

Pastor's corner - Second Sunday of Lent 2009

Since Ash Wednesday when we entered this period of Lent, a time of grace, we also entered a desert experience as symbolized by the sand area in front of the altar and by the ashes that we feel as we come into the church and want to bless ourselves with holy water. Last Sunday the Gospel of Mark related how Jesus too went into the desert "driven there by the Spirit of God" which he had received at his baptism. Now the same Spirit helped Jesus to find himself, to discover his mission in life and to recognize the relationship that bound him to God and to the people of his time. In so doing Jesus was to be confronted by temptation, the temptation to ignore God and to journey on his own.

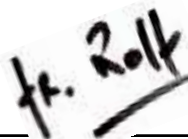
As human beings, as Christians and disciples of the Gospel, we too must enter our desert. It is only when we willingly and freely accept our desert experience in life that we can become men, women, and youth of integrity. It is only then that we can achieve something beyond the ordinary, that we can amount to something in life.

When we look around us at people who left a mark in history and in the world (artists, explorers, thinkers, scientists, prophets, saints, etc.) inevitably we are dealing with a person who has spent time in the desert. Rejection and failure, hard grinding work without rewards, silence and solitude, are all experiences of great men and women. It was in the desert of life that they did their growing up, that they had to confront the beasts both within and without, that they discovered their potential and talents, that they found the grace of God's presence and support. No pain, no gain. And we do not need to look far for those people, they are all around us. And as we go through rough economic times, we are reminded of all those who sacrificed for us during the Great Depression, of those who were personally affected by war, by migration away from hardship and violence and towards new possibilities in a new land. And we all know that those journeys were not easy but that somehow angels of God waited on these children of God, the same way that angels waited on Jesus in the desert.

Each one of us, we are called to be a desert people. It is in the desert, in the wasteland of human experience that we are put to the test. It is in the desert that we learn to say no to evil and yes to God and the things of God. It are those desert experiences, a non-fulfilling job, failing health, struggling relationships, loss of a job, difficulties at school, loss of a loved one, which become when fully lived the source of new life. It is there that we learn to become men, women and youth of the Gospel.

Lent is the time when we learn to recognize our own desert. Fasting helps us to do just that. The sand area in front of the altar has bare rocks, dried wood, an empty well but also innumerable invisible seeds beneath the surface and the open Word of God. The Word of God broken open, prayed and reflected upon and lived in our daily life will bring to life the desert area at Easter when a new beginning will result in new growth, when those tiny little seeds of goodness and compassion, of healing and forgiveness, nurtured within us and shared with each other and others, will bring new life not just to us but to the world. Have a great Lenten 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 Thursday 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

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2009 Gen 22.1-2, 9-13, 15-18 / Rom 8.31-35, 37 / Mk 9.2-10

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2009 Ex 20.1-17 / 1 Cor 1.18, 22-25 / Jn 2.13-25

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

March 1st \$5,153.05
Share Lent \$ 25.00

PAD's (38 donors) \$3,025.00

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

The Knights of Columbus thank everyone who donated last weekend to 'Pennies For Heaven' to help our seminarians. If you missed the event, the buckets are in the foyer at St. Elizabeth's.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Mar. 15 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAR. 11 & 18

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesdays at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: MAR. 11

Everyone is welcome to come and hear Andrew Conradi, sfo, who will be speaking at St. Elizabeth's on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:45am, topic: "Sexual Human Trafficking", especially as it relates to the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Refreshments to follow, admission by donation. This presentation will be in lieu of our general CWL meeting.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

After just observing International Women's Day, D&P wishes to remind you of the extraordinary work they do in aiding many of the marginalized women in the world. For example, their partner in Burundi, Africa helps women sell their coffee for a just wage and in Bolivia, their partner helps women improve their health and safety. Thank you for supporting D&P through your Share Lent contribution and thus helping these women.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: MAR. 26

Thursday, March 26th at St. Elizabeth's, 7pm

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm K of C Meeting: **March 17**

