

Pastor's corner - 1 February 2009

Today we are at the very beginning of Mark's Gospel showing Jesus not to be a solitary prophet but rather one who calls disciples to journey with him, "follow me". Mark 1: 21-28 sees Jesus doing what all people of his time would do on the Sabbath: they go to church! Just like we do! Notice Jesus begins his ministry by teaching and people "were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority." He also chases an unclean spirit (exorcism) from an unidentified man who then disappears. For the Jewish people the coming of God's kingdom would defeat evil, here the unclean spirit. The obvious emphasis of this Gospel is not on the exorcism, nor on the man who was healed; the focus is on Jesus himself. In Jesus' time a person who would be convulsing would not even have been allowed to enter the synagogue because he was "unclean"; he would have been kicked out! Jesus lets this man interrupt him in his teaching and heals him. So, all eyes are on Jesus: "What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits!" Jesus' word is so powerful that people drop everything and follow him, so powerful that evil powers are powerless before him. And this is true not just in the past, even today Jesus' word calls forth and changes people.

Mark wants to put the emphasis on the authority of Jesus, on who this Jesus really is! All of the miracles that Mark will describe from now on will not automatically make believers from non-believers. What they will do is to put before us the question of today: "What is this? Who is this Jesus? What is the source of his power and authority?" Every Sunday in this Liturgical Year " B" when we hear Mark's Gospel, we will need to look not so much at what Jesus does, not at the miracles or powerful acts; we will need to look beneath them and ask ourselves who is this Jesus for me? How will I respond to Jesus and his authority in my life? What is asked of me in response to the One who teaches with authority and can drive out all the spirits that are distracting me from a fuller response to Jesus the Christ, the Holy One of God?

Jesus is the prophet of whom Moses in the first reading speaks when he has God saying: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among your own kin. I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him (Deuteronomy 18: 15-20)." The disciples of Jesus would eventually realize, after Jesus' resurrection, that Jesus was even greater than Moses or any of the prophets. He was not merely a voice for God; he was the presence of the Holy One in their midst.

Since then other prophets have spoken and drawing on Jesus' authority they have and are calling us still to live lives based on equality, non-violence and love. Think of Ghandi, of Bishop Oscar Romero, of Pope John XXIII (on this 50th anniversary of the calling of Vatican II) and many others. Just hear these words of Martin Luther King spoken in Montgomery, Alabama:

"I know you are asking today, "How long will it take?" I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth crushed to earth will rise again. How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, not long because you will reap, what you sow. How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. How long? Not long, because mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord ..."

Shalom!

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: 250-656-7433, Fax 250-483-1597, Rectory: 250-652-1990

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Jai Francis

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chair, Tim Leadem 250-656-5628

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

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home

See inside bulletin

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Deut 18.15-20 / 1 Cor 7.32-35 / Mk 1.21-28

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 (250-656-7433).

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 Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

January 1st	\$1,295.57
January 4th	\$5,347.33
January 11th	\$4,882.85
January 18th	\$3,628.15
January 25th	\$3,324.90
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,025.00

2008 TAX RECEIPTS

Are ready for pick-up. As always, they are in envelopes for privacy. However, we encourage you to leave the empty envelope for re-use. Your St. Vincent de Paul receipts are also there.

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

Theresa English

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Feb. 8 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: FEB. 4

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 4th, 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Topic: The theme is "The Body of Christ". Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

K OF C PASTA NIGHT: FEB. 20

Tickets are \$10 each or \$25/family. Support a great cause and enjoy pasta and an evening of fun and visiting.



C.W.A. NEWS: FEB. 3

The Tuesday, Feb. 3rd meeting will be held at the home of Evelyn Battison, 8650 Moxon Terrace at 1:30pm (250-656-2578).

PARISH NEWS:

Newly arrived from Berlin, Germany, Mrs. Brigitte Beck is looking to do housework which she did for some 20 years. Contact Brigitte or Uwe Beck, 2285 Gail Place, Sidney at 778-626-2108.

FOUND: a child's bracelet in the garden.

