

Pastor's Corner - 17 April 2011 - Holy Week

With Passion or Palm Sunday we are entering today the most Holy Week of our yearly faith journey. At Christmas we celebrated the fact that our God loves this world and us so much that he became human and vulnerable in Jesus. That feast of God's Incarnation comes now to its fullest expression and meaning with the suffering and death of Jesus: the adult Jesus grown in wisdom and 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. And because he was faithful to that mission God raises him up and gives us the promise of that same resurrection to new life.

Every 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 and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night), which constitute one single solemn celebration, the most important one of our Liturgical Year and one which we should try and attend.

On **Holy Thursday** at the Mass of the Lord's Supper we remember first 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 this world of ours. 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.

The symbol of Jesus' gift of himself to us is given in the gesture of Jesus who 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 fundamentally ones of service to one another, examples of our willingness to serve and even lay down our lives. Jesus gives himself as nourishment and invites us to become nourishment to one another, to a world which is such need of true and lasting nourishment.

On **Good Friday** without an opening song we continue to 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 continues to walk with us, God is faithful to us even in our sins, frees us from their burden and their shame each time we recognize our need for and ask for forgiveness. Jesus' example 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. Once more, there is no dismissal at the end because the celebration of the Lord's pasch is not yet finished. We wait for the beginning of the third day in fasting and in prayer.

On **Saturday evening** we begin a night watch, a night of vigil for the Lord. The night evokes all the darkness that covers the earth and invades human hearts. We bless the new fire, light the candle, proclaim Christ victor over all darkness and light of the world. Gently but persistently the light spreads. In the Liturgy of the Word we listen to the story of our salvation history; we watch, wait, pray and reflect on the mystery of God. The stories of these seven readings are our stories. We recognize our need to be plunged into the water and to be made again into the prophetic people of God called to proclaim God's word and to witness to the hope which is ours. Called to be servants we live out our daily lives in service to others.

Please, consider participating in these beautiful 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 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan (Co-Chairs)



EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.
Daily on Tuesdays (8:30 am), Wednesdays and
Thursdays (9 am), and First Fridays (9 am).

RECONCILIATION AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton
Sundays at 8:30 am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am

Remaining Fridays at 9 am in a private home.

(See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.)

APRIL 17, 2011

PASSION SUNDAY



Isa 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66

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 ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 4,240
April 3:	\$ 4,184
April 10:	\$ 4,663
Share Lent:	\$ 2,636
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

IN OUR PARISH

We welcome into our faith community in Baptism:

- Peyton Siah, child of Katie and Brian
- Colton Morris, child of Cecilia and Ryan
- Kingston Williams, child of Chalia and Justin

We offer condolences to the families and pray for the repose of the souls of:

- Theresa Smith
- Nora Tom

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: APR. 18, 7 pm
Stations of the Cross at St. Elizabeth's at 7 pm.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP EASTER BREAK
The group will take a break, resuming on May 2.

FRIENDLY HOURS BREAK

Friendly Hours will be closed on April 21, 26 & 28 for Easter, and will start up again on Tues, May 3.

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER & DANCE: MAY 6

On Friday, May 6, doors open 6:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's. A great family night out! Music by "Mad Hatters". For tickets or information call Aida Follero at 250-544-1704.

K of C ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: MAY 14

at St. Elizabeth's Church on Sat. May 14 from 8 am to 2 pm. You can drop off your saleable donations at the church on Thursday or Friday (May 12/13). Please note that all donations must be inspected before being accepted. For more info contact Gord at 250-652-4379.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

	MONDAY, APRIL 18
1:00pm	Memory Plus
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
	TUESDAY, APRIL 19
8:30am	Mass
9:00am	Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am	Friendly Hours
7:00pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary
7:30pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
9:00am	Mass
10:00am	Taiji Qigong
1:30pm	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
	HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 21
9:00am	No Mass
2:00pm	Prayer Group
6:00pm	Taiji Qigong
7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 22
3:00pm	Passion of Our Lord
	SATURDAY, APRIL 23
4 - 4:30pm	Reconciliation / confessions
5:00pm	No Mass at St. Elizabeth's
9:30pm	Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth's
	EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24
8:30am	Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
10:30am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's

