

## Pastor's corner – Ascension and Pentecost 2019

There are a number of feast days which we celebrate with wonderful music, great liturgies, good food and great company, and great joy and peace. We can all name them: Christmas, New Year's, Easter, the baptism, confirmation and First Eucharist of our children/grandchildren. And then there are those other feast days which in our consumer world take on ever greater dimensions: Valentine's, Halloween, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, etc. All these feast days are celebrated with their holidays, their gifts and cards, with special flowers and balloons, specialized food, etc. Well, there is another very important and great feast day which so far has escaped the consumer mentality but which for us Christians is really as great a feast day as are Christmas and Easter: Yes, Pentecost! Just as Christmas would have no meaning without Easter and vice versa, so the Ascension and Pentecost are an inevitable outcome of Christmas and Easter. They are all linked and important and we are invited to celebrate them in great joy.

Easter was the celebration of the highlight of our faith: in Jesus God became flesh and lived within our human existence. Jesus tried to tell us who God is for us. Jesus' whole life, his words and his actions revealed to all of humanity the incomprehensible, illogical and irrepressible love of God for all of humanity. In Jesus, we learned that God loves us as brother, as father, as sister, as mother. God's love, God's mercy and healing, God's wisdom and strength became real, became flesh in Jesus and were present in our midst. And all this so that Jesus might by his suffering and death free us from all that binds and oppresses us and bring us "home" to God. At the feast of the Ascension we celebrate that the Christ event came full circle and that the risen Lord, born the vulnerable babe in Bethlehem, has gone home to God and glory after a full life of joys and pains, struggles and hopes. **The feast of the Ascension is a reminder to us that we too are destined to go home and live in the glory of God, so that we might become sharers in God's divinity.**

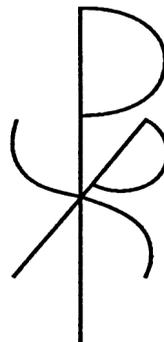
Jesus the anointed one needed to leave us. Why? Well, Jesus himself gives us a response. In the Gospel of John Jesus will say that he has lost nothing of what the Father had given him. Jesus is not returning to God and glory empty-handed! Jesus has taken with him everything that is ours. He has taken **US** with him because he loved us so intensely, so closely that we could not possibly be separated from him! God remains close to the ones he loves, to all of us. How? By the gift of the Holy Spirit: **"It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him/her to you (John 16:7-8)." This Spirit God is already in us!**

It took a while for the first disciples of Jesus to understand that the physical presence of Jesus in their lives would continue with the greatest gift that Jesus could give them: the Spirit of God which had encouraged him in his life and which raised him from death. At first they were frightened, confused at the loss of their beloved Jesus but then God again took the initiative and the gift of the Spirit overpowered their fear and paralysis and empowered them to become messengers of the good news by their words and actions. The power of the Spirit had no limits in them and now in us.

Yes, the Spirit is here in us and yet not fully here. When Jesus' Spirit is in us, then we are the Lord's and he is ours. And yet, there is still the pain of waiting for the Spirit's fulfillment in eternal life, the pain of hope not completely fulfilled, the pain of a pilgrimage not ended. But we do not look up toward heaven or to the future like the men of Galilee in **Acts 1:10**: "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" We are called to keep our eyes fixed on the present. We are called in our daily lives to make real among us the "first fruits" of the gift of the Spirit in us. **Karl Rahner** in his book "The Content of Faith" tried to explain this paradox of the already here and the not yet by writing: "When the Spirit performs the miracle of faithfulness and courage in our poor lives from day to day, there is the Spirit of Christ. And where the Spirit of Christ is present, the true festival of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated."

