

Pastor's Corner - November 27, 2011 - Still time!

We have reached the end of our Liturgical Year and today, with this **First Sunday of Advent**, we begin a new Liturgical Year, called **B**, during which the Gospel is primarily the **Gospel of Mark**, the first and earliest Gospel, which became the basis for the writing of the Gospels of Matthew (Year A) and of Luke (Year C). Of course, this year is also a special year since we now begin to implement the full changes of the new Roman Missal with the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal). I wrote about these changes and the reasons for them in some six pastor's corners beginning in May and giving from time to time verbal explanations for the reason for some of these changes. We also ordered a booklet ("Understanding the revised mass texts") which was made available last week. I never thought it would be so popular! We have only a few still available. Might I suggest that those who did get a copy and who have consulted it, if you do not need it anymore, would it be possible for you to share it with someone else or/and bring it back to church and make it available to others? Thank you for taking this into consideration. **Our community is very grateful to our different music groups who chose the necessary new music versions and who have prepared the assembly at each mass. Many thanks to you, musicians and singers!**

Our community also needs to thank another group of people in a special way. I am thinking of the **Diocesan Appeal Team** which was set up in September under the leadership of **Freddie Brand** (chair) who together with the other members of the team (**Norm Cafik, Derek Finall, Linda MacGowan, Jim Williams and Mark Wright**) worked hard, with the material provided by the Diocesan Centre, to bring before our faith community the financial needs of the larger faith community to which we belong, that is the Diocese of Victoria. Our team has evaluated the process and made recommendations to the Diocese for changes to this annual diocesan appeal. We are aware of the flaws which were very apparent in the process, especially the fact that the mail-out organized by the Diocesan Centre to all registered parishioners arrived at the homes in the third week of the campaign. Hopefully the experience gained this second year of the appeal will make next year's better. As someone who has to go often to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre I can assure you that people there worked hard to make the campaign a successful one. However, technical glitches, late arrivals of lists, mistakes made, all these contributed to an appeal campaign which needs to improve. I was told that as Pastor I was not involved enough. I accept that and, if I am here next year, I will try harder. I know that people at the Diocese will also try their best to bring in the necessary improvements.

However, there is something else which clearly needs improvement: our contribution to the annual Diocesan Appeal! As of Nov. 24, 108 parishioners became involved this year and gave a donation. **A heartfelt thank you to you these parishioners who have contributed \$35,730 towards our parish goal of \$50,000. This amount is the financial lifeblood for a broad range of ministries and outreach programs in our larger Diocesan community. But, let us be honest, many more people need to participate; our community is composed of more than 400 households!** The members of the appeal team and I mentioned on several occasions the importance for more parishioners to be involved in the actual giving, each person according to his/her ability. **We are asking for participation on the part of everyone based on equal sacrifice, not on equal gifts. After all, we are all not just members of our little parish family but also members of our larger Diocesan Family.** In these challenging times there are communities across the Island who need the support in ministries and apostolates which only a Diocesan Church can offer and accomplish. Our financial support makes it possible for these to become stronger faith communities. **Strong parishes make a strong diocese and visa versa! Let us make the mission of the Diocesan Church on Vancouver Island OUR mission. We are stewards of the gifts God has given us; so let us share them.** Your support is important. For whatever reason, you may not have heard about the appeal or been inclined to contribute. I would ask you to seriously consider to change your mind now and to give. Please, make your donation or pledge in the name of **Annual Diocesan Appeal. Thank you and may God bless you and those you love.**

Shalom, *Je 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: sparish@shaw.ca, fax 250-483-1597

Web site: www.sparish.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)



EUCCHARIST 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

EUCCHARIST 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)

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Isa 63.16-17, 64.1, 3-8 / 1 Cor 1.3-9 / Mk 13.33-37

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:

November 6	\$ 4,794
November 13	\$ 4,660
November 20	\$ 3,294
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 1,349
Pre-Authorized Debits (PADs):	\$ 4,490
<i>Monthly Target:</i>	<i>Approx. \$ 23,000</i>

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT DURING ADVENT

OPENNESS TO GOD: You are invited to experience moments of God's presence, scripture reflection, personal quiet in preparation for the celebration of Emmanuel - God with us. **Thur. Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22**, 2 to 3:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's. For information call Cathy Kelsey at 652-2365 or Sr. Donna MacIntyre at 656-0281.

RE-ENCHANTMENT OF NATURE AS THE WORD & BEAUTY OF GOD: **Fri. Dec. 2**, 7 - 9 pm & **Sat. Dec. 3**, 10 am - 2:30 pm, Fr. John McCarthy will lead a retreat at St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Free. See poster in foyer.

ADVENT MEDITATION: **Sat. Dec. 10** at 7 pm, an evening of Advent music and reflection at St. Elizabeth's with Ray Folk & Maureen Hertz.

