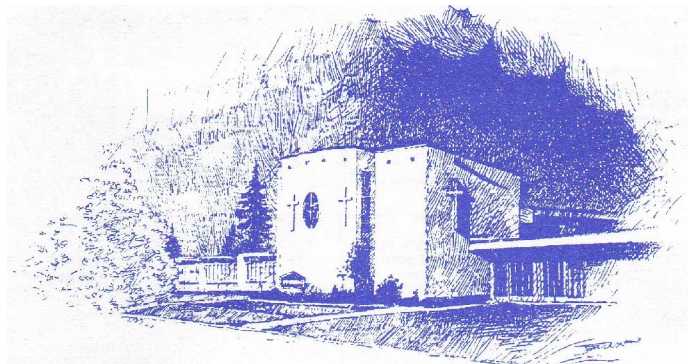

St. Mary's Parish



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1/2, 2007

ST. MARY'S PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE MONDAY DECEMBER 3 AT 7 pm



**A number of priests
from around the city
will be on hand
to celebrate
Reconciliation with us.**

**Please join us
as we celebrate
Reconciliation & Vespers**

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 this week. Young Adults will be bowling! Regular Youth Group begins again December 9th. Bring friends!

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 8:30pm in the school gym foyer. Anyone ages 19 to 30 is 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.

Advent Prayer Evening—Dec 4

7:30 pm—Refreshments to follow

Taizé Evening Prayer—Dec 15

7:00 pm

Annual Open House & Coffee Party—Dec 20

10:00 to 11:30 am—RSVP 964-4475

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 1	7:00 pm	RIP Anne L. Beaudette
Sun	Dec 2	9:00 am	People of our Parish
		11:00 am	People of our Parish
Mon	Dec 3	7:20 am	RIP Linda Brannigan
Tue	Dec 4	7:20 am	RIP Ana Martincich
Wed	Dec 5	7:20 am	RIP Paul & Sheila Kenway
Thu	Dec 6	7:20 am	RIP Anne Beaudette
Fri	Dec 7	7:20 am	RIP Gilbert Todd
Sat	Dec 8	7:00 pm	RIP Maurice Labrosse
Sun	Dec 9	9:00 am	People of our Parish
		11:00 am	INT. James McCloskey

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include in your prayers the following people who are sick and suffering: Peter & Lil Derges, Francis Sauser, Kristen Sauser, Elda Garden (Fr. John's mother), 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.

DONATIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Envelopes	\$2590.00	Loose	\$432.00	Total	\$3022.00
Estate Bequest	\$4000.00	School	\$35.00		
Development & Peace	\$30.00	Diocesan Appeal	\$285.00		

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

RAINBOWS

Rainbows is now accepting applications for the sessions beginning on January 10, 2008. These sessions are filling up already so it is important to have your registration form in on time. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE is Dec 15, 2007.** To receive a registration form and schedule please contact:

Ursula Morris at 563-5584 e-mail: pandumorris@shaw.ca
or Sr. Margaret Quinn at 562-2817 e-mail: mquinn@shaw.ca

SINGLE AGAIN

Bishop Gerald Wiesner will preside at a special Advent Liturgy for any adults who find themselves **Single Again** after separation, divorce or death of a spouse. We will gather on Thursday, December 13 at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. Holiday refreshments will follow in the lower church.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

If you have a compassionate heart, excellent listening skills and are comfortable being with people who are facing challenging life situations, please consider donating some of your time to this awesome ministry or please help us by making a donation. We would very much appreciate gifts of new socks, hats and gloves this Christmas. Please come in to Shepherd's Corner Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2 pm to pick up an application or to make a donation. Thank you for your support.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Prince George Conservatory of Music proudly presents the Borealis Chamber Choir and Sinfonia! Prince George in concert with soloists Melanie Nicol, Sherrie Ashworth, and Joel Garcellano in a Christmas concert titled *The Mystery of Christmas*. The concert will be on Saturday, December 15th at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm at St. Michael's Anglican Church. In a beautifully diverse selection of classical Christmas favourites, the concert will include highlights from Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Studio 2880, Books & Co., and the Prince George Conservatory of Music.

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 3, 10 and 17

REVISED!! ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

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

Monday Dec 3—7 pm—St. Mary's Parish

Wednesday Dec 12—7 pm—Immaculate Conception Parish

Thursday Dec 13—7 pm—Christ our Saviour Parish

Monday Dec 17—7 pm—Sacred Heart Cathedral

We will be celebrating Vespers on Wednesday evenings during the Season of Advent—Dec 5, 12 & 19—7 pm in the Church.

