

Pastor's corner – February 14, 2010

*Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor".
(Luke 6:17, 20-26)*

This Sunday's Gospel is from Luke's version of the Beatitudes different from those found in Matthew; both versions are there for us so that we may be lifted out of the gloom of daily happenings in order to point us at the incredible beauty of God's possible life in and among us, to point us at what we are capable of as co-creators with God of a world of true justice and wholeness of peace. Notice how Jesus in Luke speaks while "standing on a level place". Jesus is at our level; he is not distant from those who need him. We can reach out to him and touch him; we look to him for guidance in our sometimes dark and weighty world.

The reign of God belongs to the poor and to those persecuted for the sake of justice. We live in a world of war and conflict in which peacemakers are not always appreciated. I am not talking about the UN blue-bereted peacekeepers from many different armed forces who are trying to keep the peace in tense-filled areas of the world. I am talking about those individuals who try and see both sides of a conflict. A good example today is the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians which all too often is seen in our country as black and white, pro-Israeli or anti-semitic! Just see how our government handled the Kairos affair!

Jesus in the beatitudes is challenging us to use every opportunity to meet hatred with love -- just like the prophets and saints. The poor have much to teach us in that regard. They know that the systems which treat most of us well, have failed them and therefore they do not put their faith in these cultural "idols", but in God.

The parish bulletin of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh N. C., published the following "Beatitudes of Peace, spoken contrary to the words of war that come so easily to our culture. If we follow these guideposts, hear this encouragement, and live them faithfully, the Gospel teaches us that the God of peace is alive and at work among us -- giving us God's reign, God's consolation, God's creation, God's mercy, God's face and the face of Jesus." (Adapted from an article: *The Beatitudes of Peace* By John Dear SJ).

Blessed are you poor in spirit, you humble and powerless. Keep going. Don't be discouraged by your poverty. The reign of God is yours.

Blessed are you who mourn the victims of war & hunger. Keep going. You will be consoled.

Blessed are you meek and gentle and non-violent. Inherit the earth and enjoy the blessing of creation.

Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for justice. Don't give up. You will be satisfied. "Justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." (Amos 5:24)

Blessed are you merciful. Keep showing mercy in a merciless world. Forgive everyone. Be compassionate to everyone. Show mercy to everyone. Mercy will be yours.

Blessed are you pure in heart. Keep going. Be filled with the light of peace, and see Christ in the poor, in the enemy, in one another.

Blessed are you who make peace. Keep on going. Speak out for peace. Pray and fast for peace. Actively lobby for nuclear disarmament. Become who you are, the sons and daughters of the God of peace.

Blessed are you persecuted for justice. Keep going. Don't give up. You stand on the shoulders of Jesus, Aung San Suu Kyi, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Dorothy Day and many others, and your reward will be great!

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Co-Chairs, Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am.

Daily on Tuesdays (9am), Wednesdays (8:30am),

Thursdays (9am), and First Fridays (9am).

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home.

See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.



"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God."
Lk 6:20

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 17.5-8 / 1 Cor 15.12, 16-20 / Lk 6.17, 20-26

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 the 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
Feb. 7: \$ 4,777.39
Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00

Haiti Relief: \$ 12,764.59 (*)

(*) Sent in time to meet government deadline for matching the donation (i.e. the above amount will be doubled) !

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

LENTEN RETREAT: MAR. 7 - 10

Fr. Armand Nigro will be giving a Lenten Retreat from Sun. Mar. 7 to Wed. Mar. 10 at St. Elizabeth's. Five themes will be discussed:

- The Mystery of God
- The Mystery of Jesus
- The Mystery of Church
- The Mystery of Divine Life, Grace
- The Mystery of our personal freedom inviting us to partnership

Additional info (including the times) can be found on the poster in the foyer.

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEB. 17

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat, when we receive the ashes and begin our Lenten Journey. Masses are at 9am and 7pm. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration that day. Bring your children.

APOLOGIES

Please, accept my apology for the inappropriate wording in last weekend's intercession prayers. In the rush they were copied from a 1977 book "Prayers of the Faithful" which still used old terminology. Fr. Rolf

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Please pick up your Lifestyle Awareness Calendar after mass to be prepared for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wed. (Feb. 17). This year the calendar has activities for families with small children.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, FEB. 15

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm Knights of Columbus

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17 (ASH WEDNESDAY)

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:30pm St. Vincent De Paul Meeting
7:00pm Mass

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

9:00am Mass in Legion Manor,
7601 East Saanich
1:30pm Writer's Group

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

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

ANAWIM AUNTS OUTREACH PROJECT

Anawim Aunts is supporting St. Vincent de Paul's outreach in downtown Victoria with toiletry kits. We are looking for deodorants, toothbrushes and washcloths. This would be a good way to use up your Optimum points from Shopper's Drug Mart! Other items being collected are small liquid hand washing soaps, pocket size packets of Kleenex and small chocolate or granola bars. Thanks for your ongoing support.

