



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5251 JOYCE STREET
 VANCOUVER, BC, V5R 4G8
 TEL: (604) 435-9611 FAX: (604) 439-9413
 EMAIL: stmarys@telus.net
 WEBSITE: www.stmarysvancouver.ca

February 21, 2010

**Pastor's
 Corner**

THE PERILS OF THE SHEPHERD

He was a professional mountain guide. I met him on a hike through the French Alps. I asked him to tell me about his scariest experience; "Once, he answered, I was walking on a high altitude glacier. I felt deep down a narrow crevasse. My fall stopped at a place near the crevasse that was too narrow for my body. I could not do anything. My companions up there threw me a rope, but it was not long enough to reach me. I was many hundred feet down! They had to call for a helicopter to bring a rope long enough. I waited all night long for it. At each cracking sound of the glacier I was afraid to be crushed to death or to sink down further. I could not do anything to get warm. I thought I would die. Finally the rope did come down."

This story reminds me of Christ who had to go down in deepest loneliness of human life in order to find the "lost sheep", that I am, that you are. He will go down as low as the lowest of us is.; like the mother eagle who dives into the abyss to catch her little one who is falling down.

Pope Benedict wrote in 1994 that *"the temptations (of Jesus) are a descent into the perils besetting mankind, for there is no other way to lift up fallen humanity. Jesus had to enter into the drama of human existence, for that belongs to the core of his mission; he has to penetrate it completely, down to its uttermost depths in order to find the "lost sheep, to bear it on His shoulders and to bring it home". (Magnificat)*

When we have a big temptation we feel horrible. We feel unworthy. The holier we are, the worse it feels. Christ, the only truly Holy one, felt the temptation of rebellion and hatred. He, whose very essence is to love the Father's will, felt a temptation that was totally contrary to it. He, who is one with the Father, felt that he was abandoned by the Father. He felt like us and at a much deeper level, when we are really tempted to doubt the Father's love. The devil kept saying to Jesus, (cont'd)

(Pastor's corner ... con't)

"You think you are the Son of God. But if God was really your Father, He would not ask you to walk to Calvary".

"Through the temptations in the desert Jesus is brought to a life or death awareness of the absolute primacy of his union with His Father. He undergoes these temptations so that we can embrace his own conviction. Our temptations are moments of grace moving us to call on the name of the Lord in our powerlessness and weakness so that we will be saved. The lord enriches all who call upon him by drawing them to share his union of love with his Father (Magnificat).

- *We are deep in the glacier's crevasse!*
- *The Church is the rope that reaches down to us.*
- *Christ is holding the rope.*
- *The Father is the helicopter lifting up Christ, the Church and us.*

Happy Lenten Season. *Fr. Pierre*



PARISH NEWS

JR & SR YOUTH MINISTRY (gr 6-12) – DANGER ON THE HIGHWAY



Internet is awesome. It's an amazing tool to do limitless amount of stuff. But it's not without its dangers! Do you use the Internet, the information super highway? Do you know that every time you are on-line you might be the target of criminals? We want our youth to be well-informed and protect themselves, so we have invited a police officer from VPD to show us how be safe on-line. This event is for Jr. & Sr. Youth Ministry so we welcome all youth gr 6 to 12 tomorrow (on Monday) at 6:30pm to the Church Basement. Did I mention we'll have live music and pizza? Bring a friend if you can.

HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

The Handmaids of the Lord, a ministry of the Couples for Christ extends its invitation to all single mature women, widowed, single moms, separated or divorced to a Christian Life program. It is an integrated course which runs for 9 consecutive Saturdays starting March 6 at the St Mary's Gym from 9 -12 noon. This will help you renew your understanding of God's call to be able to foster a deep, loving and strong relationship with the Lord. Admission is free. Pls contact Girlie Umali at 604-7830203 or Mila Zipagan at 778-6864635.

PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7pm and Adoration with Benediction at 9pm.

