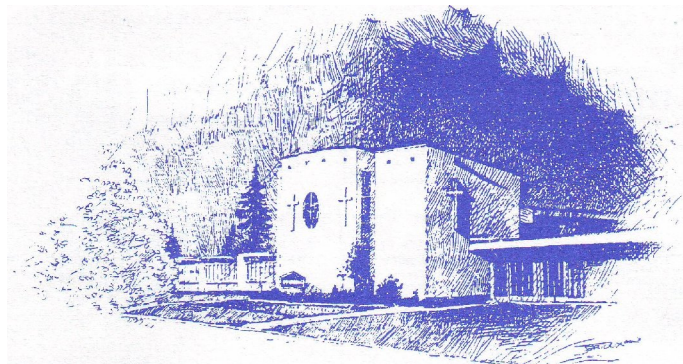

St. Mary's Parish



SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday 7:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am
11:00 am

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Mon to Fri 7:20 am
(8 am on Holiday Mondays)

MORNING PRAYER

Mon to Fri 7:00 am
(no morning prayer on holiday Mondays)

EVENING VESPERS

3rd Sunday of the month 4:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 6:15 to 6:45 pm

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of disciples called together:
To share the life and mission of Jesus, to proclaim the word,
to celebrate liturgy,
to educate and to serve, to see justice and reconciliation.
We confirm the gifts given by Christ to enable each person
to actively participate in the mission of the Church.
We are thus the living Body of Christ,
in an ever changing world.

PARISH STAFF

Richard Beaudette, OMI	Pastor
Giselle Jakobs, MDiv	Pastoral Associate
Roberta Chartrand	Youth Ministry Coordinator
Jeannine Walker	Parish Secretary

SCHOOL STAFF

Brent Arsenault	Principal
Jacqueline Boyes	School Secretary
School Phone	563-7502
School Fax	563-7818
School Email	office@stmaryspg.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15/16, 2007

St Vincent de Paul "Volunteer Help Wanted" Christmas Opportunities

Thursday Dec. 20 — 3:30 to 5 pm

St. Mary's School Gym—1088 Gillette St.
Help unload groceries to be included in the
Christmas hampers.

Friday Dec. 21 — 9 am to 1 pm.

St. Mary's School Gym—1088 Gillette St.
Assist with hamper assembly.

Saturday Dec 22 — 10:30 am to 2 pm

St. Mary's School Gym—1088 Gillette St.
Deliver hampers and/or assist with loading
hampers for delivery.

Monday Dec 24 — 11 am to 12:30 pm

Sacred Heart School Auditorium—887 Patricia
Assist with dinner preparation including turkey
carving, potato peeling, hall setup, etc. Please
bring your favourite apron, potato peeler and/
or carving tools.

Tuesday Dec. 25 — 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Sacred Heart School Auditorium—887 Patricia
Many volunteers are needed to serve dinner,
wash dishes and help with hall cleanup.

Although it is understandable that people are
very busy at this season, please consider of-
fering even an hour of your time to enhance
the Christmas season for those in need.

1088 Gillett Street, Prince George, B.C. V2M 2V3

Office Hours—Mon to Fri—8:00 am-11:30 am AND 12:30 pm-4:30 pm (2:00 on Fridays)

Telephone—564-4097 Fax—562-3540 After Hours Emergency—562-4921

Email—stmarys.parish@shawcable.com

Web—www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg

YOUTH MINISTRY

PARISH YOUTH

Christmas Party at Sacred Heart this Sunday! 6-8pm! All youth and young adults invited!!

HELP US!!

Please support the Youth Group by donating your Canadian Tire money into the collection basket. Every bit helps! Thanks!

YOUNG ADULTS

We meet the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:30 pm in the school gym foyer. Anyone ages 19 to 30 is welcome!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include in your prayers the following people who are sick and suffering: Jeanette Hoksbergen, Agnes Michell, Peter & Lil Derges, Francis Sauser, Kristen Sauser, Elda Garden, Harvey Anderson, Denise Cote, Paula Foley, Eugene Bachand, Bud Walker, Mary Pfliger, Andrew Becker, Derall Amos, James McCloskey, Gordon Meyer, Dick Neville, Ron Roth, Vicky & Greg Gutfriend, Bonnie, Natalie & Doug Marwood, Judy Nelson (Ann Robertson's sister), Josephine Nykoluk, Sr. Margaret Quinn, and her sister, Detta Quinn.

