

Pastor's corner - September 11, 2011 - Forgiveness is an act of life

As we remember today the tenth anniversary of the terrible disaster of 9/11 we are invited to reflect on the Gospel readings which come at this time from **Chapter 18 in Matthew**. Matthew has Jesus teach his disciples and us about the quality of our community life. **Jesus describes the qualities which should characterize those who belong to his community, those who call themselves Christians, Christ-like.** Jesus saw the importance of a community who would live in a way which would show outsiders, non-believers, non-Christians, that he was with them with His Spirit. Jesus had not preached for three years to tell individuals that they were saved. No, being Christ-like was meant for the whole community.

In our Western world of the "I" and "me" we are tempted to live our Christian lives by ourselves: pray our own prayers and do our best to help others, and then we will have our reward in heaven! Neat and simple! What is wrong with that? Nothing really, except that "it ain't Christian!" Jesus did not want us to be stay-at-home individual believers, doing good. Jesus wanted us to continue as his community after he left, worshiping together and together going into the world living daily lives that proclaim his name to others: yes, to be a light on the lamp stand, a city built on a hilltop. **If we truly believe in a God-with-us, the Emmanuel; if we truly celebrate at each Eucharist the real presence of Christ as nourishment, then we take to heart the words of Jesus: "do this in memory of me." We become God's real presence in the way we live. What better way for a community to point to Jesus and to be a beacon of light, than to reach out to others and to practice forgiveness.**

In the Matthew 18 the same pattern is repeated: a saying by Jesus, followed by a parable, and Jesus closes with a reference to the will of God. **Matthew in this way joins two of Jesus' main concerns: the responsibility of discipleship and the search for the will of God.**

In **18:10-14** Jesus advises his followers that they and we should protect the least, the poorest, the most vulnerable in the community; that they and we must even reach out to find any members who are lost or who have drifted away. "So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these should be lost."

In **18:15-20** Jesus advises us to do everything to keep someone within the community including bringing the person to see their wrong ways, their sins. Only after everything was tried and a person did not change could a person be expelled, which meant that a person was effectively dead: without a community one had no network, no support, no hope. So, a very important aspect of community life for Jesus is the need for recognition of needed change, forgiveness and reconciliation.

In **18:21-35** Jesus continues this important teaching that **forgiveness, not retaliation, is truly a sign of his community, because forgiveness, and the patience and humility which go with it, unifies a community, strengthens the bond between the members of the community.** We see this in the community which is the family. We see it in those cultures, including our own native cultures, where there is an emphasis on mutual responsibility. **Forgiveness is an act of true courage as well as an act of non-violence. In forgiving we choose to break the cycle of violence; we refuse to seek revenge for a wrong done. Mahatma Gandhi:** "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of humankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction." **Ben Sirach** in 28:2: "Forgive your neighbor the wrong that is done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray." The one forgiven and the one who forgives are both set free. **St. Dominic:** "The seed hoarded dies, while the seed sown bears much fruit. When forgiveness is hoarded, it dies. When it is shared with others it bears much fruit."

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.sparish.com** e-mail: sparish@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.)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

24th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sir 27.30-28.7 / Rom 14.7-9 / Mt 18.21-35



Forgive your brother or sister from your heart.
Mt 18:35

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:

August 28:	\$ 3,950
September 4:	\$ 3,564
PAD's (August monthly total):	\$ 4,490
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

IN OUR PARISH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 18 AT NOON

We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the soul of:

Theresa Ouellette

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes will be starting on Sun, Oct. 2. Our new religious education coordinator is Melanie Maya-Ehrlich. This year will be an exciting time in our parish as some of the children **together with their parents** will be preparing for Confirmation and First Communion. We are accepting registration for children aged 7 to 15 years old.

Registration forms will be available in the foyer after mass at St. Elizabeth's, and online at tinyurl.com/spp-re-reg-2011. The registration fee is \$25 per student up to a maximum of \$50 per family. The classes start at 9:45 am on Sunday, beginning with a brief gathering in the church and will run until 11:00 am when the children (and any adults accompanying them) will enter the church to join the congregation immediately following the homily. Please submit your registration as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie at 250-656-8141 or melanie@spparish.com.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, SEPT. 12

1:00pm Memory Plus

TUESDAY, SEPT. 13

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14

9:00am **No Mass (Service of the Word)**
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

9:00am Mass at the Legion Manor,
7601 E. Saanich Rd.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

4 - 4:30pm **Reconciliation**
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Coffee Fellowship
12:00pm Annual General Meeting

See online calendar at www.spparish.com for latest changes (click "**View Parish Calendar**").

