

One of the beautiful aspects of my ministry is when a couple comes to tell me that they would like to get married. I usually try to meet with them on several different occasions in addition to the requirement that they follow a marriage preparation course so ably given by two couples at Holy Cross. Once they have shared with me a bit of their story and how they came together I usually ask them why they wish to spend the rest of their lives together. What follows is often a revelation of what all human beings ultimately search for: happiness, support, security, unconditional acceptance and love that they find in each other. When I ask them what their faith has to do with this and why they wish to be married in the RC Church, they usually respond by expressing the importance of God in their lives. My question as to how this translates in their lives is usually met by them telling me how often they go to church! I then help them to discover that God is already present in their love for each other and that when we love one another God lives in us as **I John 4:12** tells us: "No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us." **God is already present and waits to be found.**

**Isn't that what Advent is all about? We are not just waiting. God is waiting. God is waiting to be found in the ordinary events of our lives. Advent is that wonderful time when we can renew the search for God in our lives.** Throughout the next four weeks we are invited to reflect, to search for, to rediscover the many ways in which God is already part of our lives, present in the many daily experiences no matter how seemingly insignificant they may seem to us. We are called upon to uncover the hidden God who has been present in those many past and present happenings in our lives, in the stories of our lives. We are invited to uncover the hidden God who awaits patiently for our attention when we leave church and return to our daily routine.

**The Advent wreath can be a daily reminder to us of that search for the hidden God. So, I invite you to make your own Advent wreath if you have not already done so. The evergreen signifies life; the unending circle symbolizes the never-ending love of God and the communion with each other; the candles which may adorn them are a reminder to us of the light of God which needs to be uncovered in the world.**

In a society that starts celebrating before the time has really come you might decide to hang on the door, or nearby, a simple evergreen wreath without decorations but with a purple bow rather than a red one. After all, as Christians we need to prepare ourselves spiritually for that Christmas which is not there yet; the reason for the color purple! In a way it reminds us also that we are not yet Christians, that we need our whole life to search for and become Christ-like people and that we precisely find our joy in that process of becoming!

You might wish to use the following blessing of your Advent Wreath:

"By day and by night, and through the circle of the seasons, you keep watch over us, God Most High. We praise you for this Advent wreath.

It is the evergreen crown of your royal people.

Soon it will grow bright and scatter the darkness.

Around this shining wreath we shall keep watch for your Son, our Lord Jesus the Christ, who comes to comfort our fears and to make new this waiting world.

All glory be yours, both now and for ever. Amen."

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](http://www.spparish.com)** e-mail: [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto: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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Gary Koett

**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 ADVENT

### NOVEMBER 29, 2009



Jer 33.14-16 / 1 Thess 3.12-4.2 / Lk 21.25-28, 34-36

### 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 at 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:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 3,455.00
November 1st	\$ 4,369.75
November 8th	\$ 5,674.45
November 15th	\$ 4,895.50
November 22nd	\$ 3,564.90
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00
Catholic Missions in Canada:	\$ 1,225.60

### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Let's continue to remember and pray for all of those inscribed in our Book of Remembrance.

## COVENANT

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

Dec. 6 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion  
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

## IN OUR PARISH

### C.W.L. BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

Bake Sale Saturday, Nov. 28th after the 5pm Mass.  
Bake Sale and Luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 29th after the 10:30 Mass.

### ANNUAL FUDGE SALE: DEC 5 & 6

The annual homemade fudge sale for **BIRTHRIGHT** takes place after all masses on Dec. 5 & 6. We look forward to your support.

### ADVENT JOURNEY THROUGH SONG AND REFLECTION: DEC. 11

An evening of songs and story-telling that will take you through the dark days of Advent to the humble light of Christmas. **Fri. Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm at St. Elizabeth's** featuring Noteworthy (Ray Folk, Karen Morwick, and Maureen Hertz).

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE: DEC. 17

Thursday, December 17, 7:00pm at St. Elizabeth's.

### PARISH CALENDAR NOW ONLINE

The parish calendar, showing all events that have been scheduled at St. Elizabeth's Church, can now be viewed online from the parish web site (<http://spparish.com>). Click on the "Parish Calendar Online" link on the right hand side of the home page.

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY, NOV. 30

1:00pm Memory Plus  
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

### TUESDAY, DEC. 1

9:00am Mass  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
6:30pm K of C Christmas Dinner

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

8:30am Mass (note earlier time)  
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
10:00am CWL Executive Meeting  
10:00am Taiji Qigong  
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

### THURSDAY, DEC. 3

9:00am Service of the Word (NO MASS)  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
2:00pm Prayer Group  
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

### FRIDAY, DEC. 4

9:00am Service of the Word: St. Elizabeth's (NO MASS)

### SATURDAY, DEC. 5

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, DEC. 6

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption  
9:45am Religious Education  
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### BULLETIN ASSISTANT NEEDED

We're looking for someone to assist with preparing the weekly bulletin. Time commitment: about 1 or 2 hours per week. Some experience with MS Publisher would be helpful, but not necessary. If you have any questions or are able to assist please email the office at [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca), or call Gary at 250-656-7433.