VISION TV PROGRAMS: APR. 18 & 19

The National Catholic Mission 2011, "*The Heart of the Matter*" will be broadcast on VISION TV (channel 107) on Mon. Apr. 18 & Tue., Apr. 19 both at 4pm and repeated at 7pm. The theme is Reconciliation (with members of our church, our families, our society, our world and ultimately the reconciliation of humanity with God).

SMART GUY COMPUTER SERVICES

A parishioner in good standing, presently unemployed offers computer related services. Call Ray Ehrlich at 250-886-0858. 15% discount for seniors.

OLD PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

In order to assist the Peninsula Stroke Recovery Centre fund their activities, please drop off your old phone books at St. Elizabeth's Church, or for pick up call Lissen Lockwood at 250-656-1568 or 250-216-6696.

IN OUR DIOCESE

CHRISM MASS: APR. 19

On Tue. Apr. 19 at 7 pm Bishop Richard Gagnon will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.

ANNUAL PASSION PROCESSION: APR. 22

On Fri. Apr. 22 join us for the 25th annual procession following a large wooden cross through downtown Victoria. The procession will leave Pioneer Square at Quadra & Rockland at 9 am, returning at approx. 10:15 am. For more info call Ted at 250-477-6068 or Chris at 250-360-1414 (evenings).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND GOOD

FRIDAY MEDITATIONS: APR. 22

Fri. Apr. 22 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 7921 St. Stephen's Lane, Saanichton, beginning in the Hall at 10:00 am. All welcome!

DIVINE MERCY: MAY 10

St. Andrew's Cathedral (at the parish centre) is offering a four week course on Tuesdays from May 10 - 31, 7 - 9 pm on *Divine Mercy - St. Faustina*. Facilitator, Peter Jones, A.Th. To register for this free course, call 250-388-5571 or email standrewscathedral@gmail.com.

GENERAL

VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: SUN. APR. 17

Via Choralis presents Nicholas Fairbank's *Sea Cantata* & Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* at 2:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's. Tickets: \$20: adults, \$10 for 18 and under available at the door. For more information see www.viachoralis.ca.

EARTH LITERACIES PROGRAMS: APR. 28

Conversations on the New Cosmology: Thurs Apr. 28 from noon - 1:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$10. With Bill Wilson, SJ PhD. Location: Friend's Meeting House, 1831 Fern St, Victoria.

PENINSULA SINGERS CONCERTS

Concerts will be on:

- Friday, April 29 at 7:30 pm;
- Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 pm;
- Sunday, May 1 at 2 pm

at Mary Winspear Centre. Proceeds to local charities! Tickets: adults - \$20, children - \$10, available at Mary Winspear.

HOLY WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, April 18

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

TUESDAY, April 19

8:30 am - Mass, then Eucharistic Adoration

WEDNESDAY, April 20

9:00 am - Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, April 21

(No 9:00 am Mass)

7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Bring bells for the Gloria;
Special collection for the poor
Following Mass - Eucharistic Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY, April 22

3:00 pm - Passion of our Lord Service

HOLY SATURDAY, April 23

(No 5:00 pm Mass)

4:00 pm - Confessions

9:30 pm - Easter Vigil

(Bring bells, flowers, and a snack to share after)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 24

8:30 am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption

10:30 am Mass - St. Elizabeth's

EASTER MONDAY, April 25

9:00 am - Mass

Please bring large water pitchers, large bowls and towels between April 17 - 20 for the Holy Thursday Celebration.
Please bring potted flowers for Holy Thursday and Easter, or make a donation for the purchase of flowers. Place your donation in an envelope marked FLOWERS.