K OF C PASTA NIGHT: FEB. 26

Tickets are \$10 each or \$25 / family. Support a great cause and enjoy pasta and an evening of fun and visiting.



EUCCHARISTIC HOME VISITORS WANTED !!!

Every week, our Parish makes a visit to the homes of parishioners who are unable to come to our weekend celebrations due to disability, age, sickness, etc. On Thursday mornings our home visitors visit these parishioners to give them Communion, and also to provide a social visit. This social visit is most important, as it may be the only visit they receive during the week, and this is their only connection with our Parish. Currently we visit 15 homes.

We have a great team of visitors who do a Eucharistic visit once per month. Our home visitors are very dedicated to this Ministry, however some of them have been doing this for several years and would like to be relieved due to other commitments. We are looking for some new visitors. Commitment: to do Eucharistic visits once a month on a Thurs. morning.

This is a very worthwhile Ministry, since these home-bound parishioners are usually so very happy to see you, both to receive Communion and to have a social visit. If you would like to become a home visitor, or would like more information, contact Gene Dizey at 250-656-0572 or email gedizy@shaw.ca.

GENERAL

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SESSION: MAR. 6

To encourage catholic family life, training in the practice of NFP Billings Ovulation Method will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Sat. Mar. 6 from 10am - 3pm. Lunch is provided and child minding can be arranged. The Diocese seeks to train couples as instructors in NFP throughout the island. For more info call Fr. Dean Henderson at 250-882-2151 or email catholic@uvic.ca before Mar. 1.

WOMEN - A TIME JUST FOR YOU!

Sacred Heart Parish is hosting a series of presentations to address Mind, Body and Spirit for women, offering a professional presentation of relaxation and nourishment for all three areas of our being. Take some precious time for yourself!

- Sat. Feb. 20: "Body Balance" with Paula McFadyen MA, certified exercise therapist.
- Sat. Feb. 27: "Breathing/Meditation/Yoga" with Kirsten Pearce, certified yoga instructor.
- Sat. Mar. 6: "Spiritual Connections" with Sr. Patricia Shreenan, S.S.A. (many credentials!)

All sessions are from 10:30am to noon. Cost: \$10 per Saturday, or \$25 for all three days. Tickets are available from Sacred Heart Parish at 250-479-1116 (Monday - Thursday, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm).

INVITATION FROM ST. STEPHEN'S: FEB. 16

To: Our Lady of the Assumption. We are pleased to extend this invitation to our "neighbours" to join us for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 6:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church Hall. We are very proud of the special covenant with our Catholic friends and hope that many of you will be able to join us. Blessings to all.

NOTE: If you plan to attend please RSVP to St. Stephen's at 250-652-4311 or email ststephens1862@shaw.ca.

TAIZE: FEB. 19 & MAR 19

Prayer and music in the style of Taize. Let us enter together into the mystery of God's presence. Fri. Feb. 19 and Fri. Mar. 19, 6pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 1273 Fort St.

THINKFAST YOUTH FUNDRAISER: FEB. 27

From Sat. Feb. 27 11am to Sun. Feb. 28 12pm at St. Andrew's Catholic Elementary School. "Working for global justice - making a difference". Youth in grades 7 to 12 are invited to take part in a 25 hour fast to raise funds and bring awareness to issues of social justice. What - Abstaining from food! LOTS of games and activities, and LOTS of water!!! Solidarity meal will be provided at 12pm Sunday. For information on how to register contact Nancy Stuart at nancy-stuart@shaw.ca

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

TAKING CARE OF THE CAREGIVER: FEB. 25

Recognizing Stress in Ministry & Applying Self-Care. Thu. Feb. 25, 9:30am - 3pm at Colwood Pentecostal Church, 2250 Sooke Rd, Victoria. Presenter: Pastor Jim Caruso. Cost: \$30. Registration deadline: Fri. Feb. 19. For more information call 250-478-7113 or email office@colwoodchurch.com.

FREE LECTURE SERIES: FEB. 26

"A Church for the 21st Century: The Spirit of Vatican II in Our Time" sponsored by UVic Centre for Studies in Religion & Society:

- Fri. Feb. 26, 7:30pm in the UVic David Strong Building, Rm C103. Speaker: Donna Geemaert, Sisters of Charity, Halifax. Theme: "Vatican II: A Call to Unity and Renewal".