

Pastor's corner - February 21-22, 2009

In the last few bulletins I asked whether anyone is interested in an organized tour to see the 2010 Passion play of Oberammergau. People have asked for more information.

I was asked by people at St. Patrick's Parish whether I could accompany them in 2010 on a 12-day tour in Europe which ends at Oberammergau. The departure date has several options but would most likely be either May 10 or May 17. The tour would begin in Rome and include an audience with the pope and visits to several major attractions such as St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, etc. The tour then moves to Assisi, the birth place of St. Francis, and Perugia in Tuscany; the mystical city of Siena and Florence with its famous art and the Piazza del Campo. Venice and Murano Island are next as well as Padua. From there the tour goes to Trento and eventually to Oberammergau in southern Bavaria.

In the 17th century the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau vowed that if God were to spare them from the bubonic plague, they would perform a passion play every ten years depicting the life and death of Jesus. The small village was spared. The first performance was in 1634 and everyone in the village participated. Later the year was moved to a year with a zero which would facilitate people remembering when the next play was to be held. Only two or three times since 1634 was the play cancelled including in 1940 during World War II.

Two thousand residents from the village come together to create this powerful experience of the Passion in a seven-hour event that includes a meal during the intermission. The villagers are very welcoming and many open their homes to house visitors who stay the night. The performance blends dramatic text, beautiful music and choral accompaniment as scenes from the Old (Hebrew Scriptures) and New Testament are depicted for the audience.

The Tour is organized by Colette Vacations who have apparently great experience in planning and hosting tours. The land only cost is \$ 4239 per person based on double occupancy. It is for 12 days and 17 meals. People can extend their stay either before or after the tour.

Colette Vacations have also other tours of similar length and all either beginning or ending in Oberammergau but with different itineraries, such as through France and Bavaria, or through Prague, Budapest and Vienna, or through Switzerland and Austria, etc.

Colette Vacations will make a presentation on Thursday March 12 at 2:00 p.m.; the place will be determined later and will depend on the number of people interested.

As a result I need to have an indication from you whether you are interested in participating and coming to the presentation. Could you, please, do so by giving me in writing your name and telephone number, and e-mail address if applicable. Thank you.

This coming Tuesday February 24 will be Bishop Remi de Roo's 85th birthday; please, keep him in your prayers. **This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Journey. It is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Please, come with your children to receive the ashes at our community celebration on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.**

For 40 days we are invited to pay closer attention to God's word and to pray fervently as believers preparing to celebrate the paschal mystery. Becoming more aware of the social consequences of sin and doing penance is part of that preparation. Lenten penance should be external and social as well as internal and individual. We do not use flowers to decorate and we do not sing "Alleluia" until the believing community has undergone conversion and is ready to use these with renewed meaning during the Easter Vigil.

Shalom Fr.Rolf, OP

Fr. Rolf

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/Gary Koett

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Jai Francis

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

EUCARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am

Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays

& Thursdays and First Fridays

EUCARIST 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

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 22, 2009

Isa 43.18-19, 20-22, 24-25 / 2 Cor 1.18-22 / Mk 2.1-12

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
February 15th	\$3,289.50
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,025.00

CHARITABLE DISBURSEMENTS:

We have received a Thank You letter from the following for our Parish Donations:
Development & Peace: \$2,000.00.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Office will be closed on Fridays until the end of March.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Mar. 1 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: FEB. 25

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 25th, 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: FEB. 25

At **7:00pm** at St. Elizabeth's.

SIDNEY CLASSICAL CONCERT: FEB. 27

The Sidney Classical Orchestra will present "Classic Schubert" with Schubert's Symphony No. 5 and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 with Pianist Cary Chow. Friday, February 27th at 7:30pm at St. Elizabeth's.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their Annual Pennies For Heaven campaign next weekend, February 28th/March 1st. Please give generously to help our Seminarians.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARRISH

MONDAY, FEB. 23

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

9:00am No Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

9:00am No Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital
7:30pm Sidney Classical Concert

SATURDAY, FEB. 28

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

KofC Pennies For Heaven
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.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE:

Our Share Lent Campaign begins next week. Please pick up your *Lifestyle Awareness Calendars* in the foyer after Mass.

GENERAL

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 Marner, 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 the Ozanam Day Program for adults with developmental disabilities. More info. is posted on the bulletin board or www.svdpvictoria.com. Deadline Feb. 23rd at 4pm.

FEED MY SHEEP

The 9/10 Club at St. Andrew's Cathedral offers free soup to 250-400 of Victoria's poor every Monday-Friday. Committed volunteers are needed for approx. 2 hours, one day per week (8-10:15am). For more info. call Frank at 250-884-4459 or Joan at jvez@shaw.ca

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

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.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED WORKSHOP: MAR. 4-25

"Walls that Divide and Ties that Bind" is the theme of the 4 session workshop which will focus on working together to build a peaceful & caring society in our families, our communities and the world, through input, discussion, music and laughter. Suggested fee \$5. Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm from March 4th to 25th at St. Paul's United Church, Malaview Ave. & 5th St. Keynote speaker: Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD.

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.

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES: APR 8 & 15

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 #HPHE213.

PARISH MINISTRIES

HOME VISITS EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

This Ministry makes home visits on Thursday mornings, bringing Communion to those unable to come to the Saturday/Sunday Mass. If you are unable, or know of someone who is unable, due to sickness or disability, to come to our Saturday/Sunday Eucharistic Celebration, and would like to receive Communion during a visit every Thursday morning, we invite you to call the office at 250-656-7433 to register your name for such a visit. If you would like to join this Ministry or would like more information about his please call Gene Dizey at 250-656-0572.