PLEASE NOTE: Our prayer list will be updated every month. Please call the parish office if you would like a family member or friend to remain on the list, or to be added to the list.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 15	7:00 pm	RIP Pius Simon
Sun	Dec 16	9:00 am	People of our Parish
		11:00 am	RIP DiBenedetto Family Members
		4:30 pm	Vespers
Mon	Dec 17	7:20 am	RIP Rena Brett
Tue	Dec 18	7:20 am	RIP Paul & Sheila Kenway
Wed	Dec 19	7:20 am	RIP Anne Beaudette
		7:00 pm	Vespers
Thu	Dec 20	7:20 am	RIP Ernest Poitras
Fri	Dec 21	7:20 am	RIP Lindsay Santos
Sat	Dec 22	7:00 pm	RIP Jack Santos & Maria Sousa
Sun	Dec 23	9:00 am	RIP Hermel & Odianne Michaud
		11:00 am	People of our Parish

DONATIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Envelopes	\$2928	Loose	\$276.50	Total	\$3204.50
		School	\$48	Diocesan Appeal	\$5
St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers					\$5770.13

The Cost of Discipleship

Doing a reality check, we notice what it costs in human terms to enter the kingdom Jesus came to announce. Like John the Baptist and other prophets, standing up for what is right may cost us friends, neighbors, co-workers and even family members. The rewards of taking stands for human rights come at a price.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

"Our heartfelt "Thanks!" for your generous donation of \$5770.13 towards the cost of our Christmas Hampers. Your support not only at Christmas but all year round plays such a sustaining part in our work. May your Christmas season be as bright as you have made it for others!" St. Vincent de Paul Society

SPRING IN THE HOLY LAND—March 24 to April 5, 2008

You are invited to join Fr. Arthur Gouthro S.A. and follow in "The Footsteps of Jesus". We will experience scripture from the Old and New Testament come alive, from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan River and other significant places. Extension to Jordan and Egypt: April 5 to 14, featuring: "The Footsteps of Moses" (Mt. Nebo, Petra, Mt. Sinai, etc) and "The Flight to Egypt" (Coptic Cairo), Luxor and much more... This first class all inclusive pilgrimage of hope will be escorted by Liz Shachtay who has been to the Holy Land 13 times. For more information, call Liz at: 1-888-565-9922.

MESSE DE NOËL EN FRANÇAIS

Messe de Noël Français/French Christmas Mass 30th Anniversary at 9:00pm, Cantiques de Noël at 8:40 pm. Celebrated by Bishop Wiesner. December 24 at Immaculate Conception Church, 3285 Cathedral Ave. Choir practices: Mondays at 7:00 pm, Dec 17

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ON TELEVISION

On December 25 the National Catholic Broadcasting Council will broadcast St. Basil's Church Christmas Eve Mass on VisionTV at 5 a.m. (repeated at 9 a.m.) Pacific Time and 6 a.m. (repeated at 10 a.m.) Mountain Time.

REVISED!! ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

If you'd like to mark your calendars, the city parishes have scheduled their Advent reconciliation services:

Monday Dec 17—7 pm—Sacred Heart Cathedral

We will be celebrating Vespers here on Wednesday evenings during the Season of Advent—Dec 19—7 pm in the Church.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Prince George Conservatory of Music proudly presents the Borealis Chamber Choir and Sinfonia! Prince George in concert Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm at St. Michael's Anglican Church. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Studio 2880, Books & Co., and the Prince George Conservatory of Music.

