

Dear Parents and Catechists,

Please fill in and send back the attached permission form regarding who may or may not pick up your child in the event an earthquake should occur while your child is attending Religious Education.

We now have earthquake emergency supplies in the course 2 classroom. Our kit contains foil blankets, water, snacks, and plastic bags (which may be used as a poncho) for each child.

We are currently working on putting together kits for our whole parish. In the spring we will have a member from Provincial Emergency Preparedness speak to the parish on Earthquake Preparedness – “Be prepared – Not scared”.

As a result of all the media attention around earthquakes this past month, it seems appropriate to send an email to all parents regarding what to do in an earthquake and how to best prepare for one. This note is not intended to alarm you but to inform you so you are aware of what to do before, during and after an earthquake. (Special thanks to David Witzer for providing the background information for this note.)

If you have any questions, please call Lynn at **652-2543** or Els at **656-5888** or you may email me at lynn@sparish.com.

May the peace and love of Jesus be with you and your families.

Lynn and Els

Southwestern BC experiences a magnitude 7.0 earthquake every fifty to sixty years. The last one occurred in 1946. A mega thrust earthquake of magnitude 9.0 or greater occurs every 300-800 years. We have passed the 300 year mark. Nearly 10,000 earthquake events occur worldwide every year, including four this morning that were all Magnitude 5.0 or higher. Preparation for events like this will help us survive such disasters.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Remember to DUCK, COVER & HOLD. Protect yourself from falling debris or flying objects by getting under a desk or table and holding on. The desk may move and you want to be under it. If there's no cover, kneel against a wall and protect your head and neck. Avoid doorways; the door may slam shut and cause injuries. Move away from windows, glass partitions, tall furniture, and bookcases.

If you are at work, stay under your desk and count to sixty before emerging. When you do emerge, LOOK UP first. The shaking and gravity may have brought lighting fixtures and other sharp objects down from their normal position which could pose a threat to you.

After an earthquake, DO NOT EVACUATE THE BUILDING unless you are directed to do so. Stay inside the building unless it's obviously damaged. Prepare for aftershocks. Make your way cautiously and carefully to the safest, nearest exit.

OUTSIDE

If you're outside, it's better to be in an open space than near trees or overhead wires. Stay in a vehicle unless you're on a bridge or in a tunnel.

FAMILY CONTACTS

Arrange with your family or friends to designate an out-of-province contact for everyone to call. It may be possible to phone long distance even if local phone and cell networks are down. Limit use of phones and length of conversations to help keep phone networks from becoming overloaded.

AFTER THE QUAKE

Experts predict that there will be three feet of glass on downtown streets, that bridges will collapse, and that some buildings, especially older brick and stone ones, will crumble. The attached photos show some of the damage sustained in a recent, relatively minor Seattle quake. Those emergency personnel who can get through will be dealing with fires, electrical problems, flooding, and major accidents. Main roads designated as Disaster Routes may be closed to ordinary traffic and reserved for emergency vehicles only, so we need to be prepared to stay in the office, or wherever we are.

EMERGENCY BAGS

Everyone should have emergency bags at work, in the car and at home. See the information links below for suggestions of the contents. Some items you should have are dust masks, food, water, a flashlight, warm clothing, quarters (pay phones will be the first to be back in service) medications, and prescriptions. If drugstores are open and you can get to them, pharmacists won't sell drugs without a prescription.

MORE INFORMATION

The following web sites are also helpful:

The BC provincial site: <http://www.pep.bc.ca/>

PEP Emergency Supplies Checklist http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Supplies2002.pdf

PEP Preparedness manual:

[http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual.pdf](http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Earthquake_and_Tsunami_Smart_Manual.pdf)

PEP Earthquake Information and geological statistics:

http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Earthquake_Information.html

BC road conditions and closures: <http://www.drivebc.ca/>

BC Hydro Outages and Status: <http://www.bchydro.com/bch-cgi/outage/outage.cgi?selDistrict=Vancouver%20Island&refresh=on>

Saanich Emergency Shelters and information:

<http://www.saanich.ca/resident/safety/prep/shelter.html>

Permission to Pick Up

Child's Name:

Persons Permitted To Pick Up:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Never To Pick Up:

Parent Name: