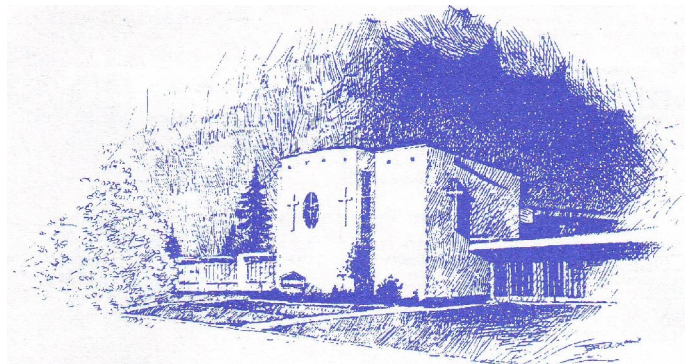

St. Mary's Parish



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22/23, 2007

May the peace and joy
which the angels announced
at the moment
of the Incarnation
be yours in this Christmas season
and throughout the coming year.

As we celebrate Christ's birth
may we renew our commitment
to share those gifts
of peace and joy
with each person we meet.

To all at St. Mary's
and to our visitors this season,
Merry Christmas from
the Pastoral Team and Staff.

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

No Youth Group or Young Adults until January 6th!

HELP US!!

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

Update: We have raised nearly \$100. Thank you so much for your support!!!



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: John & Emelia Mauro, Dal Needham, 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 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
Mon	Dec 24	7:00 pm	RIP Genna Gialleonardo & Joe Paolucci
		9:00 pm	People of our Parish
		12:00 (midnight)	People of our Parish
Tue	Dec 25	10:00 am	RIP Alfredo doCouto
Wed	Dec 26	8:00 am	RIP Anne Beaudette
Thu	Dec 27	7:20 am	RIP Hermel & Odiane Michaud
Fri	Dec 28	7:20 am	RIP Dorothy Tamplin
Sat	Dec 29	7:00 pm	RIP Paul & Sheila Kenway
Sun	Dec 30	9:00 am	RIP Nangle Family Members
		11:00 am	People of our Parish

DONATIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Envelopes	\$2850	Loose	\$489.00	Total	\$3339.00
School	\$17	Diocesan Appeal	\$25		
Needs of Can. Church	\$25	Evang. of Peoples	\$25		
St. Vincent de Paul Hampers	\$605	(total is)	\$6375.13)		

The Way of Service

As we complete our Advent journey, we recommit ourselves to serve others, the call we each received at Baptism. As Joseph obeyed the message of the angel in his dream, may we pay attention to God's Word for each of us to love and serve the loved ones in our care.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

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.

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". 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.

TEACHER ASSISTANT POSITION

Sacred Heart School invites applications for a full-time teacher assistant to begin January 7 2008. Applicants experienced working with special needs students would be an asset. Application deadline is **Thursday, December 27 2007**. Please forward a resume with cover letter to: Mr. Kevin Harnish, Principal, Sacred Heart School, 785 Patricia Boulevard., Prince George, BC, V2L 3V5. Or Fax Application To: (250) 563-5201

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This coming January (2008) marks the 100th Anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan 18-25). This year, the ministerial association of the PLURA churches is hosting an evening of prayer on Jan 20 at 7 pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 3590 Dufferin (on Ospika between Massey & Ferry). (PLURA stands for Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Roman Catholic & Anglican).

NORTHERN CATHOLIC NEWS

Check out the latest edition and read the St. Mary's articles!

St. Vincent de Paul Society hosts Christmas Dinner for those alone or otherwise in need.

Tuesday December 25th at Sacred Heart Auditorium from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
All are welcome

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.

Evenings to Explore Women's Spirituality

Tuesday January 8
7:00 to 9:00 pm

The Story of Ruth-Book Discussion

Mondays—January 14, 21, 28 & February 4, 11, 18
10:00 to 11:30 am or 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Relationships

Tuesdays—Jan 15, Feb 5, Mar 4, Apr 15
7:00 to 9:00 pm

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

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all who filled out our recent survey entitled: What do you need? We had about 60 surveys returned to us. Overall, of those surveyed, about half wanted Workshops and Meal Events. The next most popular choices were Group Studies, Outreach activities and Community Involvement. The younger crowd (under 50), in addition to Workshops & Meal Events, would like to see more Family Enrichment, Marriage Enrichment and Children's Activities. The least chosen events overall were Parish Missions and Retreats.

Based on the results of the survey, we are working on our new season of activities with a better idea of where to focus our energies. Expect more Theo-Tidbits, more Tables for Two, more Bible Studies and more Family Activities. For a start...

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!!

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

The Catholic Digest has a good article on the Golden Compass: <http://www.catholicdigest.com/article/should-our-family-watch-the-golden-compass>

A very good review and media literacy guide to The Golden Compass, by Sr. R. Pacatte FSP, is available at the following website: <http://journals.aol.com/rosepacatte/MyMovies/?page=2#Entry1730>

Sr. Rose Pacatte FSP also has links to other reviews on her main page <http://journals.aol.com/rosepacatte/MyMovies/> We have reprinted Sr. Paul's study guide for the Golden Compass. It is available in the literature holders at the back of the Church. Inform yourself!

ARE BIOFUELS THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE?

We've all heard the word "biofuels" and many of us probably think that biofuels are a solution to our declining oil and gas reservoirs. As with most things however, biofuels come with a huge price tag.

What are biofuels? They are fuels derived from biological products. One of the common biofuels is ethanol produced from crops such as corn, wheat, sugarcane, sunflowers, potatoes and cotton. "Well and good", we think, "we can grow our own fuel and don't need to rely on the non-renewable resources of oil and gas". Not so fast.

Did you know that biofuel companies are buying up huge tracts of land in Africa, displacing small farmers? Did you know that a full car tank of ethanol uses the same amount of grain that can feed a child for a year? Did you know that those African farmers will be forced to sell their food crops for fuel and then be unable to buy food for their own families?

Did you know that the growing demand for biofuels has raised the price of such grains as corn and barley, thereby raising the cost of feed for cattle? Which in turn raises the cost of meat in the supermarket? Did you know that most of the food we eat travels between 2500 and 4000 km from farm to table?

How do we justify our lifestyle when we fuel our vehicles with food products while millions go hungry?

Our hunger for energy and our enthusiasm for biofuels have impacts we are only beginning to understand. Each of us needs to inform our conscience and consider all angles of the issue.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Every minute of every day, someone in Canada needs blood. Fifty-two percent of Canadians say that they or a family member, have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment. Yet only three percent (3%) of eligible Canadians donate blood. In this Christmas season of gift giving, it can be said that giving blood so that someone else can live must be among the most appreciated of all gifts. If you're between the age of 17 and 71, consider donating the gift of life. Every time you give blood, you can save the lives of three people. It's in you to give!

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. Please don't think that we've forgotten you, but this is a busy time of year! We'll be in touch.

THIS 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

NEXT WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun Dec 30	Mon Dec 31	Tues Jan 1	Wed Jan 2	Thurs Jan 3	Fri Jan 4	Sat Jan 5
9 a—Mass 11 a—Mass	7 pm—Mass	Mary the Mother of God 10 am—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.

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. We start again on Monday January 7.

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. We start again on Tuesday January 8.

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.