Let us today pray that we may come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism and renewed especially at Pentecost. Already described in **Isaiah 11:2-3**, these **seven gifts of the Holy Spirit** are later described by Saint Ambrose as poured out on a believer at baptism and confirmation as being: **Spirit of Wisdom; Spirit of Understanding; Spirit of Counsel; Spirit of Strength/courage, Spirit of Knowledge; Spirit of Godliness/reverence; Spirit of Holy Fear/ awe and wonder.** Let us pray that we may once more receive these seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and that our daily lives may bear it's fruits in our world, described in **Galatians 5: 22-23** as being: **"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."**

- Shalom! Fr. Rolf, OP



# Saanich Peninsula Parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Parish office: 10030 Third St, Sidney

Phone: 250-656-7433

Email: [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Pastor: Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

Email: [rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org)

Mailing address: 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3

Rectory: 250-652-1557

Web site: [www.spparish.com](http://www.spparish.com)

Parish Office Coordinator: Melanie Ehrlich

Parish Council Chair: Mary McGovern

### SUNDAY EUCHARIST at ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

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

### at OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30 am

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Daily at St. Elizabeth's: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

Third Friday: 9:00 am at the Legion Manor, 7601 East Saanich Road, Saanichton

Last Friday: 11:00 am in the Chapel at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Remaining Fridays: 9:00 am in a private home (for location see "This Week in Our Parish" ...)

**RECONCILIATION** at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

## JUNE 2, 2019 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Luke 24:46-53



## JUNE 9, 2019 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7,

12-13

John 20:19-23



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Need donation envelopes? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## IN OUR PARISH COLLECTION

May .....	\$ 12,979
Pre-Authorized Debits (May) .....	\$ 5,160
Monthly Target .....	\$ 25,000
May 26 (Pope's Pastoral Works) .....	\$ 1,159

Can you spare a few hours a week to visit the lonely and sick? If so, we need you especially for the summer! The goal of the



"Ministry of the Sick and Shut-ins" is that pastoral care is extended to those who are sick and homebound

so that they feel "connected" to our faith community. If you need more information or if you are even considering joining this very rewarding ministry, Please contact: Fatima at 250-656-8863, [bfwarner@shaw.ca](mailto:bfwarner@shaw.ca) or Parish Office.

### CWL LUNCHEON: JUNE 4

All CWL members are invited to a luncheon on Tuesday, June 4, 1 pm at The Roost (East Saanich & McTavish). Meet at St. Elizabeth's at 12:30 pm for car pool to the restaurant.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Angelic voices wishing to sing at the 10:30 mass are looking for a leader and conductor. If you can help, please, contact the office (656-7433).

### CALLING YOUTH \* SINGING/ACTING!

Fr. Rolf is celebrating his 50th Ordination of Priesthood on Friday July 12, 2019. Wow! That was back in 1969...The internet wasn't even invented yet!! LOL!

We invite the Parish Youth to participate by singing a couple of songs and participating in a short skit to be acted out by a couple of the youth. It's gonna be a lot of fun! If you would like to be involved in the celebration, please let Melanie at the office know asap! Practices start on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> after 10:30 mass (for about an hour).



### BURSARIES AVAILABLE

There are several bursaries available through the following Diocesan link: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/bursaries>. Our parish has also bursaries available; contact the office or Fr Rolf at 250-656-7433.

## NEXT 2 WEEKS IN OUR PARISH

### MONDAY, JUNE 3 & 10

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
11:30 am Friendly Hours Luncheon  
1:00 pm CWL Luncheon (June 4)  
2:00 pm SVDP Conference Mtg. (June 4)  
7:30 pm K of C Executive Mt. (June 4)

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 & 12

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
10:00 am Taiji Qigong  
2:00 pm CWL Executive Mt. (June 5)  
6:00 pm Parish Council (June 5)

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6 & 13

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
11:30 am Friendly Hours Luncheon  
2:00 pm Prayer Group  
6:00 pm Taiji Qigong

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7 & 14

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's (June 7)  
10:00 am Mass at the home of Gerarda Ten-Have (June 14)

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8 & 15

4:00 pm Confessions  
5:00 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, JUNE 9 & 16

8:30 am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption  
10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship  
11:30 am Samahan Fellowship (June 16)

### CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Family Camp is from Aug. 22-25 at Nanoose Bay Camp!**

You and your family will return energized and alive in your faith do not miss out. This weekend is sure to strengthen your family's connection with Christ, with one another, and with other families! **ALL FAMILIES** are invited to enjoy this weekend full of fellowship, faith and fun! For more info.: and/or to register please email [familycamp@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:familycamp@rcdvictoria.org)

### FAITH REFLECTION

The Faith Reflection ministry, which meets on Mondays will begin its summer break and resume on Sept. 16.