PILIPINO MISA DE AGUINALDO

Come and celebrate the traditional Pilipino Misa de Aguinaldo with Fr. Rector Tolentino and Fr. Vener Sabacan at Immaculate Conception Church on December 21 at 6:30 p.m. Hymns are in Pilipino, however readings and homily are in both English and Pilipino. Potluck Agape (supper) to follow after Mass. "Sama-sama nating ipagdiwang and kapanganakan ng ating Poong Hesukristo". For further information, please contact Romeo Ancheta at W: 960-2510 or H:562-6041 or email romeo.ancheta@huskyenergy.ca

CONDO FOR RENT

Sacred Heart Cathedral has a centrally-located rental property available. This 3-floor townhouse has the following features: 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, washer and dryer, dishwasher, off street parking and a balcony. No smoking and no pets, please. This is a strata development which means all yard maintenance is taken care of including shovelling the walkway. Please call the parish office for more information at 564-5225.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve—Dec 24—7 & 9 pm & Midnight (12:00)

Christmas Day—Dec 25—10 am

Feast of St. Stephen—Dec 26—8 am

New Year's Eve—Dec 31—7 pm

Mary the Mother of God—Jan 1—10 am

USHERS/GREETERS

Thank you to all who signed up to serve our parish community as ushers and greeters. We plan to have a training and information session soon, although it might not happen until the New Year. Please don't think that we've forgotten you, but this is a busy time of year! Keep your eye on the bulletin for more details. We'll be in touch.

GRR DIGEST

Several parishioners have suggested that we combine some of our Grrapevine articles into a GRR Digest to distribute at the care homes and to those who are shut-ins. We are happy to announce that Volume 1 of the GRR Digest has been published. It includes a sampling of articles from Grrapevines 1 to 20. We have printed a limited number which are available in the literature holders at the back of the church.

The second volume should come out sometime in the New Year. Let us know what you think!!

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CHOCOLATE

On sale this weekend after Mass!

DOMANO RENEWAL CENTRE

Please call 964-4475 to register for programs For more info visit: www.geocities.com/domanorenewal or see the bulletin boards or pick up a DRC brochure at the back of the church.



Please join us for Christmas Coffee
and Open House
Bethany House #110

Thursday December 20, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

RSVP please call 964-4475 or
email at drc@netbistro.com

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

from Archbishop V. James Weisgerber
President of the
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

As I put pen to paper, I must confess that not only the city in which I live but I myself have been taken over by the "Christmas spirit". I know it's too early, but it's really quite wonderful. People seem to be warming up, opening up to each other. Strangers smile and greet each other. We seem to lose our fear for the future for which we save, insure, pile up. Now we're willing to splurge, sometimes extravagantly, to please those we love. The poor, the homeless, the mentally ill, all often hidden and forgotten – these suddenly become important. Everybody wants to do something for the poor. We reach out to old friends, we make plans to bring our families together. We truly want to celebrate.

It is amazing that even in our jaded society the feast of Jesus' birth can still stir us up and call us to be something more than we usually are, to demonstrate some of the best of ourselves. What we need to remember is that the birth of Jesus some 2000 years ago was the beginning of a great mystery, a mystery which still transforms us and our world today. The little baby of Bethlehem is the same person whose love and power calls us and enables us to live generous, inclusive, hospitable and sacrificial lives not only in December, but throughout the whole year.

This is precisely why we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist through which the Risen Lord continues to transform each of us as he builds up the Church. More and more, we come to understand the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist in our lives as Christians. This is a wonderful gift to the contemporary Church. As Canadians, we will have the great honor of hosting the whole world for the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, 15-22 June 2008, where we will be able to worship the Lord and recognize his transforming power in the Eucharist, God's gift for the life of the world.

Bethlehem was the beginning, Jerusalem was the climax, and the Eucharist is the extension of this mystery throughout time and space. Let our hearts be filled with wonder and awe.

On behalf of the Bishops of Canada, I extend to each and everyone our heartfelt wishes for a joyful celebration of our Savior's birth.

Christmas 2007

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun Dec 16	Mon Dec 17	Tues Dec 18	Wed Dec 19	Thurs Dec 20	Fri Dec 21	Sat Dec 22
9 a—Mass 11 a—Mass 4:30 p—Vespers	7 p—SHC Recon- ciliation Service	7:30 p—K. of C. General Meeting	7 p—Vespers	7:30 p—Pr. Group	9 a—School Mass 8:30 p—AA	7 p—Mass

NEXT WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun Dec 23	Mon Dec 24	Tues Dec 25	Wed Dec 26	Thurs Dec 27	Fri Dec 28	Sat Dec 29
9 a—Mass 11 a—Mass	Christmas Eve 7 p—Mass 9 p—Mass 12:00—Mass	Christmas Day 10 a—Mass	8 a—Mass	7:30 p—Pr. Group	8:30 p—AA	7 p—Mass

AROUND THE PARISH

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS

Baptism preparation sessions for the parents of infants, are held about every two months. Please contact the parish office for more information. Next series is on Dec 10 & 11 (need to attend both sessions).

