgy of the Mass runs smoothly. The Mass Coordinator ensures that the liturgical ministry positions are filled. This includes finding last minute substitutes for absent ministers (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers) as needed.

To become a Mass Coordinator, one must be active in his/her faith, has good interpersonal skills, and is welcoming and hospitable. The person should be decisive, proactive, reliable, and have a good understanding of Liturgical procedures.

METRO VANCOUVER ALLIANCE

Are you looking for a way to make your parish more present in the community? Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) is an alliance of community groups, faith, labor and educational institutions, working together for the common good. As a new member of MVA, St. Mary's is in the process of putting together a team of people who are interested in developing programs that will work on those issues that concretely matter most to the community. Members develop leadership skills and learn "the art of politics" through active engagement and participation. More information is available at www.iafnw.org/canada/metrovancouveralliance

MIGRANT MINISTRY

The Migrant Workers and Families' Outreach Program (Migrant Ministry) of St. Mary's Parish is a welcoming, safe and compassionate church community based on respect, trust and confidentiality, that bears witness to God's love under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and protection of the Holy Family. It is facilitated by a group of volunteers committed to actively reach out to migrant individuals and families who need support from a faith-based community. The mission is carried out through Word and Worship (teachings, prayer groups, bible study, retreats), Work (Moral Values Re-orientation Program, Family Enrichment Programs, Social

Awareness programs and referrals to agencies in the community) and Wellbeing (counseling referrals and fellowship).

MISSION ABLAZE

Mission statement: “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.” - Luke 12:49

Mission Ablaze is not just another prayer meeting. It meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:30pm in the Church basement to praise and worship the Lord, to listen to teachings from the priests and core group, to share the Scriptures through the various sanctifying and charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to receive healing prayer ministry. But Mission Ablaze is also and more significantly an action prayer group, a pastoral group that prays for evangelization in our parish and archdiocese and seek direction and motivation from the Lord. Mission Ablaze core group or the leaders group – is mandated by the pastors and with the pastors to initiate and organize evangelization activities, faith education workshops and conferences, community building events and fundraising for the needy. These initiatives provide avenues for participants to discover their gifts and use them to accomplish God’s will and build up God’s Kingdom. All Catholics and God’s seekers from the Archdiocese of Vancouver are welcome.

ONE-ON-ONE CATECHISM

In addition to the regular PREP program, the one-on-one program from Vanspec (Vancouver Special Catechetical Program) is now being offered at St. Mary’s Parish.

Vanspec is a ministry operated under the Ministries and Outreach Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The program provides religious education for God’s special friends for Sacramental preparation. This is an alternative to the conventional PREP setting for those who learn best through tailored individual lessons.

Please contact the Coordinator if you know someone who will be benefited from the one-on-one program or if you are called to serve God through his special friends as the Catechists or Catechist Assistants.

Ministry Coordinator: Dana Dionio, email: vanspec.smarv@rcav.org

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

St. Mary’s Padre Pio Prayer Group is affiliated with the International Padre Pio Prayer Group in San Giovanni Rotondo founded by Padre Pio himself. The prayer group will focus on intercessory prayers – the Call to stand in the Gap - to continue the works that Padre Pio started years ago to help souls to meet Christ. We meet once a month every first Saturday of the month from 09:30AM –

11:30AM (begin with Mass @08:30AM) to get to know Saint Pio, the marvelous works that God is continuously doing through him and other supporting talks that will deepen our knowledge about interceding for others.

Saint Padre Pio said; "Let us remember that the heart of Jesus has called us not only for our own sanctification but also for other souls. He wants us to be the helpers in the salvation of souls." Can you help?

Ministry Coordinator: Lucy Rodjito (email: lucy.rodjito@yahoo.ca)

LIBRARY

The ever-growing collection in the parish library is built around Catholic print and non-print material. It is catalogued using the Dewey Decimal system. (Think Public Library). The library is located in the basement of the Church and is open after several of the Sunday Masses. Come on in if the door is open and the lights are on. Volunteers are there to help you search the catalogue. More volunteers would mean that the library could be open after more of the Sunday Masses. The on-line catalogue can be assessed through Parish Ministries on the parish website. Contact Bill Murphy if you would like to volunteer (davidicus@hotmail.com).