### FR. ROLF'S 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY: JULY 12

2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Fr. Rolf's Ordination! To celebrate this milestone, a party will be held at St. Elizabeth's on Friday July 12, 2019. **SIGN UP TO PARTY**



Please sign up in the lobby if you will be attending Fr. Rolf's special day so that our planning committee can gauge how many guests will be in attendance. Let them know if you are able to bring a dish (portions enough to feed 4-6 people).

**GIFT:** If you wish to contribute to Fr. Rolf's gift, please drop off your contribution (Cash or Cheque) in the Box located in the lobby starting May 26th. Make cheques payable to "Saanich Peninsula Parish" and write "Fr. Rolf's Anniversary" in the memo section!

**DID YOU KNOW** that Fr. Rolf was born in Pematang Siantar, Sumatra, Indonesia and later emigrated from Holland to Canada in 1955.

### PENTECOST PARTY: JUNE 9

Island prayer groups will mark the birthday of the Catholic Church Sunday, June 9, with a Pentecost party at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker church in Victoria. The celebration includes praise, music, prayer, fellowship, refreshments, and a craft table for children. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken. For more information call 250-477-4700

### MT. ST. MARY'S SPRING FAIR: JUNE 8

You are invited to Mt. St. Mary Hospital's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fair on Sat., June 8 from 10am – 3pm at 861 Fairfield Rd. This FREE celebration includes a BBQ, free cake at 2pm, and the annual Mac & Cheese Cook-Off featuring Country Grocer's Chef Michael Williams, and teams from Vista 18, Toque Catering, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Suites Victoria, and Camosun College Culinary Students. \$8 cards to taste their creations are available between 11am – 1:30pm.

All funds raised supports Mt. St. Mary Hospital's Room to Care campaign. For more information, or to donate to the bake sale, please contact Jane at [jbowers@Mountstmary.ca](mailto:jbowers@Mountstmary.ca) or 250-480-3138.

### AGM:THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND:JUNE 27

The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island welcomes everyone to their AGM to be held on Thurs., June 27, 4 pm at St. Edward's, Duncan.

### 500 YEARS OF ENGLISH CHURCH MUSIC

**Sat., June 8** at 8pm, Christ Church Cathedral. Marking his 10th year as Music Director, Peter Butterfield conducts the Victoria Philharmonic Choir in classics of the English choral tradition, from coronations to royal weddings, and Renaissance polyphony to the great anthems by Stanford, Howells, Vaughan Williams and more, with Cathedral organist Donald Hunt. There's even a chance for the audience to join in the singing. Tickets: \$30 / \$20 student, free for children under 13, from Ivy's Bookshop, Munro's Books, Tanners Books, the Cathedral office, and online at [vpchoir.ca](http://vpchoir.ca)

### PENINSULA LADIES CHOIR CONCERT

**Sat. June 15th** at St. Elizabeth's Church, 2pm to 3pm Tickets: \$10/adults, free to anyone 15 and under. Tickets are at the door (cash). Come out and enjoy and sign along to the fun pop songs from this lovely group of ladies on the Peninsula! This is their first public concert debut and they would love to have your support and attendance!

### POPE FRANCIS—QUOTES

*"Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right."*

*"A Christian is never bored or sad. Rather the one who loves Christ is full of joy and radiates joy."*

*"Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent."*

*"We cannot be "backseat Christians" or couch-potato Christians", cozy in our comfort zones— the Lord always wants us to move forward, forward, forward, and not to take refuge in a comfortable, quiet life."*