

Pastor's corner - 25 Nov 2007

Next week we are starting a new year, a new liturgical year (year A of the lectionary). And like all new years we start with the celebration of **Advent**, advenir = "come" Lord. This coming Friday we invite you to come and make an Advent wreath or if you cannot come, make one yourself at home. The Advent wreath reminds us that we need to wait for the "coming" of Christmas in more profound ways than the hectic shopping/feasting of the world around us! It is a time of preparation, a time of expectant waiting. At this time of the year our world around us wants to hope for the best for all people. As we pass through the short and dark days of winter **we are put in touch with our deepest yearnings as human beings, we hope for the fulfillment of our deepest needs, we dream of a better world.**

Well, as Christians we can not only share these yearnings but we can also express our deepest conviction that these hopes and dreams are fulfilled by the coming of our Lord. **We are in a waiting, "expecting" time during which we prepare for and reflect on the divine life that waits to be born in our individual and communal hearts.** That divine life is the person of Jesus to be born again in our hearts, but that divine life is also the peace on earth that all people of good will yearn for. That divine life consists of being surrounded by caring, loving people, of living in peace and mutual understanding and acceptance, of good leaders who we can trust to guide us in being just, of an economic system that cares for and includes the poorest and the marginalized. It consists in us being a country, a church, a community that meets the needs of all, rich and poor, sick and healthy, robust and weak and vulnerable.

The Advent wreath with its circular form reminds us that God's love is, and our love needs to become, never-ending. The cedar branches, so important to our first nation peoples, that make our wreath: green color of hope, ever-green because life-giving, cleansing, welcoming. The four candles symbolic of the four Sundays and weeks of preparation needed to be ready for that important "coming". The color purple of the candles reminding us that such a preparation demands of us to change (penance), to be reconciled with God and one another. The third pink candle, lighted on the third Sunday, that "allows" us to rejoice because that salvation for which we wait is so near, so close! **Yes, we need to take the full four weeks to better prepare ourselves,** to reflect on Christ's victory over sin and death (the wreath is a crown or victory wreath) and ultimately on our call to victory. When time has ended Christ will come in glory to lead us into light, into endless new beginning.

In the Advent liturgies we remember and celebrate the first advent or coming, which was Christ's birth; we look forward with expectancy to Christ's coming at the end of time; we also celebrate and recognize the advent, the coming, of the Christ of love, the Christ of justice and peace, today, right here and now, in us, in our families, in our local community, in communities in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

When we enter the celebration of Advent fully with such joyful expectation, we see things from a completely "new" perspective, we feel the need for a new birth, and we are invited to "become" Advent; we are invited to become men, women, youth and children through whom Christ comes to us and to others, both those near to us as well as those who are strangers, and especially to all those who are the "anawim" the poor and beloved of God. We are invited to become people through whom love, justice, reconciliation comes to all.

I invite you to take time out in the coming hectic weeks; **let the Advent wreath remind you of the need to take a short break, a moment of prayer and reflection, a moment of reconnecting with loved ones.** Look at "alternatives for simple living" (www.SimpleLiving.org); plan ahead together with family or group on what you really want to do; avoid debt by resisting the pressures of advertisement; avoid stress; give alternative gifts such as future services (baby-sitting, a special outing, etc.) or do something together, a service project; give 25% of what you spent last year to a worthy cause in the name of a loved one; etc. Best wishes for a Holy Advent! And Happy New Year! May this coming year be a year of continued growth in your relationship with God and with your fellow human beings.

Fr. Rolf

Fr. Rolf, OP

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

EUCCHARIST 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

EUCCHARIST 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

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING NOVEMBER 25, 2007

2 Sam 5:1-3 / Col 1:12-20 / Lk 23:35-43

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

Nov. 4th Collection	\$4,717.55
PAD's	\$2,325.00
Nov. 11th Collection	\$2,870.00
Nov. 18th Collection	\$3,872.55
Budgeted Expenses 1/52	\$5,270.00

SPECIAL COLLECTION: NOV. 24 & 25:

A 2nd collection will be taken after communion for the **Catholic Missions in Canada.**

We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the souls of:

Ronald Scott (Funeral Service on 24 Nov 2007)

COVENANT

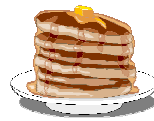
ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Dec. 2 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE at both churches - you are invited to inscribe the names of deceased relatives and friends.

