

MARCH 14TH, 2010 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Today's gospel begins with the Pharisees and scribes complaining that Jesus welcomes and eats with sinners—how little they understand God! So Jesus tells a parable. When the prodigal son came to his senses and returned home, the most he hoped from his father was to be given a place as servant and adequate food to eat. But the merciful father was enormous: he embraced him, clothed him in dignity and honoured him with a feast. Sinners though we are, our merciful Father longs to embrace and celebrate with us. We have only to return to him.

God moves from giving us what is adequate to giving what is superabundant. In the first reading God replaces manna with the yield of the Promised Land. In the second reading "everything old has passed away" as God makes us a whole 'new creation' in Christ.

If we choose to die to self ('coming to our senses') and return to God, we are greeted with forgiveness and feasting. Even more, at our heavenly Father's feast we aren't simply welcomed back as the daughters and sons we were, but we are transformed into more perfect sons and daughters sharing in divine life. We feast on much more than a fatted calf; the feast to which we are invited is nothing less than the Body and Blood of the Son. Receiving God's forgiveness and mercy, and offering the same to one another, is how we pass from Wednesday ashes to Easter feasting.

✠ PRAYERS FOR THE SICK Your prayers are requested for the sick of our Parish: Cantiller, J. Cardoso, A. Eberle, M. Faigen, M. Fedyk, F. Labis, Jr., L. Lida, Luke Jr., I. Meszaros, M. Monahan, D. Ngui, E. Phipps, J. Plattig, N. Reyes, G. Yasmine and all those afflicted at home or in the hospital. May Christ our Lord be their strength and healing.



KUDOS— We thank Fr. Steve LeBlanc, S.J. for his priestly ministries and stay with us during our Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier. We wish him God's blessings as he returns to Ontario in preparation for the new season at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS During Lent, we will make the Stations of the Cross after the 9:00 AM Mass on Fridays. Please come and join us in preparation for the celebration of Easter.



If anyone would like to buy a book for the Stations of the Cross, they are available at the rectory office for \$2.

SENIOR'S TEA Please mark Tuesday, March 16th, at 2:00 pm in your calendars. We will be having a Senior's Tea to mark St. Patrick's day. All senior's are welcome. Food, prizes and entertainment. Wear something green for the occasion!

CWL MEETING Our next meeting is Saturday, March 20th, after the 9:00 am Mass. All the ladies of the parish are welcome to attend. See you there.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST The Knights of Columbus invite you to their Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, after the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. Please come and join us.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday	Mar. 15	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Alastair F. Jamieson
Tuesday	Mar. 16	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intentions of Christine & Anthony Heung.
Wednesday	Mar. 17	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Jane Yuen.
Thursday	Mar. 18	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Jonathan Au.
Friday	Mar. 19	<u>9:00 am</u> For the special intention of Barbara Swiatek.
Saturday	Mar. 20	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Marty O'Connell. <u>5:00 p.m.</u> For the special intentions of All Holy Name Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 21	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Keith Bell. <u>11:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Yvonne Taylor.

SHARE LENT 2010 *"Love is God's greatest gift to humanity; it is God's promise and our hope."*

Pope Benedict, Caritas in Veritate.

Share Lent is the annual campaign of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Your gifts through Share Lent grow wisely in the hands of people in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. You are invited to give, with love, so that they can participate more fully in the feast of life. Show your gratitude for God's love through your generous gifts to Development and Peace. A second collection will be taken up next weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN CONFESSIONS Our parish will have our Lenten Penitential service on Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 pm. We will have several priests come to hear your confessions. Please make this sacrament a priority in your spiritual life by planning ahead to come.



HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY Fridays during Lent, following Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm at St. Anthony's Parish, 2347 Inglewood Ave., West Vancouver.

LENTEN RETREAT March 17, 18 & 19 at 7:00 pm at Guardian Angels Parish, 1161 Broughton Street. Retreat starts with Holy Mass. Theme: *"When God Longs for You"*, retreat master is Fr. Rudolf D'Souza, OCD. For more information, please visit: www.guardianangelsocd.org or call 604-684-5775.

