

**Pastor's corner – Holy Week 2009**

With Passion or Palm Sunday we are entering the most Holy Week of our yearly faith journey. At Christmas we celebrated that our God loves this world and us so much that he became human, vulnerable in Jesus. That feast of God's Incarnation comes to its fullest expression and meaning with the suffering and death of Jesus: the adult Jesus grown in wisdom, in the love of God freely takes up all our brokenness, our sins, our sufferings, our hopes and gives his own life so that he might free us from all that binds us. Because he was faithful to that mission God raises him up and gives us the promise of that same new life.

Each Sunday we celebrate this paschal mystery in the Eucharist. We do so in even more traditional and meaningful ways during the three-day celebration of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil), which constitute one single celebration, the most important one of Liturgical Year. Each faith group has a very special time period and some central celebrations which are considered an essential expression of its belief. For us Christians the Triduum is that central expression of our belief. When we do not participate in this three-day celebration we miss something essential.

On Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper we remember the Jewish feast of Passover, "a day of remembrance, celebrated as a festival to the Lord (Exodus 12)." We remember that Israel is God's people because God rescued Israel from death and from years of slavery. This remembrance is not only of God's action in the past but also of God's action here and now, in the life of our world. As followers of Jesus we are the new Israel, the new people of God. In the celebration of the Triduum we are celebrating our own identity through baptism as a people of God freed by God's action in Jesus who died for us so that we might be free and live, free of the burdens of sin, suffering and even death. Jesus gave himself to the fullest; he emptied himself and gave his life so that we might have life to the fullest.

On Thursday evening the symbol of Jesus' gift of himself to us is given in the gesture of Jesus who, doing the work of a slave, washes the feet of his disciples. And Jesus gives us the command: "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you (John 13:15)." In so doing Jesus invites us to become vulnerable and to see our relationships and roles as leaders not as power struggles but as ones of service to one another, examples of our willingness to serve and even lay down our own lives for each other. Jesus gives himself as nourishment and invites us to become nourishment to one another, to a world which is in such need of true and lasting nourishment.

On Good Friday we further re-member, re-connect to what God did for us in Jesus by venerating the cross, by which Jesus freed us from all bonds and chains, and by which he shared God's life with us. It is a celebration which reminds us that God stands with us, walks with us in our suffering. The suffering will not disappear but we now know that we are not alone. God is faithful to us even in our sins, God continues to walk with us, frees us from their burden and their shame each time we recognize our need for and ask for forgiveness. Jesus' example also calls us to stand and to walk with those who suffer, whether someone close to us or far away. Jesus on the cross knew that God was with him and he received strength from that. We too can be a presence. At times we may feel helpless when confronted with the terrible suffering of the poor but we can all walk with them by supporting small local projects as well as by working towards the structural changes necessary to free them from burdens and chains.

The Easter Vigil evokes the darkness which has invaded human hearts. The blessing of new fire and the lighting of the Paschal candle which spreads its light to our own proclaim Christ's victory over all darkness. The community and through us the whole world bathes in the light of Christ. Then we listen and reconnect to our salvation history leading us into the mystery of God. We bless the water, renew our baptismal promises, are nourished in the Eucharist and filled with Christ's Spirit we recommit ourselves to trust, to love, to hope and thereby be a little light in a often dark world.

Please, consider participating in these Holy Week celebrations which strengthen our faith. Shalom.

*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:** 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

## PASSION SUNDAY

### APRIL 5, 2009

Isa 50.4-7 / Phil 2.6-11 / Mk14.1-15.47

**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
March 22nd	\$2,791.50
March 29th	\$3,358.00
Share Lent (total to date)	\$2,961.98

PAD's (38 donors) \$3,020.00

### CHARITABLE DISBURSEMENTS:

We have received a Thank You letter from the following for our Parish Donations:  
The Leprosy Mission: \$375.00.

## COVENANT

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

Apr. 12 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion  
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

### GARAGE, DAHLIA & BAKE SALE: APRIL 18

At St. Stephen's, 1000 block Mt. Newton X Rd. on Saturday, Apr. 18th from 9 am -1 pm. If you would like to rent a table, call 250-652-4311.

