

Pastor's corner - February 24, 2008

Today's lectionary readings all are about thirst. Most of us have probably never been really thirsty, the way one can be thirsty in the desert or at sea without potable water: cracked lips, parched tongue, weakness, dizziness, inability to think properly. The experience of the people of Israel in the desert and of the woman at the well in the Gospel can help us to look at what can satisfy those essential human thirsts which are also part of our life. Every human being thirsts for personal identity, for intimacy in relationships, for meaningful work, for a life-giving spirituality. These thirsts enable us while wandering on our journey to discover who we are in relationship to God, to ourselves and to one another. Israel discovered in the desert that God loved them despite their failings and sins, that they were a people chosen by God, that they were called as a united people to witness to the love of God in the world.

The woman at the well who had gone through her own desert discovered through Jesus that she too was loved by God and that her life could have a deeper meaning if she would let herself be transformed by her healing encounter with Jesus. And she too became aware of her calling to be a messenger and a witness to God's healing and transforming power.

If we allow the essential thirsts deep within us to guide us, we too can rediscover the God who knows and loves us, that our lives can have a deeper meaning when turned towards others, that we can and must become instruments of healing, of wholeness, of justice, of peace in our world. Like the people of Israel in the desert we too hit at times those hard places, those rocks when we wander why and what we have left behind and where we are going. The road is long, uncertain, and difficult to follow; that is when we realize that we need God on the way, day by day, every day. At the very hard place, at the rock of Horeb, we too will find that God is there to provide true refreshment, fulfillment of our thirsts. Yes, it is often from the very hard places of struggle and temptation that God draws life-giving water: maybe the presence and steady guiding hand of a friend, maybe that support group which encourages and challenges me to stick with it, maybe the persistent call of a loved one that asks me to be better than I have been.

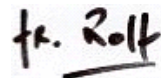
While we need to look at what will quench our spiritual thirsts, let us not forget the importance of that physical water so important for human life. We should also remind ourselves of the some 1 billion people who are using unsafe drinking water sources, of the some 2.6 billion people (40% of the world) who lack basic sanitation facilities resulting in thousands of children dying each day from diarrhea and other water and sanitation-related diseases. Many children, especially girls, are denied the right to education because they are walking for miles to find and carry water.

While one out of every six people worldwide lacks access to safe drinking water, the average Canadian consumes 100 gallons of water every day! The richest 20% of the world's people (that's us!) consume 86% of all goods and services, while the poorest 20% consume just 1.3%!

Two million people, most of them children, die each year from waterborne diseases.

Let us continue to lobby against the movement to "privatize" water. Let us thank God for our abundance of water. Let us use it wisely. Let us pray for those who have no clean water.

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

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

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex 17:3-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42

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

February 3rd	\$4,112.50
February 10th	\$3,720.40
February 17th	\$3,594.25

PAD's \$2,435.00

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

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

ST. STEPHEN'S RETREAT: MAR. 7 & 8

You are invited to the *Wholeness Through Christ Retreat* at St. Stephen's Anglican Church on Friday & Saturday, March 7th & 8th. Registration forms and information at 652-4311.

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: FEB. 25

Monday, February 25th at 3pm at St. Elizabeth's.
Topic: *Our social responsibility: First Nations Peoples (a continuation from last week)*

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE SHARE LENT

In Iraq, D & P annually assists more than 100,000 newborns and pregnant and breast-feeding mothers with food supplements and other supportive services.

SPRING FLING/TALENT NIGHT/POT LUCK:

APRIL 4 - Fundraiser for the AWOR family. Volunteers and talented entertainers needed. Please call Bob Fowler 655-3078 or Janet Moir 655-6781. **Mark Your Calendars.** Tickets on sale.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES:

Feb. 28: St. Joseph's at 7pm
Mar. 5: Sacred Heart Church at 6pm.
Mar. 12: Holy Cross at 7pm
Mar. 14: St. Elizabeth's at 7pm

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, FEB. 25TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
3:00pm Reflection Group

TUESDAY, FEB. 26TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27TH

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong
7:30pm RCIA

FRIDAY, FEB. 29TH

11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital
7:30pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MAR. 1ST

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAR. 2ND

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education

LENTEN MISSIONS:

Feb. 25 - 28 at St. Andrew's Cathedral with Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD. Theme *"The Psalms: A Dialogue with God"*, mornings at 10:40 and evenings at 7:00. Mass included.