WEDNESDAYS

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
10:00am CWL Program: **March 11**
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group
1:30pm St. Vincent de Paul: **March 18**

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

9:00am **March 13:** Mass at the home of Angie Gibbs, 7180 Hagan Rd., 652-4801

SATURDAYS

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAYS

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

PASCHAL MYSTERY: APRIL 4

Dr. Les McKeown will present a *Reflection on the Passion of Christ* on Saturday, April 4th at St. Elizabeth's. Coffee and sign-in at 9am and speaker from 9:30-2:30pm. Bring a bag lunch, coffee, tea and juices provided. Donation accepted to cover costs. Please register by phone with either Tom and Janet Moir at 250-655-6781 or Freddie Brand at 250-655-5028.

PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Please bring your old phone books to St. Elizabeth's or call Lissen Lockwood at 250-656-1568 for pick up. Supports the Peninsula Stroke Recovery Centre to fund their activities such as speech therapy and guided exercise therapy.

GENERAL

LENTEN MISSION 2009: MAR. 8-11

The Lenten Mission "*Return to Me*" given by Msgr. Kevin Beach from Ottawa will be held on Sunday, March 8th at 7pm at St. Joseph the Worker, Monday & Tuesday, March 9th & 10th, 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish and back to St. Joseph the Worker Parish for the Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, March 11th.

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.

LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 13-14

Re-connecting with Earth, Call to Conversion. Facilitators: Cecilia Hudec, SC, MA & Gertie Jocksch, SC, DMin. Begins with dinner Friday at 6pm and ends Sat. at 4pm at the Queeswood Centre, 2494 Arbutus Rd. **Correction on costs:** single \$125, double \$115, commute \$70. Register at earthliteracies@gmail.com or 250-380-9786.

UKRAINIAN EASTER FOOD FAIR: MAR. 21

Hot Ukrainian lunch, plus sale of perogies, cabbage rolls, sausage rings, borscht, Easter breads, baking, hand painted Easter eggs. Saturday, March 21 from 11am-2pm at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall, 1110 Caledonia Ave. Wheelchair accessible.

LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 23-26

The Call to Simplicity from March 23rd in the evening to 1pm on March 26 at the Queeswood Centre, 2494 Arbutus Rd. Through scripture, prayer, poetry and discussion, we will explore themes in spiritual simplicity such as hospitality, gratitude, self-giving, community and the "soul of money." Facilitator: Judy Vestrup. All-inclusive live-in price: \$388, Commuter price: \$217. For more details, see www.queeswoodvictoria.ca/retreat/call-simplicity.

THE VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS 7TH ANNUAL CONCERT: MAR. 27, 28 & APR 4 & 5

In Victoria, Fri., Mar. 27th, 7pm & Sat., Mar. 28th at 2pm at Central Baptist Auditorium, 833 Pandora Ave. Tickets \$25 at 250-889-9534 or at the door. In Sidney, Sat., Apr. 4 at 7pm & Sun., Apr. 5th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$25 at the box office or 250-656-0275.

POSITION AVAILABLE:

The Sisters of St. Ann seek an Executive Assistant/Province Secretary to manage the office of the Province Leader and her Team and provide administrative and secretarial support to the SSA Provincial Council and SSA Corporation Board. To apply or for further information please contact: Brad Colbert of Executive Network: 250-389-2848 or brad@executivenetwork.ca

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

PEACE: A TRANSFORMING VISION: MAR. 14

The Thomas Merton Society of Canada: 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.

YOUTH DIVERSITY WORKSHOP: MAR 22

1-3pm at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria Lion Hall, 5575 West Saanich Road (opposite the Red Barn). This 2-hour interactive workshop is intended for youth who wish to gain greater understanding and perspective about the Canadian mosaic. Presented by Sid Tafler, author of "Us and Them, A Memoir of Tribes and Tribulations". Contact Kay Dyer at (250) 652-3512 or kaydyer@shaw.ca for more information.