

Pastor's corner - First Sunday of Lent 2009

This past Wednesday evening in the midst of a time and a world in crisis we began our Lenten journey together so that we might remember to put all our trust, not in what our world tries to sell us, but in God. When we received the ashes on our forehead we heard the friendly challenge: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return!" This was a reminder to us that we need to humbly recognize and accept our humanity, our condition as earth creatures (the Latin word humus which means earth, dust, is the root of both humility and humanity). The mass of dust of which we are composed is inanimate, lifeless. Our vitality as human persons depends on God's gift of breath, the Spirit of God (ruah Yahve) which was breathed into us and into the universe at the beginning of creation (cf. Genesis 1:2) to make it and us come alive. So we need to remember that we are fundamentally vulnerable and dependent each moment of our lives on this precious gift of God's breath. We live each day, each moment, on the generosity of God, greater and more lasting than anything this world has to offer!

God also remembers that we are dust. God knows that as dust we are going to die and it is precisely this fact that pushes God to great love and concern for us. While we as humans often forget God never forgets and always remembers our need for that vital breath. God takes note of our sins, of our attempts to be like God, and removes them. By remembering God is pushed to be faithful to us. The Bible is that love story which showed how God always remained and remains faithful and how that love and fidelity towards us became flesh in Jesus.

During Lent we are asked to try and remember lest we forget! During Lent our celebrations, our D&P lifestyle awareness calendar, our own day to day reflections, all these call us to try and acknowledge our need for God's breath, to put our trust in the embrace of a faithful and powerful God who knows our need and responds with love. Let us remember that God remembers us and that we are creatures of God's daily care, that we are continually surrounded by the "hesed Yahve", that wonderful Hebrew expression of God's loving kindness that envelops us. God's breath breathes on us every moment of our life and shapes us each day.

The sand area in front of the altar is another reminder of the above. It also reminds us that like the people of Israel who journeyed for forty years through the desert we too are invited these next forty days to journey through the deserts of our own life, through the bleak and barren aspects of ourselves and our world. We too need to be open to and search for that life-giving water and breath which will transform our deserts and the gift of which we will celebrate with the death on the Cross and with the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The piece of dry wood, the barren rock, the empty well, all remind us that we are sinners in need of redemption, that we are journeying through the deserts of our lives, that we need to confront the wild beasts of our lives. But this journey of renewal is a journey of hope because what may seem impossible to us, is possible for God. At Easter the barren desert will become a lush garden and the well will be full of the life-giving water of baptism which calls all of us, individually and as a community, to fulfill our vocation as God's beloved and as witnesses of God's love that became flesh in Jesus.

Yes, this rich and meaningful time of Lent calls all those who have celebrated at Christmas the birth of Jesus our Saviour to come and rediscover once more the depth of God's love. The meaning of Christmas only comes to its fullness with Good Friday, Easter, and ultimately, Pentecost. Both as individual persons of faith and as communities of faith we are called during Lent to re-center and re-focus our look on God. This Lenten season we are called to put on the mind and heart of God which has been made known to us in Jesus. This automatically means also that we are called to look not only at God but also at others, and to do so with new eyes and a warmer heart and with open hands. May our Lenten journey be such a fresh, new and challenging experience. 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

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

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2009

Gen 9.8-15 / 1 Pet 3.18-22 / Mk 1.12-15

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
February 22nd	\$3,578.25
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,025.00

OFFICE CLOSURE

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are holding their Annual Pennies For Heaven campaign this weekend. Please give generously to help our Seminarians. The KofC also wish to thank everyone who supported the recent Pasta Nite. It was a great success and we hope everyone had a good time.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

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

IN OUR PARISH

C.W.A. NEWS: MAR. 3

The Tuesday, March 3rd meeting will be held at 1:30pm at the home of Gerarda TenHaves, 902 Verdier Ave. Brentwood Bay (250-652-3339).

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAR. 4

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, March 4th, 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: MAR. 6

Hosted by St. Elizabeth's, Friday, March 6th at 2pm, reception to follow the service. Focus of the WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service this year is on the people of PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Theme: 'In Christ there are many Members, yet one Body'. Everyone welcome, yes gentlemen, you too!

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
2:00pm World Day of Prayer Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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

CWL: MAR. 4 & 11

The CWL executive meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 10am and the general meeting on Wednesday March 11th at 10:30a.m.

KofC LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 7

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 7th at St. Patrick's Church, Haultain St. Theme: "Spirituality for a Time of Crisis", Presenter: Fr. Rolf. Starts at 9am and culminates with Mass at 12:10.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE:

The *Lifestyle Awareness Calendar* is still available at our display in the foyer. It invites us to reflect on the wealth we enjoy as part of our lifestyle - on each of the 40 days of Lent and for how we can share and be in solidarity with those less fortunate.

GREETERS (LOBBY)

Greeters welcome parishioners as they enter the church lobby to be a welcoming first presence and also to distribute the church bulletin at the 10:30 Sunday Mass at St. Elizabeth. Perhaps parishioners who attend the 5 pm Saturday Mass at St Elizabeth would also like a greeter to welcome them on a regular basis as they enter the church and receive the bulletin. If a sufficient number of people would like to become involved with this Ministry, I'd be willing to draw up a schedule. Maybe somebody would like to serve the first Saturday of each month, for example or perhaps someone would take on the task every Saturday for a month. Please contact me at 250 656-0572 or at helene.dizy@shaw.ca

GENERAL

YOUTH DIVERSITY CELEBRATION: MAR. 12

This free event will be held on Thursday, March 12th from 6—8pm at the James Bay New Horizons Centre (234 Menzies). Let's celebrate respect for all. For more information and to register please call Anna at 250-388-4728, ext. 123 or e-mail annaescher@icavictoria.org.

PENINSULA SINGERS CONCERT: APR. 24-26

The Peninsula Singers Spring 2009 Benefit Concert Series *Of Castles, Kilts and Leprechauns*: Songs from the British Isles and Ireland will be held on Friday, April 24th & Saturday, April 25th at 7:30pm and Sunday, April 26th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$20/adults, \$10/children available at the Mary Winspear Box Office. Proceeds to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation's Music Therapy Program.

TO ALL PARISH MUSICIANS

An invitation is extended to all music ministers to be part of a Diocesan Choir for the Chrism Mass to be celebrated on Tuesday, April 7th at 7pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Rehearsals on Sat. Mar. 14 & Apr. 4th from 10:30-1:30pm. Call Jackie Ray at 250-388-5571 or 250-384-9681 for more info.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

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 at 6pm and ends Sat. at 4pm. **Correction on costs:** single \$125, double \$115, commute \$70. Location: Queenswood, 2494 Arbutus Rd. Victoria. Register by calling: 250-380-9786 or earthliterations@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 TMSC at 604-669-2546 or tmsc@telus.net.

UVIC INTERFAITH SERVICES SERIES: MAR. 17

Seeks to promote learning & understanding of faith traditions and address 'tough questions' designed to spark dialogue. Free. March 17th: 4:30-6pm, David Strong Building, "Are Religions Mutually Exclusive?" Also a roundtable discussion on March 24th from 4:30-6pm at the Interfaith Chapel. Check the St. Elizabeth's bulletin board or www.uvic.ca/interfaith/toughquestions.

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.