VOLUNTEER needed to trim the pyracantha bush beside the church.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARRISH

MONDAY, FEB. 2

1:00pm Memory P.L.U.S.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm K of C Executive Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, FEB. 8

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

GENERAL

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK: 1-7 FEB

Only \$10 (children \$5) support vulnerable children in Africa AND get a 3 course dinner. The Holy Cross Youth Group teams up with VIDEA (Victoria-based International Development Education Association) to serve at a Hunger Dinner on **Monday Feb 2nd at 6:30 at the Solstice Cafe - Pandora Ave** near Market Square. Experiential learning opportunity re world hunger and poverty, not only in the developing world. All welcome and all will dine - draw lots at the door to see how many courses. Details on this and the series of events scheduled during the week available at www.videa.ca

REMINDER!

As announced last fall, there will be no celebration of the sacraments of confirmation / first communion for children at grade 2 / 3 level. We have changed to a

two-year program. The sacrament of confirmation will be given to children ages 12 / 13. Contact Lynn Koett 250-652-2543 or Fr. Rolf.

ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: FEB. 8 & 10

St. Patrick's Elementary School extends an invitation to all Christian families to attend their Open Houses on Sunday, Feb. 8th from noon—2pm and Tuesday, Feb. 10th from 9-10:30am. At St. Patrick's, their high academic standards, award-winning music program, comprehensive athletic programs and dedicated community involvement are just a few of the things that truly set us apart. Come and visit us.

LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 13-14

Re-connecting with Earth, Call to Conversion, Lenten Retreat. Facilitators: Cecilia Hudec, SC, MA & Gertie Jocksch, SC, DMin. Mar 13-14, begins with dinner, Friday 6pm and ends Sat. 4:00pm. Early registration fees by Feb 20: single \$250, double \$225, commute \$120, (registration after Feb 20 add \$10.00). Location: Queenswood 2494 Arbutus Rd. Victoria. Register by calling: 250-380-9786 or earthliterations@gmail.com

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: FEB. 4

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society UVic. Wednesday, Feb. 4th, Engineering/Computer Science Building, Room 124 at 4:30 pm, parking in Lot 1, near the Glover Greenhouse Facility. Speaker: Youcef Soufi, CSRS Graduate Student Fellow. Theme: *Islam and Modernity: Between Identity and Teleology*.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES: FEB. 10 & 11

www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health
250-721-8558. Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 10 & 11, from 7-9pm. "Crisis Intervention: Managing Client Anger and Aggression". Instructor: Trevor Rowe, BA (Psyc). Fee \$63.00. Class #HPPD222.

PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEER TRAINING: FEB. 21

Saturday, Feb. 21st, 10am-3pm, at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Father William Hann will pilot session 1 of our proposed Diocesan module from our pastoral care and outreach ministry in the Diocese of Victoria. Please register at bulletin@sjtw.ca Please bring a lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

RAISING CHASTE TEENS: FEB. 17 & 18

Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary sex educators of their children. 2 seminars in the Vancouver area: Feb. 17 at Immaculate Conception School, 8842 119th St., Delta and Feb. 18 at Vancouver College Kucher Centre for Performing Arts, 5400 Cartier St. Jason is a staff apologist with Catholic Answers, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith through all forms of media.

UVIC INTERFAITH SERVICES SERIES: FEB. 24

This series seeks to promote learning and understanding of faith traditions and address 'tough questions' designed to spark dialogue. Free. Feb. 24: 4:30-6pm, David Lam Theatre, "Do Religions Discriminate Against Women?" Several panellists are scheduled. Check the St. Elizabeth's bulletin board or www.uvic.ca/interfaith/toughquestions.

PARISH MINISTRIES

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

That happy noise you hear after the 10:30 Mass in the Hospitality Room is Coffee Fellowship! This gathering allows everyone the opportunity to chat with fellow parishioners in a relaxed social manner after we have celebrated Mass. We are a church family - it's important to share good news as well as concerns with each other. It is also a great opportunity for newcomers to get to know other parishioners. Please introduce yourself to one of the coffee servers and they'll make sure you meet others! The second aspect of this Ministry is the opportunity to prepare the coffee, juice, cookies for a month. For example, we have different Ministries, i.e. Parish Council and the Prayer Group who take on this responsibility, Groups such as the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League use their month as a membership drive. Couples and even the "Dutch Connection" (a group of parishioners who are of Dutch origin) are examples of those who take on this task. Hope to visit with you there. Interested in helping contact Helene Dizy at 250-656-0572.