GOODBYE

After having had the privilege of serving as Parish Secretary for just over 5 years, I have found that it is time for me to step down and to stop and smell the roses. The need to take more time for my family and my own personal needs above all else, has led me to this decision. I would like to sincerely thank everyone (Fr Pierre and his brother Dominicans, my fellow staff members, and you my fellow parishioners) for contributing to the positive experience of working for this vibrant, diverse and caring parish that I have called my "home parish" since 1985. I would also like to take the opportunity to ask forgiveness from anyone whom I may have offended or disappointed by not always being able to follow through with your requests. Dear friends, this is not goodbye to St. Mary's. After 25 years I do not plan to leave my home, I will simply take time to sit back, relax and smell the roses. *Margherita*

HAITI SPECIAL COLLECTION

We are pleased to share the amount collected for the disaster relief fund through our second collection was \$23,226.50.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

The next study, entitled **Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**, focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament. It builds on the foundation laid in the Old Testament to inaugurate the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Set in the rich context of Jesus' Jewish culture, this video study by Jeff Cavins will help you understand the universal truths of the Kingdom of God; it will help you understand more fully God's will for us today. Start date is March 13, for 24 Saturdays in March to Dec 2010 in the church basement, from 12:45pm to 3pm (after the Sat noon mass). The schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. There will be a month-long break in July. Cost \$30. Register: Sign-up sheets at the church foyer or email stmarysbiblestudy@gmail.com.

CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Catholic Women's League of Canada invites all of you to a sumptuous **pancake breakfast** on Sunday **March 7**, from **9am to 1pm**, at the **School Gym**. This event is a great opportunity for women to meet the CWL Ladies. Come and see for yourself what the sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfillment can do for you.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

We are pleased to offer **Full-Day Kindergarten** in September 2010. Registration packages will be handed out at the meeting on Thursday March 18 at 7:00 pm in the church basement.(packages are not handed out from the school or parish office).

OLYMPIC TICKET RAFFLE

Congratulations to Mary Flynn, the winner of our Youth Ministry Raffle. She won two Women's Ice Hockey Semifinals tickets. We thank all who have contributed to our efforts in raising funds for the Youth Ministry. Enjoy the game Mary!

SMYAC EVENT - YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18+) MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Sat. Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Ramie's Greek Restaurant: 4287 Kingsway, Burnaby! Circle that date on your calendar and make yourselves available! Bring a friend or two! We love to see you for an enchanted evening of faith, food & friendship! Please RSVP us here at smyac_team@yahoo.ca by Thurs. Feb. 25.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SACRAMENTS AS THE WELLSPRING OF LIFE

Please join Madonna House for the 6th day in our Treasures of the Faith series on Saturday, March 6 from 9:30am - 3:30pm at St. John the Apostle parish hall (5457 Trafalgar St., Vancouver). Lunch will be served. Cost is by donation. Please call Madonna House to register 604-267-1757, or e-mail: madonna02@shaw.ca

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The CISVA is seeking experienced administrators (vice principals & principals) who are seeking a career in Catholic Education within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. Further details can be found on our website: www.cisva.bc.ca.

HARMONIES OF HOPE—BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HAITI

Catholic high schools finest choral programs will be holding a benefit concert on Friday, March 5 at 7pm at Centennial Theatre (2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver). All proceeds will go directly to Haiti disaster relief through CCOOP.

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Come join us on a 3 Day Lenten Pilgrimage to the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland, Oregon on March 20th., 21st. & 22nd. The price is Cdn \$278.00. Accompanying chaplain is Fr. Jun Reyes. For information or to make a reservation, contact Sampaguita Travel Bureau at (604) 874-9533, e-mail lennieptl@dccnet.com, or call (604) 594-7296. Seats are limited, first come first served.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun. Feb 21: 2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)
2:00pm St. Michael's Liturgy (7451 Sussex Ave)

Mon. Feb. 22: 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
7:00pm SMYAC Leaders (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)

Tue. Feb. 23: 6:30pm PREP 1st Reconciliation (Church)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)

Wed. Feb. 24: 8:30am Respect Life (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm PREP 1st Reconciliation (Church Basement)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass/Adoration /Confession Church
7:20pm St. Vincent de Paul (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Dev & Peace (Rectory Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Thu. Feb. 25: 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Fri. Feb. 26: 9:00am Scripture & Coffee Bible Study (Rec.Dining)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30 pm Dev & Peace (Rectory Dining)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)



Sat. Feb. 27: 12:45pm Bible Study (Church Basement)
1:30pm Couples for Christ- SFC (School Gym)
2:30pm Knights of Columbus (Church Basement)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
6:00pm CFC FFL (Church Basement)
7:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)

Sun. Feb. 28: 9:45am Willingdon Liturgy (4435 Grange Street)
1:00pm Handmaids (School Gym)
1:30pm CFC FFL (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday., Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm is **Anticipation Mass**
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Adoration Throughout the day after 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm

E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyoung.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (Principal) Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312 Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.
Assistant Pastor: Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.
Executive Assistant to Pastor: Vesna Jankovic
Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator: Arda Akoglu
Office Manager: Ossie Fernandes