### PARISH OPPORTUNITY BOARD

On the bulletin board in the foyer are posted many wonderful opportunities to get involved in our faith community. Have a look and take the plunge!

### PARISH SURVEY FORM LAST CALL

For those who still have this task on their "To Do" list, please do your best to meet the Nov. 30 deadline to submit your responses. You may now complete and submit the electronic survey **on line** at: <http://tinyurl.com/VictoriaParishSurvey>.

### GIFTS FOR NEEDY PENINSULA CHILDREN

We are again into the Christmas season with gifts, baking & family gatherings. Remember the less fortunate - there are now more of them than ever! Please assist us to help as many as possible to know the Christmas feeling. Take a tag or two from the tree at St. Elizabeth's (two less expensive gifts doubles the number!), buy the suggested gift or something similar and return it **UNWRAPPED** with the tag attached. Our parish is known for its generosity. Gifts **MUST** be in by Dec. 13 for distribution by the Lions on Dec. 15. Many thanks and blessings to you all, Fran & Clem Tisserand

### PHILIPPINES UPDATE

Darryl Wilson who is volunteering in the Philippines sent an e-mail message to Fr. Rolf which included: "The name of the foundation (for wiring funds) is the Kalipay Negrense Foundation.... Thank you again for all of your help and support. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the on-going support of Saanich Peninsula Parish. Your generosity is so inspiring. Perhaps one day we could arrange a tour for members of the parish who are interested to go down to the Philippines to see the village and perhaps participate in building a house together. All we need is a group of 10! Blessings, Darryl!"

## GENERAL

### SACRED HEART ADVENT RETREAT: NOV. 29+

Sun. to Tues., Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Church, 4040 Nelthorpe St. Leader: Fr. Armand Nigro. Sunday's Theme: "The Mystery of God", Monday's Theme: "The Mystery of Jesus", Tuesday's Theme: "The Mystery of Church". Donations to the Sacred Heart Mission are tax receiptable.

### POINSETTIA SALE: NOV. 30

St. Andrew's High School is selling gorgeous 16-18" poinsettia plants (6" pots) for only \$10 each. Choice of red, pink or white. **Order by 9am Nov. 30th** by phoning Mrs. Paul at 250-479-1414 or order by fax at 250-479-5356. Available for pick up at 880 McKenzie Ave. on Friday, Dec. 4 at 1pm.

### NATIVITY & CRECHE DISPLAY: DEC. 2 - 6

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2210 Eastleigh Way, Sidney will have a display of over 200 creches from around the world., Wed., Dec. 2 through Fri., Dec. 4 from 1 - 9pm, Sat., Dec. 5 from 10am - 9pm, and Sun., Dec. 6 from 2 - 6pm. Admission is free, light refreshments will be served.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRAYER SERVICE:

**DEC. 4** Join our ecumenical prayer service to pray for an end to human trafficking and to increase awareness of what we can do to STOP this at home and abroad. Followed by refreshments. Friday, Dec. 4 at 7pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 785 W. Burnside Rd.

### FUNERAL SERVICES:

CARE Funeral Services has opened an office at 9787 Fourth St. between Beacon and Bevan.

### A CHORAL CELEBRATION: DEC. 4 & 5

The Allegra Singers present *A Choral Celebration* on Fri. Dec. 4 at 8pm and Sat. Dec. 5 at 2pm at the Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Ave. (near the Saanich Municipal Hall). Tickets are available at the door: Adults - \$10, Seniors/Students - \$8.

### ADVENT CANDLELIGHT CAROL CELEBRATION: DEC. 4

"As Prophets Foretold". Please join the St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir for Advent carols, readings and prayers on Fri., Dec. 4 at 7pm, Blanshard & View St., Victoria. A free will offering will be taken support the 9-10 club serving meals to those in need.

### ST. JEAN BAPTISTE PARISH BAZAAR: DEC 5 & 6

311 Richmond Avenue. Sat., Dec. 5 from 10 - 4pm and Sun., Dec. 6 from 11 - 2:30pm.

### ADVENT CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: DEC. 6

"Through Frozen Nights We Wait". St. Paul's United Church, 2410 Malaview Ave. is hosting an Advent Service of Candlelight & Hope on Sun. Dec. 6 at 7pm. It is an evening of music with the St. Paul's Choir accompanied by Maria VanderHoek in Cello and guest poet, Barbara Colebrook Peace. Admission by donation.

## WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

**QUEENSWOOD** 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria:

- **Christian faith and prayer for Advent:** Advent Contemplative Retreat, Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.
- **Living in the Light:** An evening for those who grieve, Thu. Dec. 3 at 7pm.
- **Annual Queenswood Christmas dinner and concert:** Sun. Dec. 6 (meal 5pm, concert 7pm)
- **Forgive and Be Free:** Dec. 11-13

See [www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca](http://www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca), call 477-3822 or e-mail [info@queenswoodcentre.com](mailto:info@queenswoodcentre.com) for info.