K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: NOV 25 After the 10:30a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Adults \$4.00, children free.



CHRISTMAS CARDS to support the Poor Clare's contemplative nuns in Duncan. For sale in the foyer - 6 pack of cards \$5.50

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: *There are no further meetings planned for 2007. They will recommence at 3 p.m. on 14 Jan 2008.*

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, NOV. 26TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word

TUESDAY, NOV. 27TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28TH

10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:30pm RCIA, Adult Faith Formation

THURSDAY, NOV. 29TH

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 30TH

11:00am Mass at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

SATURDAY, DEC. 1ST

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, DEC 2ND

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

2007 SUNDAY MISSALS

Available in the foyer at St. Elizabeth's - \$5.00 each.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING PARTY: NOV 30

The whole parish is invited to celebrate with us from 6—7pm. This is a time for us to begin preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth with family and friends. Refreshments will be served. Please bring: greenery to share, 1 pink and 3 purple candles and a base for your wreath. You may wish to bring a ribbon or material to decorate your family's wreath. If you have any questions call Els at 656-5888 or Lynn at 652-2543.

BAKE SALE, FOR EAST TIMOR: DEC. 2

After the 10:30 Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Some of the most talented bakers in the Parish will help you prepare for Christmas Visitors. Buy some goodies and freeze them! For more information or to donate some of your own wonderful baking please call Deirdre Doyle at 656-6872 or Stephanie Schroeder at 655-3635

C.W.A. NEWS

Dec 3rd meeting will be a pot-luck luncheon (12:00 noon) at the home of Rosemary Norgaard, 10980 Setchell Rd. 655-0110)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - OUR RECONCILIATION SERVICE WILL BE ON DECEMBER 14, 2007 AT 7 P.M.

GENERAL

REEL SPIRITUALITY FILM SERIES: NOV. 30

Films with issues arising from the human spiritual journey. Held at the UVic Campus, Fine Arts Bldg., Room 103 at 3:30pm. "Millions" More info on the bulletin board at St. Elizabeth's.

FEAST OF ST. ANDREW: NOV. 30

Celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, with a Mass at 12 noon with Bishop Richard Gagnon presiding. A reception, in the parish centre, will follow the Mass and all are invited. No 8 a.m. Mass that day at the Cathedral.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Andrew's Cathedral will be sponsoring Eucharistic Adoration service beginning Mon., Dec 3rd on the days and times indicated below. The chapel holds 6 - 8 people. Please contact Annette Turgeon at 383-8674 to arrange a time that will work best for you. Monday to Thursday -- 8:40 a.m. - 4:45 pm.

ANAWIM HOUSE

Would like to thank you for your generosity over the years. We will be doing our clothing drive again and we are asking for the following clothing items: new or nearly new jeans, sweat pants, sweaters, t-shirts, sport socks, runners, men's underwear, etc. We will be placing a box in the back of the church that you can place the items for us to pick up. Again, thank you for your continued support and may God bless you all. If you have any questions feel free to contact one of the staff at Anawim at 382-0283

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria
www.queenswoodcentre.com
For Registration or Information call 477-3822

WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL WEEKEND RETREAT: NOV. 30 With Gertrude Scott, ssa and Mary Jane Wilson, cnd

MESSAGES

CWL - join an active and dynamic group now. Meetings 2nd Tue. monthly at 2 p.m. followed by refreshments & socializing. Opportunity to grow in spirit; friendship; Christian family and Community life; Education on current social issues; church life and service to the parish community. See members at the service table in the foyer regards some of their exciting projects. Help to make a difference!