ADORATION COMING TO ST. MARY'S, VANCOUVER Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, Praise and Worship, Individual Prayer for Healing on March 20 at St. Mary's Church, Vancouver, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. All are welcome.

PARISH MISSION AT SACRED HEART IN DELTA The Mission will take place on Monday to Wednesday, March 22-24, at 7:00 pm, 3900 Arthur Dr., Delta. Fr. Augustine Obiwumma will be the Mission's leader and his talk will be on: God's Love, Faithfulness and Prayer.

INAUGURAL CATHOLIC FORUM Come to St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 pm to attend the inaugural Catholic Forum with a presentation by Archbishop Michael Miller. The title of the event is *Christians Learn About God and From God*. This event promises to be a great opportunity during this season of Lent to hear from our Archbishop on how we can deepen our love for God.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES Is holding a volunteer training program on March 27, April 10, 17 and 24 at St. Augustine's School, 2145 W. 8th Avenue, Vancouver, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Registration deadline is March 19, call 604-640-7549 or email: das_olgcs@telus.net

CATHOLIC BIBLE SEMINAR The Spring Session of the Catholic Bible Seminar is being held at St. Paul's Parish hall, 8251 St. Alban's Rd., Richmond, on the weekend of April 9th, 10th & 11th on "The Book of ISAIAH" (continued) and the presenter is Fr. Jim Nisbet of Spreckles, California. For more info, please call Gerry or Zela at 604-882-9205.

RETREAT FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS Archbishop Michael Miller will be leading a retreat, sponsored by the Catholic Health Assoc. of B.C., for those who work or volunteer in the pastoral care health ministry. Parishioners who visit the sick or elderly in health care facilities and in their homes are encouraged to attend. April 21st, 9 AM—12 noon, at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 315 Walker St., Coquitlam. The Archbishop will be speaking on "Sp Salvi", Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian Hope. Cost is \$25/person. Deadline for registration is April 16th. For more info, call 604-524-3427 or go to www.chabc.bc.ca

Scripture Readings

4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9, 10-12; Ps. 34;
2 Cor. 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



Mar. 15, Mon., Isaiah 65:17-21; Ps. 30; John 4:43-54

Mar. 16, Tues., Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Ps. 46; John 5:1-16

Mar. 17, Wed., **St. Patrick's Day**
Isaiah 49:8-15; Ps. 145; John 5:16-30

Mar. 18, Thurs., Exodus 32:7-14; Ps. 106;
John 5:18, 31-47

Mar. 19, Fri., **St. Joseph, husband of BVM, Patron of Canada & the Universal Church**
2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps. 89; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Mar. 20, Sat., Jeremiah 11:18-20; Ps. 7; John 7:40-53

STEWARDSHIP: A Disciple's Response

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal son, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

Was the elder brother in the story of the Prodigal Son a good steward? He apparently did all the right things — at least he claims he did, and his father does not disagree. But he comes off sounding as if he were just waiting for the old man to die to get hold of the wealth. At the very least, he doesn't sound like someone who was doing good deeds out of love for his father and his Lord. The lesson from him is that *doing* good is not enough. The *reason* for doing good is the key. We must do it out of love. When we do, we will be willing to welcome back the prodigals in our own lives with no concern about our own self-interest.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

WEEKEND Feeling stressed and need a break? How about a private weekend getaway for the two of you at a nice local resort in White Rock. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on April 9-11. Call or email: Steve & Mary at 604-876-7298 or sbohnen@interchange.ubc.ca

MARRIAGE CAN BE GREAT, NO REALLY!

Marriage Seminar by Denis Boyd, R. Psychologist. Learn to enhance your marriage or future marriage in a fun and relaxed setting. It is never too late (or too early!) to get some practical tips on how to relate more effectively with your spouse. Topics: Attitude, Peace with the Past, Listening, Dating & Sense of Humour, Forgiveness and more... Choose one of two options: April 27 at St. Ann's Parish (7:30 to 10 pm) or June 17 at St. Augustine's Parish, Vancouver (7 to 10 pm). Call 604-931-7211 to save your seat. Individuals must pre-register at least one week before seminar date. Visit: www.denisboyd.com for more info.