

Pastor's corner - November 4, 2007

Earlier this fall I wrote two reflections on what it means on our journey of faith to be a disciple of Jesus. They covered Luke's gospels and other readings of the Sundays from July-September and followed the journey of Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem. It all started in Luke 9:51: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem."

During that journey Jesus like a patient but determined teacher has shown by example and talked to us with parables and stories about the relationship between God and us and what it means to be a true disciple. But not only in the Gospel of Luke; the Hebrew Scriptures and the letters of Paul also brought insights into the making of our relationship with God.

During the past month of October Habakkuk encouraged that relationship by reminding us (Habakkuk 1-2) that God hears and looks after us even when it seems as if God has turned a deaf ear to our troubles. We need the faith of Naaman the Syrian leper (2 Kings 5:14-17) to be assured that God's care and active involvement is not just for a chosen few but for all. Exodus 17:8-13 and Sirach 35:15-17, 20-22 assured us that God will listen to the persistent prayer of the distressed and the poor. This Sunday Wisdom 11:22-12:2 shows us a Creator God who "loves all that exists," who "overlooks people's sins, so that they may repent ...and put their trust in you, O Lord."

In the second readings during the month of October Paul in his Second Letter to Timothy encourages us to nurture our faith on a daily basis and to translate it into concrete action because if we don't our faith will remain sterile and stagnant. Persons of faith are those who let the Word of God inspire and strengthen them towards concrete service of others and to a more authentic witness to the person and message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul "solemnly urges us: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching (4:2)." Being a part-time or weekend-only disciple is not sufficient. Our discipleship must be reflected in our lifestyle so that we can say at the end of our life: "As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (4:6)."

In the knowledge that all this is not easy Luke's Jesus reminds us that constant and persistent prayer is needed, that we need to pray with a faith so strong as to uproot a mulberry tree (Luke 17:5), a prayer as tenacious and as forceful as the widow demanding justice from an unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8). Such prayer must also be accompanied by gratitude when we are healed of the spiritual leprosy of sin like the Samaritan leper healed and made whole by Jesus in Luke 17: 11-19. The widow, the Samaritan stranger, and last week the humble tax collector are given to us as examples of true disciples at prayer. Before God we can only see ourselves the way we are: "God be merciful to me, a sinner (Luke 18:13)." Our prayer and action must not be self-centered like the Pharisee in that last parable (Luke 18:9-14) who only thinks of himself, who thought himself so complete that there was no room for God in his life.

Like Zacchaeus in today's Gospel (Luke 19:1-10) we need to invite God into our home, into our life, and make our prayer a dialogue with a great deal of attentive listening and openness. The courage of Zacchaeus is an example for us. It shows that prayerful encounters with Jesus have the power to change lives and to bring us to surrender to grace, to that grace that makes us more and more like Jesus whose disciples we are.

fr. Rolf

Saanich Peninsula Parish



A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Box 2116, Sidney, BC, V8L 3S6 web-site: www.spparish.com e-mail: spparish@shaw.ca

Parish Office: 656-7433, Fax 483-1597, Rectory: 652-1990

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Neil Lensen

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chair, Bob Fowler, 655-3078

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am
Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays
& Thursdays and First Fridays
Liturgy of the Word at 9am on Mondays

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Brentwood Bay

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home

See inside bulletin

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 4, 2007

Wis 11:22-12:2 / 2 Thess 1:11-2:2 / Lk 19:1-10

MISSION STATEMENT

*Let us be open
accepting individuals
sensitive to change
and willing to take
Courses untraditional,
unknown to us.
Let us live as
examples of God's love.*

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please fill out the information below so we can get to know you. Pick up one of the blue information pamphlets next to the bulletins in the foyer so you can get to know us.

Name _____

Phone# _____

Need donation envelopes? Yes _____ No _____

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

Oct. 7th	\$5,109.75
Oct. 14th	\$3,383.60
Oct. 21st	\$4,334.25
Oct. 28th	\$4,812.75
PAD's	\$2,275.00

Budgeted Expenses 1/52 \$5,270.00

CELEBRANT THIS WEEKEND:

Welcome to Fr. Jim Bekkema who will be celebrating with us this weekend while Fr. Rolf is in Vancouver celebrating the 800th Anniversary of the Dominican Order.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Nov. 11 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: NOV. 5

Topic "Spiritual Growth & Ministry". Change of time to be discussed at the next regular meeting on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

C.W.A. NEWS: NOV. 6

The Nov. 6th meeting will be held at the home of Gerrarda Ten Have, 902 Verdier Ave., Brentwood (652-3339) at 1:30 p.m. Remember your rosaries, ladies.