The Advent Journey Draws Us In

The journey through Advent must find us attentive to God's presence in the midst of daily activities. God has entered our lives and continues to enter it in each interaction we have with others. Thus, treating others with the respect due them will be a sign of our respect for God with us, Emmanuel.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

ADVENT RESOURCES

We have a variety of Advent Resources on the table at the back of the Church. Please limit yourself to one (1) resource per family. We have a variety of reflection booklets for adults. We also have a reflection booklet and paper advent wreath activity called ADVENTures for children and families. There are also a few Advent Calendar cards and Advent Activity Calendars for children (we are giving each of the children in the Children's Liturgy group a copy of each of these). Enjoy and remember, Advent is a time for rest and reflection!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

A Special Collection will be taken after Mass today and Dec 8/9 for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers for the needy in Prince George. Please be as generous as you can for those who are so much more unfortunate than we are and make your St. Vincent de Paul donations a part of your family Christmas traditions.

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

Our next baptism preparation session for infants will take place on Monday Dec 10 and Tuesday Dec 11. Parents who wish their infants to be baptized must attend both sessions. Sessions begin at 7 pm and are held in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Phone Fr. Richard to register—564-4097.

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We are planning a series of baptism preparation sessions for older children (aged 5 to 10). If your child hasn't been baptized and falls within that age bracket, please give us a call. Phone Giselle at the parish office for more information—564-4097.

SUNDAY MISSALS

If you haven't already done so, please pick up your complimentary Sunday Missal from the table at the back of the church or from the bench at the Freeman Street entrance.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

"New Line Cinema and Scholastic Entertainment have paired to produce 'The Golden Compass,' a children's fantasy that is based on the first book of a trilogy by militant English atheist Philip Pullman. The trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, was written to promote atheism and denigrate Christianity, especially Roman Catholicism. The target audience is children and adolescents." "Atheism for kids. That is what Philip Pullman sells. It is his hope that 'The Golden Compass,' which stars Nicole Kidman and opens December 7, will entice parents to buy his trilogy as a Christmas gift. It is our hope that the film fails to meet box office expectations and that his books attract few buyers. ...the fact remains that the movie is bait for the books. To be specific, if unsuspecting Christian parents take their children to see the movie, they may very well find it engaging and then buy Pullman's books for Christmas. That's the problem. "We are fighting a deceitful stealth campaign on the part of the film's producers. Our goal is to educate Christians so that they know exactly what the film's pernicious agenda really is." Source: Catholic League.

(www.catholicleague.org/release.php?id=1342)

Pullman's goal is to "kill GOD in the minds of children". An article written about him labels him "the most dangerous author in Britain!" He has written three books that all promote atheism, and the movie depicts his first book (which is the more watered-down of the three). His goal is that you see the movie and then that your kids want his trilogy for Christmas; and then it REALLY gets offensive in the last two books! But just to give you a tid-bit of what's in Philip's books. (a ex-nun calling Christianity a convincing mistake, two characters representing Adam & Eve KILL God (called YAHWEH) in the end, and there's a story about castration & female circumcision!) It will be targeted toward children and advertised as a fun-holiday flick. Don't fall for it! Here is the Snopes article about it <http://snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp>

The above information is provided to you courtesy of the Knight's of Columbus, so that you, as Christian parents, can educate yourselves and determine the appropriateness of movies and books that influence your children.

CWL KORNER

The CWL meeting will be on Tues Dec 4 at 7 pm in the Conference Room. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun Dec 2	Mon Dec 3	Tues Dec 4	Wed Dec 5	Thurs Dec 6	Fri Dec 7	Sat Dec 8
9 a—Mass 11 a—Mass	7 p—RCIA 7 p—STM Reconciliation Service 7:30 p—K of C District Deputies	6:30 p—Rel. Ed. 7 p—CWL	7 p—Vespers 7 p—K of C Exec	7:30 p—Pr. Group	8:30 p—AA	7 p—Mass

NEXT WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun Dec 9	Mon Dec 10	Tues Dec 11	Wed Dec 12	Thurs Dec 13	Fri Dec 14	Sat Dec 15
9 a—Mass 11 a—Mass 2 p—1st Nation's Sunday School	7 p—RCIA	6:30 p—Rel Ed.	7 p—Vespers 7 p—IC Reconciliation Service	7 p—COS Reconciliation Service 7 p—Camp Morice 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.