

Pastor's Corner - October 30, 2011 - Halloween

The last few weeks the media have talked about Halloween; the stores have been full of items reflecting the enormous commercial holiday it has become. As a parish community we celebrate Halloween by asking the children to dress up (how about dressing up to resemble your favorite saint!) and come with their families to Oktoberfest on Nov. 4th. They carve funny faces into the pumpkins and prizes will be given out; a true community event enjoyed by all. Halloween is a more popular and more secularized feast than Easter! Yet, this feast has also a Christian foundation and can have positive messages for all of us.

Halloween comes from "hallow" or "holy" while "e'en" is a shortened form of "evening." So Halloween really means "all hallows eve," the evening before All Saints Day, November 1st. The first Christians gathered on anniversaries of a martyr's death to remember that person's witness to Christ (the Greek word "martyr" means "witness"). It was a celebration (not a mourning!) of a victory in order to inspire and encourage those who were being persecuted. It took a form that Christians knew best, that is by "the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist)," whereby all become united as "the Body of Christ." In the mid-fourth century a feast was added to remember all the unknown martyrs and eventually the feast was extended to include all Christian witnesses, all those who fully live the Gospel in their lives. In the year 835 this feast of All Saints was moved from May 13 to November 1 in order to Christianize the existing pagan feast for remembering the dead, to bring light to darkness, and hope to the most basic fears. Christians had also started to follow the Jewish custom of praying for the dead. By the 7th century monasteries were celebrating an annual mass for the deceased members of their Order. Around 1048 an abbot chose November 2 as the day to commemorate All Souls in order to complement All Saints on November 1. So both days are reminders that all of us, living and dead, are united in a living communion with Christ and with one another in order to form the Body of Christ. Halloween thus became the one vigil or evening before the Church's two important feast days that follow.

All Saints and All Souls are celebrated together so that we might not forget that we are called to look beyond the horizon of our earthly lives, beyond the limited horizon of this world. Saints define for us another world than the concrete marketable world of possessions, of pleasure, of power. That world is the communion of people where people are called "blessed," the blessings of the Beatitudes; we are connected with them, we are united with them, in communion with them. We call them Saints but these are not only the officially recognized ones. That is why we have this feast day of All Saints because they are all our loved ones who have died in peace, all those who point us to where our horizon lies, to where real glory lies and to which we too are called. All Souls is a feast that reminds us that, in the words of the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9: "The souls of the just are in the hand of God... they are in peace; ...the faithful shall abide with God in love because grace and mercy are with his holy ones." It reminds us that God's Spirit is in all; after all in the words of the Negro spiritual "He has got the whole world in his hands"

These feasts of All Saints and All Souls can be an opportunity to talk in our families, in our various groups like the CWL or the K of C or religious education, of our favorite saints, to talk about what is needed in today's world to be holy, what is needed in today's world to be a "martyr", a witness. It is also an occasion for us to talk about death as a part of life and part of a creation and a world that will pass away. And all of this we can do with joy and laughter, creative fun, stories, etc. because it is, after all, a victory celebration!!

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

Parish Office: 250-656-7433, email: ssparish@shaw.ca, fax 250-483-1597

Web site: www.spparish.com, Rectory: 250-652-1990

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Paul Ledet, Jr. (Chair)



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)

OCTOBER 30, 2011

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Mal 1.14-2.2, 8-10 / 1 Thess 2.7-9, 13
Mt 23.1-12**



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

COLLECTIONS:

October 2	\$ 4,564
October 9	\$ 4,125
October 16	\$ 3,190
October 23	\$ 2,338
PAD's:	\$ 4,490
Needs of the Canadian Church:	\$ 1,464
Evangelization of Nations	\$ 1,414
<i>Monthly Target:</i>	<i>Approx. \$ 23,000</i>

K OF C OKTOBERFEST: NOV. 4

Get your family tickets and forget about cooking next Friday's dinner (no dishes to wash either)! Everyone is invited to "kick up your heels" and come to the dinner wearing a costume, or dress up as your favourite character or saint. Join the parish family for a delicious dinner on Friday, Nov. 4 at our **Annual Knights of Columbus Oktoberfest**.

Cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7 pm. Dinner, fun and entertainment. The children are invited to take a pumpkin after mass this Sunday and create a 'work of art', and bring it to Oktoberfest for display. Tickets available after all masses (\$10 / person, \$20 / family).

C.W.A. MEETING: NOV. 2

The CWA meeting will be held on Wed. Nov. 2, 1:30 pm at the home of Gerarda Ten Have, 902 Verdier Ave, Brentwood (250-652-3339).

OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE

During October, the month of Thanksgiving, everyone is asked to bring a **non-perishable** food item for the food bank. This food drive is sponsored by the students of St. Andrew's High School and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

SURVIVING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Jeannette Hughes, a parishioner, shares her story on YouTube at tinyurl.com/jhughes-interview.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, OCT. 31

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm **CWL Executive Meeting**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2 ALL SOULS' DAY

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:30pm **CWA Meeting**

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong
7:00pm **Parish Council Budget Meeting**

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
6:30pm **K of C Oktoberfest**

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

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

SUNDAY, NOV. 6

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes for children 7 - 15 are held each Sunday at 9:45 am. **If you have a child or grandchild who needs to be prepared for First Communion & Confirmation, you will need to register NOW and participate with your child.** To register email Melanie Maya-Ehrlich at Melanie@spparish.com, or call her at 250-656-8141. Registration forms are available on-line at tinyurl.com/spp-re-reg-2011.

MESSAGE FROM THE APPEAL TEAM

Which of the priorities of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan can you identify with? Please consider supporting this year's campaign, and help us be 'On Our Way'.

Derek, Freddie, Jim, Linda, Mark, and Norm.

D & P FALL ACTION CAMPAIGN

This year we are focusing on the environment - climate change and support for small scale farmers. You are invited to check out the display in the foyer, take a brochure, and sign our Action card! Thanks from your D & P committee.

D & P PRESENTATION - MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Jacques St. Laurent, who spoke to us in the spring about the Development and Peace Youth Solidarity trip to Lebanon, will share his experience with a visual presentation on Sun. Nov. 13 after the 10:30 mass (during coffee fellowship).

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

- Via Choralis presents "In Remembrance" on Friday, Nov. 11 at 2:30 pm. Tickets \$15 (students \$10).
- Sidney Classical Orchestra presents "Mozart - Elegance & Joy" on Fri. Nov. 25 at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$20 (students \$10).

See posters in the foyer at St. Elizabeth's.

IN OUR DIOCESE

SACRED HEART CHARITIES FALL BAZAAR

Sat. Nov. 5, 9 am - 2 pm at Sacred Heart Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe St., Victoria Attic treasures, books, crafts, tea room, ethnic foods, lucky 7, silent auction, hamburgers & hot dogs.

FEAST OF ST. CECILIA DINNER: NOV 12

Sat. Nov. 12, 6:30 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 798 Goldstream Ave, Langford. Adults \$12, children \$6, family \$25. Roast beef dinner and music. For tickets call Maria at 250 478-3482.

SISTERS OF ST. ANN HEALTH HISTORY

The Sisters of St. Ann history in health care in BC has been recorded in a book by Darlene Southwell "Caring and Compassion: A History of the Sisters of St. Ann in Health Care in BC". Book launch and conversation with the author at St. Ann's Academy on Nov. 20 at 2 pm. Books are also available at the SSA Administration Centre, 1550 Begbie, Victoria.

GENERAL

OUR MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB: NOV. 17

Thu. Nov. 17, 5 to 9 pm. Stelly's School Global Perspectives is hosting a fundraiser to build a school in Nepal. Gala evening with entertainment, snacks and beverages, auction. For tickets & info contact Tim Storm at 652-4401 (ext. 566 ext.). Cost: \$15 / person.

UVIC HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSE

- *The Power of Breath*. Wed. Nov. 2, 7 - 9. \$45. Location: David Strong Bldg., UVic. To register call 250-472-4747.

UVIC RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- *Tour of Ismaili Jamatkhana (Burnaby)*. Mon. Nov. 7, 8:30 am - 5 pm, To register visit www.csr.s.uvic.ca. Bus trip, lunch and tour are provided by the Ismaili Council at no cost. Bus leaves from Swartz Bay on the 9 am ferry to Tsawwassen. Buy your ferry ticket and register with the group at the entrance to the foot passenger lounge.

PROGRAMS IN EARTH LITERACY

- Tue. Oct. 25 - Nov. 15, 10 am - 12 pm, *Embracing the Powers of the Universe*. Drop in: \$20. 1831 Fern St. Info: email earthliterations@shaw.ca, call 250-220-4601, or visit www.earthliterations.org.

NATIVITY & CRECHE DISPLAY: NOV. 27 - DEC. 4

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2210 Eastleigh Way, Sidney will have a display of over 500 nativity scenes, crèches and images from around the world, Sun. Nov. 27 to Sun. Dec. 4 (see poster at St. Elizabeth's for times). Admission is free. Light refreshments served.