Feb. 25-28 at St. Joseph's with Fr. Sean and Fr. William, incl. Mass and discussion.

March 3 - 5 at St. Patrick's in Victoria with Fr. Rolf, Mass at 12:10pm; sessions at 1pm and 7pm each day. Bring a bag lunch. Theme: *"Eucharist, God's Gifts for the Life of the World"*, the theme of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec in June, 2008.

EASTER PAINTING

The Association of Peninsula Christian Churches asked each church participating in the Ecumenical Good Friday walk to create a pictorial display of different events in the Crucifixion Story.

The theme chosen for Saanich Peninsula Parish was "Jesus carries the cross, falls, is helped by Simon of Cyrene, and meets the women."

The painting portrays "despair, help, and hope." The cross is overwhelming and through the hands of Jesus we feel anguish and despair but the hands of Simon offer help from our fellow man and the hands of the women bring hope.

The long arduous rock strewn trail is difficult but it eventually takes us beyond the foreboding grey skies to the rays of hope and salvation in the resurrection.

The painting is by artist Lori Ogle.

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN CAMPAIGN:

The K of C will hold their annual campaign on March 1st and 2nd to assist our seminarians. Your generosity is always appreciated.

LECTORS NEEDED FOR MARCH:

Including Passion Sunday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. A number of regular Lectors will be away on March 3rd. Contact Rose at 544-4891 or after Mass on Sunday.

BAKE SALE:

Parishioners are invited to bring out their favorite recipes to bake for the sales on Sat, Mar 8 and Sun, Mar 9, after Mass. Proceeds go to various Charities.

GENERAL

IGNIGHT: FEB. 24

"THE MATRIX UNLOADED, this Sunday, Feb 24th at St. Joseph the Worker parish: Mass at 6:30pm, followed by iGNight (Gr. 10-12). Theme: Look beyond the sin that blinds you. Watch a trailer at members.shaw.ca/ignight" iGNight is an event and an experience of what it means to be a child of God. It exists for

teenagers so that they can come together in friendship and fun, getting to know one another and getting to know Jesus Christ. Teens can expect to have all of their senses engaged as they experience games, skits, talks, prayer, and the Holy Spirit.

LENTEN NOON FORUM: FEB. 27

Church St. John Divine, 1611 Quadra, Remi J. De Roo on *"Religion, Politics, Culture: Human Tapestry of the Gospel"*.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: MAR. 7 - 2PM

"Celebrate Guyana" at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1319 Mills Road.

UKRAINIAN EASTER FOOD FAIR: MAR. 8

Saturday, March 8th, 11am at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall, 1110 Caledonia Ave. Enjoy a hot Ukrainian lunch and purchase your favourite Ukrainian foods for Easter. Free admission. More info. call Robert at 386-7872.

CCCB WEBSITE

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website, www.cccb.ca/news, offers a number of many resources for the Lenten Season—a message from the Pope, documentation for the Development & Peace Share Lent campaign as well as texts and books for reflection.

TELEPHONE BOOK RECYCLING:

Drop your old phone books in the box in the foyer of St. Elizabeth's Church. Recycling assists our local Peninsula Stroke Recovery Centre fund activities such as Speech Therapy and Guided Exercise Therapy. Your support is appreciated.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria

www.queenswoodcentre.com

For Registration or Information call 477-3822

Or e-mail info@queenswoodcentre.com

WORLD RELIGIONS & SPIRITUALITY: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY: FEB. 28

From 6—8pm and continues once per month to June, then Sept. to Nov. Begins with dinner. Cost \$25 includes dinner and talk.