

Last week's first reading was such an unusual one that you may still remember it how Job takes God to task in blunt and bold language: "Does not the human being have a hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a labourer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like a labourer who looks for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me. When I lie down I say, "When shall I rise?" But the night is long, and I am full of tossing until dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and come to their end without hope. Remember that my life is a breath; my eyes will never again see good (Job 7:1-7)."

Such feelings expressed today would probably drive people to bring Job to a psychiatric institution. And yet, are we not living in a time when we wish to express the same lament/complaint to God? Don't we feel like saying to God: "Why am I or my loved ones suffering? Why are the innocents of the world, often the poorest, being subjected to both natural and man-made disasters and atrocities? Why are we surrounded by injustices? God, don't you see them. Do something!"

We are soon entering the time of Lent. And Lent is a time when we as a community are invited to lament and to name the wrongs, our own, but also our church's and our world's. We are invited to be like the people pressing in on Jesus in the gospel (Mark 1:29-39), being persistent and imaginative like the people who made a whole in the roof to bring to Jesus a paralysed man (Mark 2:-12). Lent is a time of reflection, of opening our eyes to injustices of every kind, and then in action becoming vocal advocates. Lent is a time when we are asked to use our imagination so that we might use our time and strength to be freed from being the prisoners we often are. In our modern times we have more time on hand than ever, more choices before us than ever, but we are still prisoners. Lent is a time when we can free ourselves and use our whole selves to see the world the way it is, the way it is loved by God, and to imagine what we as baptized believers in the Gospel must do to bring about God's reign.

Yes, Lent is a time of penance, but penance for a purpose. Our baptism and our Sunday Eucharist give a direction to our penance. Lent leads to Holy Thursday when through the example of Jesus we are asked to become baptized people who get down on their knees to wash the feet of all and to serve, to upset the powers of the world, and to call for justice and love for all. Lent leads to Good Friday to the cross of injustice that we all must bear. Lent leads to the baptismal water of Easter when we are renewed in order to remind ourselves that we are Easter people who need to give an account of the hope which inhabits us. Lent and the Easter season are there to create us as this Church, this Body of Christ, this joyful servant community of God that we are in this our world.

Vatican II was supposed to have given us more of a sense of this communal approach to Lent, which by the way is a very ancient model. But has it succeeded? The Prophet Hosea will tell us as a community: "Thus says the Lord. I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart." Hosea imagines God as someone so in love that no matter what goes wrong, love can take hold again. To go to the desert, our Lenten journey, is to make room where there seems to be no room, to take away the clutter that keeps us from seeing what we are baptized to see, from doing what we are baptized to do. Lent will be there for us so that we might re-discover the way the Gospel makes us a community of Job-like protesters, of lamenters and advocates of justice. Lent is there so that we might discover that we have Gospel hungers and Gospel thirsts which can only be fulfilled when heaven and earth come together in God's reign. May this year's Lent be such a journey.

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

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Lev 13.1-2, 45-46 / 1 Cor 10.31-11.1 / Mk 1.40-45

#### 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

February 1st	\$4,650.10
February 8th	\$4,392.25
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,025.00

### FLAG DAY: FEB. 15

February 15th is our Canadian Flag's Birthday. By resolution of Parliament on Dec. 15, 1964 and the House of Commons on Dec. 17, 1964, the Senate proclaimed, by Queen Elizabeth II, that Feb. 15, 1965, the day the Maple Leaf flag was first raised over Parliament Hill, would become the anniversary of our Canadian flag.

### CHARITABLE DISBURSEMENTS:

We have received Thank You letters from the following for our Parish Donations:  
Hanti Sidra Fund (formerly ERRA-BC): \$2,200  
Youth for Christ: \$1,024.38

## COVENANT

### ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Feb. 22 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion  
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

## IN OUR PARISH

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL: FEB 18

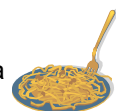
Members please note that the regular meeting of St Elizabeth of Hungary Conference of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 1:30pm at a meeting room at St. Elizabeth church. Visitors welcome.

### FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: FEB. 18

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. 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.



## THIS WEEK IN THE PARRISH

### MONDAY, FEB. 16

1:00pm Memory P.L.U.S.  
  
7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)  
9:00am Mass  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
7:00pm Knights Of Columbus Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

9:00am Mass  
10:00am Taiji Qigong  
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group  
1:30pm St. Vincent de Paul

### THURSDAY, FEB. 19

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

### FRIDAY, FEB. 20

9:00am Mass at the Legion Manor,  
7601 E. Saanich Rd.  
6:00pm KofC Pasta Night

### SATURDAY, FEB. 21

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, FEB. 22

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

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: MAR. 6

St. Elizabeth's will host this year's WDoP on Friday, March 6th at 2pm - by celebrating Papua New Guinea!. If you have any items of art from Papua New Guinea, we would love to hear from you. Contact Josephine Wingerter 250-656-4961 or Fr. Rolf.

### 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 778-426-2108 or cell: 250-508-9215.

### Checkers Challenge for Seniors

If you would like to join a group to play checkers, to learn, to have fun, to be competitive. Call Francis at 250-656-2110.

### TOUR 2010

In 1634 the village of Oberammergau, in Bavaria, Germany promised to perform the passion play (Life & Death of Jesus) every ten years. 2000 residents of the village will do so again in 2010. If you are interested in going, please contact Fr. Rolf.

## GENERAL

### SUNSHINE SINGERS SING-ALONG: FEB. 16

You are invited to join the residents at Abbeyfield on Monday Feb. 16th at 6:30pm to enjoy the music of the Sunshine Singers.

### PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEER TRAINING: FEB 21

Saturday, Feb. 21st, 10am-3pm, at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Fr. 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](mailto:bulletin@sjtw.ca) Please bring a lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

### REEL SPIRITUALITY: A FILM SERIES: FEB. 24

At 2:30pm in the Fine Arts Building, UVic, Room 103. *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (Australia, 2002, 94 min.) Moderated by Terry Marnier, this series explores questions of morality, culture, the search for meaning and other themes arising from the human spiritual journey.

### PROGRAM MANAGER POSITION

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has an opening for a full-time Program Manager at our Ozanam Day Program for adults with developmental disabilities. More information is posted on the bulletin board at St. Elizabeth's or [www.svdpvictoria.com](http://www.svdpvictoria.com). Deadline Feb. 23rd at 4pm.

## WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

### 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. 604-261-2284.

### UVIC INTERFAITH SERVICES SERIES: FEB. 24

Seeks to promote learning & 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?" Check the St. Elizabeth's bulletin board or [www.uvic.ca/interfaith/toughquestions](http://www.uvic.ca/interfaith/toughquestions).

### LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 13-14

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

### PEACE: A TRANSFORMING VISION: MAR. 14

The Thomas Merton Society of Canada is sponsoring a one day conference and workshop, Saturday, March 14th from 9am to 5pm at the University Club of Victoria at UVic. Keynote speaker Jim Forest and other speakers Donald Grayston, Ross Labrie and Ron Dart. Cost: \$55 full day and \$30 half day (includes lunch). For more info or to register, contact TMSOC at 604-669-2546 or [tmsoc@telus.net](mailto:tmsoc@telus.net).

### HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES: APR 8 & 15

[www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health](http://www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health)  
250-472-4747. Wednesdays, Apr. 8 & 15, from 7-9pm. "Life After Loss, New Beginnings". Instructor: Instructor: Su Russell, MEd, a registered clinical counsellor. Fee \$63.00. Class

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### GREETERS (Lobby)

The main focus of our Ministry is to be the first welcoming presence to those entering St. Elizabeth's to attend the Sunday 10:30 Mass. It is our aim to greet those entering the church with a cheerful smile and a "good morning", so that they're immediately aware of our warm church community. We also distribute the church bulletin. Our greeters serve every Sunday for a month at a time. If you feel you would like to be a part of this Ministry, please call Helene Dizy at 250-656-0571 or [helene.dizy@shaw.ca](mailto:helene.dizy@shaw.ca)