

Pastor's corner - March 22, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Lent 2009

For the last six months the world has been living through difficult economic and financial times, which have caused the fear which seems to grip people and nations. Just six months ago it seemed that greed moved everything. **Now fear has replaced greed as the dominant emotional force.** This fear which is now feeding on itself has many heads: fear of lower incomes whether you are working or whether you are retired; fear of losing a job; fear of there being no jobs to look for; deeper fear of what our homage to money & profit has done to ourselves and to our children. Then there is the fear that our community spirit and family strength are not strong enough to weather the storm the way previous generations were able to overcome the great depression or the great wars: with dignity and unifying determination, while sharing with others the little that people had.

It is also good for us to keep things in perspective. We still have a roof over our heads, we still have food on the table. The more dramatic impact of the crisis is hitting the most vulnerable groups in all societies and especially so in the developing world. The World Bank predicts that the crisis will push an additional 53 million people below the threshold of \$2 a day. This figure is in addition to the 130 million people pushed into poverty in 2008 by the increase in food and energy prices.

Fear in the developed countries will only exacerbate that situation because **fear tends to turn an open hand into a closed one. Fear tightens the heartstrings as well as the purse strings.** Fear stifles the appropriate taking of risks, it paralyses; remember Peter walking on the water towards Jesus **The Bible tells us that the antidote to greed is generosity and love; the antidote to fear is faith and love: perfect love casts out fear.** Fear and anxiety can only be overcome if we show clearly in the way we live, talk, and move that we know ourselves and all others as beloved creatures of God. As Catholics we must challenge ourselves and the Church to which we belong that we cannot confine ourselves to "spiritual" matters and leave "financial, social and economic" issues to others, as some Catholics seem to feel. **We must remind ourselves of the long prophetic tradition of the Church's social teaching** and not forget that **"action for the sake of justice and participation in the transformation of the world are a constitutive element of the preaching of the Gospel"** as numerous encyclicals have underlined for more than 100 years and as Vatican II tried to remind us. Our Lenten journey calls us to that personal conversion of heart that makes us live and **work with others to bring about that communal conversion** (changes in the values embedded in our economic behaviour and policies) which will ultimately result in the reign of God which Jesus called the "Kingdom of God" and for which we pray each day.

**The world's problems are not exclusively financial or economic: they find their origin in an areligious, unethical and evil attitude.** In the words (November 2008) of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: "in its origin, there has been **a wound in the global moral system...**We would not have gotten to where we are now if we would have treated the market as a means and not an end." Even Adam Smith, the father of capitalism, saw the need for religious faith and moral principles to guide the market. Karl Marx rightly saw that the pursuit of capital without a moral compass tends to erode traditions and traditional relationships, beginning with the family.

When we began our Lenten journey we were reminded that the Spirit of God drove Jesus into the desert to confront and overcome the wild beasts. Lent challenges all of us, as we are guided by the same Spirit, to confront and overcome the wild beasts of our lives, including the above. And as for Jesus we too are assured that in this time and place of testing and hostile forces, **there are angels waiting on us, confirming the hope that is within us and of which we must give an account.**

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 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

### 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

## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

### MARCH 22, 2009

2 Chr 36.14-17, 19-23 / Eph 2.4-10 / Jn 3.14-21

#### 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
March 8th	\$4,848.65
March 15th	\$3,973.25
Share Lent	\$ 25.00
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,020.00

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE: MAR. 26

Thursday, March 26th at St. Elizabeth's, 7pm  
As in previous years we will have a communal reconciliation service. If you wish to celebrate a personal confession, please contact Fr. Rolf to set up a time and place.

## COVENANT

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

Mar. 29 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion  
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

## IN OUR PARISH

### PASCHAL MYSTERY: APRIL 4

Dr. Les McKeown will present a *Reflection on the Passion of Christ* on Saturday, April 4th at St. Elizabeth's. Sign-in at 9:00am, presentation concludes at 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.

### FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAR. 25

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

### PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Please bring your old phone books to St. Elizabeth's in support of the Peninsula Stroke Recovery Centre to fund their activities such as speech therapy and guided exercise therapy.

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

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

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)

9:00am Mass

11:30am Friendly Hours

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00am Mass

10:00am Taiji Qigong

1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

9:00am Mass

11:30am Friendly Hours

2:00pm Prayer Group

6:00pm Taiji Qigong

7:00pm Reconciliation Service

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption

9:45am Children's Religious Education

10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### REMINDER FROM THE PRAYER GROUP

Our members are very willing to meet in the Chapel at St. Elizabeth's after the 5 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses with anyone who would like special prayers. Also please remember the Prayer Box on the wall in the Foyer. These petitions are written into our Intercessory Book and lifted up at our Prayer Meeting on Thursdays. Strictly confidential. Everyone is invited to the Prayer Group on Thursdays at 2pm.

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TEAM NEEDED

Lise Derzaph can no longer continue due to the demand on her time. If you wish to offer your time and talent for this ministry please call the Office.

### OBERAMMERGAU IN 2010

Due to little interest this pilgrimage tour is cancelled.

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF CHILDREN:

While the younger children (Grade 2) are continuing their two year preparation towards the sacraments of Confirmation and Communion, the older children of our program (Grades 6 to 8) are journeying together. As a group they are entering the final stage of their journey so that several of them may receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist at Pentecost. Today we welcome with great joy these children who will be 'called by name' as they were in Baptism, and will be enrolled as candidates. We have an important role to support these children and their parents, to welcome them, and to give them a stronger sense of belonging to the caring Christian community of St. Elizabeth's. Remember these children and their families, in your prayers.

## GENERAL

### 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](http://www.queeswoodvictoria.ca/retreat/call-simplicity)

### REEL SPIRITUALITY: A FILM SERIES: MAR. 31

At 2:30pm in the Fine Arts Building, UVic, Room 103. March 31 *Whale Rider* (New Zealand, 2003, 101 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### INVITATION TO PARISH MUSICIANS:

An invitation is extended to all music ministers to take part in a Diocesan Choir for the Chrism Mass to be celebrated this year on Tuesday April 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Andrew's Cathedral. Under the direction of Jackie Ray, choral director, assisted by Kathleen Edge, assistant choral director and organist.

### SALT & LIGHT CATHOLIC TELEVISION

Call and subscribe today to support Catholic programming and view inspirational stories, thought provoking documentaries that bring us closer to Christ and the Catholic Faith. Channel 160 on Shaw Cable

## WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

### 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](mailto:kaydyer@shaw.ca) for more information.

### 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 #HPHE213.