OVARIAN CANCER WALK OF HOPE: SEPT. 11

Fatima Warner from our parish and her sister Susan Ropchan will be walking **in memory of their sister Noemia** who courageously fought and lost her battle with this devastating disease earlier this year. The Walk of Hope raises funds to support programs, education and research. Donations can be made from this website: tinyurl.com/Walk-of-Hope-Victoria. A tax receipt will be emailed to you. Please walk with us on Sun. Sep. 11 at Royal Roads. Registration is at 9 am, followed by walk from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Free refreshments will be provided afterwards.

LAST CHANCE FOR PHOTO DIRECTORY

We need your participation to make it complete. We are now taking bookings for **Sept. 28, 29, 30 & Oct. 1**. Please call **Linda MacGowan** at **655-0713** or **Fatima Warner** at **656-8863** to book a time, or write your name and phone number on a piece of paper and put it in the collection basket. A team member will telephone you to set up an appointment.

Each parishioner who has a photo taken by IPC will receive a free Parish Directory and 8 x10 colour portrait. If you want to submit your own photo, this is possible, but there will be a \$12.50 charge. It must be 4"x6" maximum or a digital photo at 300 dpi. Close-up / head shots should be avoided. Vertical photos are suggested. To make this project a success, we need everyone's participation.

THANK YOU

- To Linda MacGowan, Fatima Warner, and "The Team" for their hard work on the Parish Photo Directory.
- To all who supported Strollerthon Fundraiser for Birthright Victoria. \$2,711 was raised!
- I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Elizabeth's and OLA for their good wishes, visits and prayers during my stay in the RJH and VGH. Very much appreciated. ... *Gord Hryhoryshen*
- A big thank you to the kind person who gave my scooter "Miss Daisy" a new flag. ... *E.T.*

LITURGY WORKSHOP: SEPT. 30 + OCT. 1

In order to prepare for the implementation of the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal), a liturgy workshop will be held for pastoral musicians, singers and clergy on Sep. 30 & Oct. 1 at Holy Cross Church. It will include a session on the new GIRM, new psalm settings, new settings of the Ordinary of the Mass and the Ministry of Pastoral musician. Facilitated by Bernadette Gasslein. To register call the Cathedral at 250-388-5571 or email standrewscathedral@gmail.com.

MISSING!

Two "Search & Learn" books are missing:

- "Can You Find Bible Heroes?"
- "Can You Find Jesus?"

Please return them so others can benefit!

YOUTH VOICES CHALLENGE VIDEO

Our Parish Youth Group invites you to view their "Youth Voices Challenge: Camel" video on YouTube.com. Views will be counted until 1 pm on Thurs. Sept. 22. Sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island in collaboration with the Diocesan Religious Education Office.

IN OUR DIOCESE

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SEPT. 16 & 17

The Diocesan Annual General Meeting will be held Fri. Sept. 16, 7 - 9 pm, and Sat. Sept. 17, 9:30 - 4 pm at St. Edward's Church, 2085 Maple Bay Rd., **Duncan**, 250-748-5363. Jacques St. Laurent will share his experiences from the D&P Youth Solidarity Tour in Lebanon on Friday evening, and John Gabor will lead a workshop on the Fall Action on Saturday. All are welcome.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER BAZAAR: SEPT. 17

from 9 am - 1 pm on Sat. Sept. 17 at St. Joseph's, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria.

DIOCESAN WORKSHOP: OCT. 28 & 29

Mark your calendar! Join the Diocesan Conference "**Discipleship: Continuing the Journey of Hearts & Hands**" on Oct. 28 & 29 at St. Andrew's High School. Features dynamic speaker David Wells from Devon, England who will explore the impact of current cultural forces on the Church, with particular focus on the six key areas outlined in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Please contact the parish office to register before Sept. 15 (the \$25 registration fee will be covered by the parish). **See bulletin insert for more information.**

LECTURE SERIES:

"*Needed: Prophets For An Ecological Era*" with Bill Wilson, SJ at Friends Meeting House, 1831 Fern St., Victoria. Four Tuesdays: Sept. 13 to Oct. 4 from 10 am - noon. Cost: \$85 for four sessions or \$20 drop in. To register call 250-380-9786 or email earthliterations@shaw.ca.