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Elementary P.R.E.P. offers weekly catechism sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 pm for public school students in grades one to seven. Teen P.R.E.P. is for public school students in grades eight to twelve. Both programs prepare students to receive the sacraments of initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. Our staff of thirty or more volunteer catechists teaches and guides the children in matters of the faith. This classroom catechesis supplements the religious education that parents provide for their children at home.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Project Advance is much more than an annual fundraising event. Donations help to ensure that the Archdiocese has the resources to purchase land for churches and to build and maintain high schools that provide a Catholic education for our teenagers. They also assist in less visible needs of our youth, our seniors and our disadvantaged ones especially the hungry and the imprisoned. Responsible stewardship is required in order to respond effectively to these needs. Meetings occur in the beginning of spring. Volunteers are needed after each mass to collect pledges.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK

This ministry welcomes people with a friendly and courteous manner helping register new parishioners and answer any questions. Volunteers are required to be at the Registration desk in the Church foyer 20 minutes before mass and usually for 10 minutes after mass, or, until all inquiries have been dealt with. Patience in dealing with the public and general knowledge of the parish and the ministries are an asset. Training is provided.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This program is designed for:

- Adult inquirers, that is, for the non-baptized/ baptized in other faiths who wish to find out more about Christianity or becoming a Catholic.
- For adult Catholics, who are baptized, but not catechized and/or did not complete the other Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation).
- Also all who are interested in learning or re-learning the Catholic Faith are welcome.

Committed team members are needed to help with various tasks and sponsors are needed to be role models for the inquirers seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith. Both team members and sponsors need to be committed to the whole program. Sponsors need to be confirmed Catholics over the age of 18 that are faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. You can register for RCIA, or apply to be a sponsor/team member before August.

SENIORS LUNCH

SPANISH ROSARY

SINGLES FOR CHRIST (CFC-SFC)

Singles for Christ (SFC) is the singles ministry of Couples for Christ (CFC) for unmarried men and women ranging in age from 20 to 40. Like CFC, SFC members meet monthly in a large group at the church and weekly for household meetings in their homes. Through community life, innovative formation, and trying out different kinds of service, SFC members are empowered to discern their individual vocations and answer them, all the while using their gifts and singlehood to give life to the Church. SFC is called, not to go against the current, but to change it entirely! For more information please visit:

www.cfcsfccanada.com

SINGLES FOR FAMILY AND LIFE (CFC-SFL)

CFC Singles for Family and Life (CFC-SFL) is a ministry that focuses on evangelization of unmarried (never been married) men and women age 21-40. It is one of the family ministries of Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL). It provides a support environment and aims to help young adults live a full and meaningful life with Christ at the center of it. CFC SFL exists to provide an environment for young people to HONOR God through a life of holiness, to EMPOWER them to act in humble service, to ENCOURAGE them to relate in JOY with their family, community and the Church and to TESTIFY God's love. The group meets twice or thrice a month, sometimes more. Activities would include Christian Life Seminar, monthly prayer and worship meetings, biannual weekend retreats, yearly national and world singles congresses, teaching nights, quarterly fellowships, speakers training, mission trips and music ministry congress.

ST. MARY'S STREET OUTREACH

St. Mary's Street Outreach is a group that strives to bring unconditional love and spiritual support to vulnerable women, the homeless, and the addicted in the Lower Mainland. Volunteers drive down Kingsway and Seymour streets to reach out to the prostituted women. They go to Hastings and Nanaimo, and downtown area to reach out to the homeless. They also go to the Vancouver Detox Centre to pray over the addicted patients upon request. Volunteers journey with those who have left the street or are in recovery (from addictions) by visiting them and helping them in their needs. Volunteers have to be non-judgmental and willing to serve Jesus in the marginalized to be 'lights in the dark'.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The aim of St. Vincent de Paul Society is to bear witness to the faith in the exercise of true charity, development of charitable projects and of social justice. Some of the regular activities are the "Outreach Program" where several groups prepare sandwiches, coffee and treats on Friday afternoons and go downtown (East side) in the evening to distribute the same. Volunteers also do home visits within the parish boundaries to the needy whenever requested. Some of the volunteers help out at the Collingwood Community Center with the "Shower and Breakfast Program" on Saturday mornings. In addition, St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes toy and clothing drives, giving trees etc., during the Christmas season when the poor feel especially vulnerable and depressed.