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

This Ministry makes visits to Saanich Peninsula Hospital and Resthaven Lodge visits on Wednesday mornings and home visits on Thursday mornings, bringing Communion to those unable to come to the weekend Masses. If you are unable or know of someone who is unable, due to sickness or disability, to come to the weekend Eucharistic Celebration, and would like to receive Communion during one of these visits, we invite you to call Neil at 656-7433 to register your name for such a visit.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, NOV. 5TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
7:00pm Faith Reflection Group

TUESDAY, NOV. 6TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm CWL
7:00pm Knights of Columbus

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7TH

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
7:30pm RCIA, Adult Faith Formation

THURSDAY, NOV. 8TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, NOV. 9TH

9:00am Mass at the home of Ed & Barb Lovick, 7798 W.Saanich Rd. 652-1653

SATURDAY, NOV. 10TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, NOV. 11TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

VOLUNTEER GARDENER NEEDED

For the grounds at Assumption. If you can help please contact the office at 656-7433.

CWL

There is a place for you in CWL. Why should I Join? For personal and spiritual growth, friendship and fun. The CWL Membership Drive will be held on the weekends of Nov. 4th, 11th and 18th before and after each Mass.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

Our Fall Action Campaign has begun. Again we are focusing on Canadian mining companies. We are asking that our government ensure these companies act responsibly in their operations abroad. Please look at the displays in the foyer and help yourselves to the materials.

Donna, D&P Rep., 656-2064

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Will be at both churches. This is the book in which parishioners inscribe the names of deceased relatives and friends during the month of November, the month with its traditional focus on the communion of the saints and the remembrance of our deceased loved ones.

POOR CLARE CHRISTMAS CARDS

For sale at the Little Store, 6/\$5.50.

GENERAL

A TIME TO REMEMBER!: NOV. 10

On Saturday, Nov. 10th at 9:30am, Bishop Richard Gagnon will offer Mass for the deceased Bishops, Priests and Religious of the Diocese at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

FAMILY ENTREPRENEUR FAIR: NOV. 10

At Sacred Heart Hall Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe St. on Saturday November 10th from 9am-1pm.

VIA CHORALIS CHOIR CONCERT: NOV. 11

Performing at St. Elizabeth's on Remembrance Day at 2pm Via Choralis with the VIVA Young Men's Choir (boys ages 10-16) will present "Choral Reflections: Peace and Remembrance" Tickets for \$12 available at Tanners, Russell Nursery and at the door. More info at 656-9530.

NEW WORD! NEW SONG! NEW CHURCH!: NOV. 16-18

at Christ Church Cathedral. A conference for the renewal of the whole people of God, features John Bell, Richard Leggett and Herbert O'Driscoll, concluding with a sing along worship session with John Bell. More info at christchurchcathedral.bc.ca or 383-2714.

DINNER & AUCTION: NOV. 24

St. Joseph's Junior Youth Group is sponsoring a Filipino Dinner & Silent Auction to fundraise money for a village being built in the Philippines for poor families. The evening will feature Filipino food, cultural presentations from the Philippines, and presentations about the village and the charity in the Philippines. Takes place in the parish hall on Saturday, Nov. 24th from 6-9pm. For more information or tickets, please contact Darryl Wilson at darrylgw@telus.net or 812-6268.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

YOUTH CONFERENCE: NOV. 10

One day diocesan youth conference at the Church of Ascension, Parksville, Sat. Nov. 10th from 10am to 10pm. Guest speaker & musician Mark Mallett. All youth, grade 7 and up are invited to participate. Details on bulletin board.

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria

www.queenswoodcentre.com

For Registration or Information call 477-3822

CONTEMPORARY MYSTICS: NOV. 6

1-3pm Tuesdays through Nov. 27th Facilitators: Bill Wilson, sj and Mary Jane Wilson, cdn. Fee \$80 for the series.

ZEN RETREAT: NOV. 9

Friday, Nov. 9 from 5:30pm to Saturday, Nov. 11 at 9pm with Wayne Codling.

THE ART OF LISTENING WELL FOR PARTNERS: NOV. 10

9:30am-3:30pm. Learn how to open doors with new and renewed listening skills.

POSITION AVAILABLE

A Chief Executive Officer is needed at Queenswood Centre. For more details check the web site www.queenswoodcentre.com.

ADVENT SEMINAR—THE INCARNATION: DEC. 1

—With Patricia Rooke Two lectures: "The God Who Would be Man" and "In Praise of Incarnate Things" to be held on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 10:30am to 2:45pm at St. Andrew's Parish Centre (basement). For registration call 388-5571 or e-mail standrewscathedral@gmail.com