

Our God

"How great are God's riches! How deep are his wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand his ways? As the scripture says: Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give him advice? Who has ever given him anything so that he had to pay it back? For all things were created by him, and all things exist through him and for him. To God be the glory forever! Amen."
(Letter of Paul to the Romans 11:33-36)

The Church just concluded the Easter season with the solemnities of Ascension and Pentecost which celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ through his Holy Spirit. Now, as we resume the so-called "ordinary" time until the end of November, there are still three major feasts that await the community of believers. Today, it is the Holy Trinity. Next Sunday, the *Corpus Christi* (the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ), and the following Friday, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Unlike most liturgical feasts, these ones represent more an idea than an actual event. This is why they are a little special in the liturgical calendar.

Today's celebration is the most difficult one... This is certainly the most difficult homily of the whole year for any priest! Why? Because the Holy Trinity is often considered more as an idea than as a basis of our spiritual life. Also because we are all aware of the many theological speculations over the centuries. As a matter a fact, theologians discussed about the "persons", the "hypostasis", the "prosopon", the "circumincession", etc. All this because it is difficult for human minds to imagine one God in three persons.

Be that as it may, this is not the point. I think what every believer should take from this, is that the Christian God is first of all a person, not a thing. We do not believe in "something", we believe in "somebody". This is a huge difference. Old religions worshipped different gods who were more or less the forces of nature. Now, all these forces are rather impersonal, they do not interact with humans, they do not get into a dialogue with them. This is exactly what our God does. He cares about us, in such a way that he wants to have a personal relationship with every human being. He wants to be known as much as he knows every single one of us. And this is so true that he is not alone in himself. He himself is somehow "plural". This means that the God of the gospels is bursting with life, like a fire that cannot stop, and that this life of his is always in movement within himself.

Yes, our God is life and love in movement and he invites every one of us to get into this life and love. The rest, we leave to the theologians...

Fr. Herve Tremblay O.P.

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

MAY 18, 2008

TRINITY SUNDAY

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9 / 2 Cor 13: 11-13 / Jn 3:16-18

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor or Visitation Team, please call the office.

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

May 4th	\$4,494.75
May 11th	\$4,169.90
PAD's	\$2,815.00

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

**George Vander Haegen
Jennifer Alannah Cailey Courchene**

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

May 25th 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MAY 23-25. The next session will be held May 23-25 at the **Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo**. For more information, please call: Bryan & Fatima Warner 656-8863.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: MAY 26

Members, please note that our regular meeting of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Conference will be held on Monday, May 26th at 1:30pm at St. Elizabeth's church. Visitors welcome.

ARBUTUS SINGERS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT: MAY 28

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30pm to hear the Arbutus Singers at St. Elizabeth's. Tickets \$10 per person or \$25 for a family. All proceeds will benefit education in the little village of Faralaba, Eritrea, E. Africa. A Concert With A Purpose, please come. Tickets available after Masses.

OPPORTUNITY (OR COUNTER-OPPORTUNITY)

Collection counters are needed, average time commitment is 2 - 2 1/2 hours one Monday per month. Please call 656-7433 with your interest.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAY 19TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:00pm K of C General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, MAY 22ND

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

FRIDAY, MAY 23RD

9:00am No Mass

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAY 25TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

LECTORS REQUIRED

Please consider serving as a Lector/Reader. We really are in desperate need of some new readers as quite a few have fulfilled their commitment and want to retire. We especially need readers for the 5pm Mass. Please call Rose at 544-4891.

LECTOR COORDINATOR NEEDED. Please indicate your planning skills to Neil, Parish Coordinator.

GENERAL

ONE NIGHT ONLY!: MAY 21

Hillsong United presents 'The I Heart Revolution We're All In This Together'. It was created to inspire this generation and youth ministries to respond to injustice in their local communities and take responsibility as God's hands and feet on the planet. May 21st at 7pm at the Silver City theatre at Tillicum Centre.

FAIR TRADE FAIR: MAY 24

10am-4pm at St. John the Divine Church (hall), 925 Balmoral (off Quadra). Fair trade food, gifts, clothing and presentation. www.vida.ca.

iGNight FUNDRAISER: JUNE 1

iGNight Gala BBQ Fundraiser at St. Joseph the Worker parish on June 1st starts with Mass at 5:00pm presided by Bishop Richard Gagnon, followed by iGNight activities and music by West of Eden and Short Bus. Tickets on sale for \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth. Funds go to support National Evangelization Team who are coming to Victoria in October. For tickets call the parish at 479-7413 or Angela 744-2213.

25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS: JUNE 24

On Tuesday, June 24th, Bishop Richard Gagnon will celebrate his 25th anniversary of ordination. A special anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 7pm at the Cathedral followed by a reception at the school gym. All are invited to attend.

SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR YOUTH: JULY

Yes, we are already thinking about summer! Sacred Heart is once again offering a day camp for children, aged 5 - 12 from **July 7 - 11**, inclusive. The days run from 9:30 - 2:30. We are looking for 'junior leaders', Gr. 8 - ? to assist the adult leaders. This looks terrific on a resume for a young person, particularly a young man. For more information, contact sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca

FR. GARY HARTMANN'S 3RD BOOK

His 3rd book called "My Experience as a Priest" tells of Father's adventures from the time of his ordination in the mid 1970's until his retirement. The book is available for \$12.50 which includes taxes and shipping. Cheques should be made out to St. Rose of Lima Church and sent to St. Rose of Lima Parish, PO Box 566, Sooke, V9Z 0H5. His first book "Utopia Zero is also available for \$25.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE:

D&P is accepting funds to help the victims of the devastating Myanmar cyclone. They can be made by telephone (1-888-664-3387), online at Emergency: Burma, or by cheque to D&P, 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd. W., 3rd floor, Montreal, QC, H3G 1T7.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR: MAY 24

Facilitators: Dawn Schell, MA and Flo Follero-Pugh, Med. Saturday, May 24 from 9am-4pm at The Common Room, 1234 Fort St. To register phone 544-0999. Fee \$75.

CARING FOR THE HANDS OF CHRIST: MAY 24

A workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria on Saturday, May 24th from 8:30am to 3pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 785 Burnside Rd. Presenter: Dr. Nancy Reeves. Bring a bag lunch. The day will include prayerful activities, lecture and discussion. For more info see the bulletin board at St. Elizabeth's or call St. Joseph the Worker Parish at 479-7413.

DR. MARY MARTIN SEMINAR: MAY 24

A Billings Ovulation Method Seminar will take place on Sat., May 24th from 9am-4pm at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. For more information see www.billingsmethod.com.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: MAY 30

Takes place on Friday, May 30th from 7-9pm and Saturday, May 31st from 9am-4:30pm at the IPSA Boardroom, 3821A Cedar Hill X Rd. Cost \$150 per couple. Trainers are Rev. Bill Cole and Glenda Pryce, MSW. Call 472-2851 or e-mail ipsa@islandpastoral.bc.ca to register, no later than May 23rd.

PATRICIA ROOKE COURSES OFFERED

FROM INCARNATION TO GENESIS: REWRITING THE SEXUAL SCRIPT Sept. 8—Oct. 20, Mondays from 7-9pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish Centre. A 6-week course on church teachings around the theology of the body and the sanctity of life, including capital punishment and bio-ethics.

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN THE SACRAMENTS

Jan. 12—Feb. 23, 2009. Mondays from 7-9pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish Centre. A 6-week course on the Church as a "person" with Jesus animating and living through the 7 sacraments which are aids to the pilgrim journey on our way to the Kingdom.

To register, contact Patricia Rooke at 360-0743 or rookept@shaw.ca