USHERS

Ushers assist parishioners before and after mass, help seat people prior to mass and are in charge of the collection. Ushers also act as a security guard during the mass and assist during communion distribution. Volunteers may also be required to pass out the Sunday bulletin and assist at the Registration desk if needed. Ushers are asked to make a commitment and honor that commitment to serve on a regular basis at the weekend mass they usually attend. Training will be provided.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is a one-week morning summer camp for children in Grade 1 to Grade 5. Children are given the opportunity to learn about their faith through music and movement, arts and crafts, games, and snacks! As children are like sponges who are fast learners, why not teach the faith now? High school students in Grade 9 and above, young adults and parents are welcome to volunteer as Crew Leaders. Training will be provided. Make this summer fun, faithful and fruitful!

VANSPEC - THE ONE-ON-ONE CATECHISM PROGRAM

In addition to the regular PREP program, the one-on-one program from Vanspec (Vancouver Special Catechetical Program) is now being offered at St. Mary's Parish.

Vanspec is a ministry operated under the Ministries and Outreach Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The program provides religious education and welcomes students with special needs for Sacramental preparation. This is an alternative to the conventional PREP setting for those who learn best through tailored individual lessons.

Our one-on-one program will run from September until May (no classes during Summer) every Monday at 6:30PM.

Please contact the Ministry Coordinator if you know someone who will benefit from the One-on-one program. However, space is limited, here is the link to register your child or to place your child's name on the application queue:
<http://vanspec.ca/contact/new-students/>

If you are called to become catechists or teaching assistants, we also want to hear from you. This may lead to a wonderful faith journey for you!

Ministry Coordinator: Christina Reyes, email: vanspec.smarv@rcav.org

For more info about Vanspec visit: <http://vanspec.ca/>

YOUTH FOR CHRIST (CFC-YFC)

Youth for Christ (YFC) is the youth ministry of Couples for Christ (CFC). Like CFC, every member belongs to a household, a group of 6 – 8 youth who support each other spiritually. YFC meet twice a month, once for a household prayer meeting, and once as a large group. All YFC activities are organized and led by the youth themselves, with the support and guidance of CFC volunteers. YFC puts a premium on the 4 F's (fun, faith, freedom, and fellowship) and empowers youth to believe and spread the word that God loves them, and He is calling them to something great. For more information please visit: www.cfcyfcanada.com.

YOUTH FOR FAMILY AND LIFE (CFC-YFL)

Youth For Family And Life (CFC-YFL) exists to provide an environment for youth ages 12 to 21 to honor God through a life of holiness, to empower them to act in humble service, to encourage them to relate in joy with their family, community and the church and to testify to God's love. Entry to CFC-YFL is through a weekend youth camp with several talks/sessions meant to promote an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus and a positive and life giving relationship with family and peers. All members participate in a continuous spiritual formation program as well as other youth oriented activities. They have monthly assemblies as well as a yearly Canada wide youth conference. There also weekly meetings. Everybody is encouraged to participate actively in all of the community's activities while allowing for schedule constraints from school, work shifts and other obligations. For more information please visit: www.cfcyfl.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mary's Youth Ministry has "Faith, Fun and Fellowship" as its motto. Different leadership opportunities are available for youth, young adults and adults who want to serve God in this amazing ministry. Becoming a leader (young adults and adults) or a facilitator (youth) will not only allow you to serve God but at the same time help you grow in your own spiritual journey. No experience is necessary. Come and be an instrument of God to bring His light to His children in one of the three groups we have:

- Junior Youth Ministry - SPARK - for youth in grades 6-8
- Senior Youth Ministry - FLAME - for youth in grades 8-12
- Young Adult Group for those aged 18 – 35

If you are interested in joining any of our ministries, please fill out a PARISH PARTICIPATION FORM. You can find the form either online at stmarysvancouver.ca or at the Registration Desk in the church foyer. Please return the completed forms to the parish office or to an attendant at the Registration Desk.



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