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We have revised our baptism preparation program for older children. Parents who wish to have their child baptized (age 5 to 12) are asked to register their child in the Religious Education program. During the year they will have special sessions that will prepare them for baptism. Children in Grade 2 and up will also receive preparation for Confirmation and First Communion. Please phone Giselle at the parish office.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

In the Diocese of Prince George, Confirmation and First Communion are celebrated together in Grade 2. Our sacramental preparation programme usually begins in January or February for the children in St. Mary's School and for the children attending Religious Education classes. For more information, please phone Brent at the school or Giselle at the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Various options for marriage preparation are available (see bulletin board for details). Please make an appointment with the pastor, at least 6 months before your intended wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual reconciliation may be celebrated on Saturday evenings between 6:15 & 6:45 p.m. or by appointment. Communal celebrations of the sacrament are generally held during Lent and Advent.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Want to learn more about the Catholic faith. Come and join us! We meet Mondays, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. For more info call Giselle at the parish office 564-4097.

PASTORAL CARE TO THE SICK, ELDERLY & DYING

If you or anyone in your family is sick, elderly or home bound, and would like to receive communion or anointing of the sick or a pastoral visit, please give us a call.

FUNERALS

Please contact the pastor before making final arrangements with the funeral directors.

FAITH EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes are held every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the school. These classes are for the children of our parish who attend public school and who would like some faith formation. Please call Giselle at the parish office for more information. 564-4097

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME!

The Children's Liturgy of the Word is celebrated at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. The children celebrate their Liturgy of the Word with their adult leader and are given a chance to hear and reflect on the readings at their own level.

PARISH & FINANCE COUNCILS

Erin Beardwood

Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

Joan Craig

Chair, Finance Council

PARISH GROUPS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL is open to all ladies of the parish. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room (Freeman St. Entrance) at 7:00 p.m. Please phone Barb Marwood (563-0846), Carmen Foucher (564-8091) or Estelle Bachand (964-3836) for more information.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (COUNCIL 5246)

The Knights of Columbus is open to all men of the parish. Our General Meeting is on the third Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. The Executive meeting is on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, also in the Conference Room. For more information, phone 964-6785 or 561-9225, or visit their new website: <http://members.shaw.ca/kofc5246/>



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Please call Bernie or Aime Trotter at 564-8943 for more information.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Drop-In Centre is located at 1220—2nd Avenue. We are open:

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sat, Sun & Hol 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Phone 564-7871

Our Thrift Store is located at 1180—3rd Avenue. We are open:

Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone 562-5136

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Shepherd's Corner is a place where people who are experiencing challenges can gather, share their stories and be heard. Our volunteers provide a listening ear and a compassionate heart. We offer coffee, tea and basic personal items to about twenty people a day. Your time as a volunteer and/or donation of the following items is greatly appreciated: toothpaste, shampoo, soap, skin cream, combs, socks, pens, pencils, etc). Thank you and God bless.

RAINBOWS

Rainbows is a peer support program for children, teens and adults who have experienced a loss in their lives because of a death, separation, divorce, abandonment or any painful transition in their family. Sessions usually begin in September and January and fill up quickly. For a registration form and schedule, please contact Ursula Morris at 563-5584 or Sr. Margaret Quinn at 562-2817.

COUNSELLING SERVICES

Brian Bulgin, a registered counselor, offers counseling services out of the Domano Renewal Centre for couples and individuals. Please call 964-4475 for more information.

Sr. Tarianne deYonker, OP, a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist, offers counselling for individuals, couples and families. She can be contacted at 964-4424 Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 for an appointment. One need not be Catholic to receive these services. Care will be taken to make the service affordable.

Sr. Donna Dolan RSCJ offers Spiritual Direction. Ongoing Spiritual Direction enables a person to pay attention to God's personal communication in life and prayer, to grow in intimacy with God and to live out of that relationship. Phone Sr. Donna at 964-4475.