## IN OUR PARISH

### GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL GATHERING

Let us encourage each other to come together with other Christians to carry the Cross through Sidney on Good Friday at 9:30 am from St. Andrew's Anglican Church on 4th Street. We celebrate together at 11:00 am at the Mary Winspear Center. This is an important and beautiful witness of our Christian faith.

### C.W.A. NEWS: APRIL 7

The Tuesday, April 7th meeting will be held at 1:30pm at the home of Frances Chaproniere, 7746 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton (250-652-3948).

### C.W.L. GENERAL MEETING: APRIL 8

At St. Elizabeth's at 10:30 am. All ladies welcome.

### FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: APRIL 8

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, April 8th at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY, APRIL 6

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 7

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

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

9:00am Mass  
10:00am Taiji Qigong  
10:30am CWL Meeting  
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

2:00pm Prayer Group  
7:30pm Holy Thursday Eucharist

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

3:00pm Good Friday Service

### SATURDAY, APRIL 11

9:00pm Easter Vigil

### SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption  
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### FRIENDLY HOURS

Will be closed Thursday April 9th & 14th for Easter.  
Will reopen on Thursday, April 16th.

### CALLING FOR GARDENERS

Volunteers are required to maintain the flower beds at St. Elizabeth's and Assumption. If you can help, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

## GENERAL

### THE VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS 7TH ANNUAL CONCERT: APRIL 5

Sunday, April 5th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$25 at the box office.

### ABBNEYFIELD SING-ALONG: APRIL 6

The Sunshine Singers will be leading a sing-along of Golden Oldies at Abbeyfield (10017 5th St.) on Monday, April 6th at 6:30pm. You are warmly invited to join the residents at this event.

### CHRISM MASS: APRIL 7

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Tues. April 7th at 7pm. At this Mass the oils are blessed; it also celebrates the unity between the bishop and the priests of the diocese, together with the faithful.

### 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.

### DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 29-31

All youth in grades 8-12: come to the 6th annual DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE, "FSHS Network: Live 24/7." Our special guest speaker is Mike Patin, renowned coach, teacher, and inspirational youth minister. Dates: Friday, May 29 to Sunday May 31. Place: St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. For registration info, contact your parish youth leader, or download the registration form at [www.rcdvictoria.org](http://www.rcdvictoria.org). Questions? Contact DYC Broadcast Headquarters at 250-479-1331 (ext. 232) or email [Follero@shaw.ca](mailto:Follero@shaw.ca)

### 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.

"Reflections for Lent" will be airing on Mon., April 6 and Tues., April 7 at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

## WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

### 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 7-9 pm. "Life After Loss, New Beginnings". Instructor: Instructor: Su Russell, MEd, a registered clinical counsellor. Fee \$63.00. Class #HPHE213.

## Holy Week in the Parish

### PALM SUNDAY, April 4th & 5th

Bring green or flowered branches for the procession

### TUESDAY, April 7th

7:45 am Eucharistic Adoration  
9:00 am Mass

### WEDNESDAY, April 8th

9:00 am Mass

### HOLY THURSDAY, April 9th

(No 9:00 am Mass)

### 7:30 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

St. Elizabeth's  
(bring bells for the Gloria)  
Special collection for the poor  
Following Mass – Eucharistic Adoration

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 10th

11:00 am Ecumenical Service  
Mary Winspear Centre

3:00 pm Passion of our Lord  
St. Elizabeth's

### HOLY SATURDAY, April 11th

9:00 pm Easter Vigil – St. Elizabeth's  
(Bring bells for the Gloria, flowers  
and a snack to share after)

### EASTER SUNDAY, April 12th

8:30am Mass – Our Lady of the Assumption  
10:30am Mass – St. Elizabeth's

Please bring water pitchers, large bowls and towels (between April 5th and 8th) for the Holy Thursday Celebration.

Please bring potted flowers for the Holy Thursday before Apr. 9th and for Easter before April 11th.

We also need people to help set up for the Easter Vigil on Saturday, Apr. 11th at 10am.