OASIS MINI RETREAT: **Sat. Dec. 17**, 10 am - 2 pm. Margaret O'Donnell and people living on the street in Victoria will lead us in prayer, reflection & sharing through the use of Jean Vanier and Taize prayer. **Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and sandwiches.** If you are able to assist, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

URGENT MESSAGE FROM APPEAL TEAM

Our thanks to the **108 donors** who gave **\$35,730** towards our parish goal of \$50,000. We advise those who have not responded - the appeal is still open and we look forward to your support. Make your cheque payable to the **Annual Diocesan Appeal** and place it in the collection. Please call the office at 250-656-7433 if you have any questions or need assistance. Thank you from Fr. Rolf, Derek, Freddie, Jim, Linda, Mark & Norm.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: DEC. 15, 7 PM

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, NOV. 28

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Reflection
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's followed by Coffee Fellowship
12:00pm Christmas Youth Choir Rehearsal

K OF C BREAKFAST: SUN. NOV. 27

Please support the K of C Pancake Breakfast after the 10:30 am mass today. Price: \$5, children free.

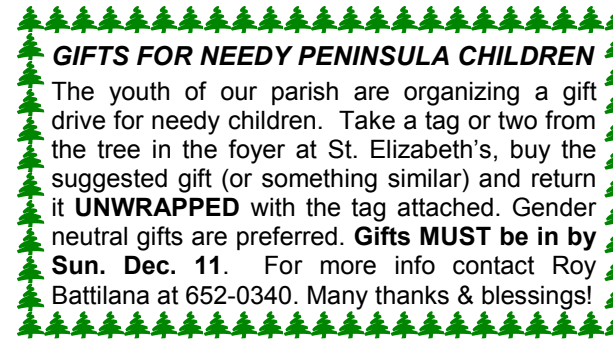
URGENTLY NEEDED: CHILDREN'S YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR to coordinate the young musicians for the Christmas Eve 6:30 pm Family Mass. Stipend available. Call office at 250-656-7433.

UNDERSTANDING THE REVISED MASS TEXTS - INFORMATION BOOKLET

is available in the foyer - by donation.

TAIZE PRAYER: NOV. 29

Tue. Nov. 29, 7 pm at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital.



GIFTS FOR NEEDY PENINSULA CHILDREN

The youth of our parish are organizing a gift drive for needy children. Take a tag or two from the tree in the foyer at St. Elizabeth's, buy the suggested gift (or something similar) and return it **UNWRAPPED** with the tag attached. Gender neutral gifts are preferred. **Gifts MUST be in by Sun. Dec. 11.** For more info contact Roy Battilana at 652-0340. Many thanks & blessings!

HANTI SIDRA GIFT CARDS

Back by popular demand! A new set of gift cards are available from Hanti Sidra One Global Family. Get your cards after mass, or contact Stephanie to place an order at 250-655-3635 or densteph@shaw.ca.

CWL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tue. Dec. 6, 2 pm. Please bring a wrapped gift \$5 or under & a non-perishable food item. Bring a friend.

BIRTHRIGHT FUDGE SALE: DEC. 10 & 11

Birthright will be selling home-made fudge after all masses on Dec 10 & 11.

PROPOSED 2012 PARISH BUDGET

The proposed parish budget is posted in the church foyer. Please look it over. Direct your responses to the finance committee or a member of the parish council.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE IN FOYER

\$1 per card, available for purchase after mass. Proceeds to St. Clare's Monastery, Duncan.

CWL THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the CWL Bake & Flower Sale. \$678 was raised. The Children's Religious Education lemonade stand raised an additional \$47 for the CWL charities.

ANAWIM THANK YOU

Anawim residents and staff wish to express their gratitude for the generous support your parishioners have shown by their donations of food and clothing during our recent fundraising drive, and for what they do for Anawim throughout the year.

IN OUR DIOCESE

TEDDY BEARS NEEDED

St. Andrew's High School is collecting Teddy Bears for children. Please drop off any stuffed animals in good condition at the school office.

ST. ANDREW'S HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

Please join us for our celebrations:

- Advent Mass on **Thu. Dec. 8**, 11 am at Sacred Heart Church
- Advent Carol Service on **Thu. Dec. 14**, 7 pm at St. Andrew's High School.

Everyone is welcome.

GENERAL

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 through Sun. Dec. 4 (see poster at St. Elizabeth's for times). Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY: NOV. 30

Wed. Nov. 30, 7:30 pm the VCS presents "*Benedicta: Songs of Grace and Wonder*", music inspired by the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Tickets at Tanner's Books. Adults \$30, students \$20. See www.victoriachoralsociety.ca for further info.

TRANSITIONS RETREAT: DEC. 1 - 4

Transitions: Your Journey of Transformation through Grief and Loss. This retreat will provide insight, hope and prayerful support for those who have experienced a wide variety of losses including the death of a loved one, illness, loss of a job, or the ending of a marriage or significant relationship. Facilitator: Sarah Donnelly, BA, M.Div. Thurs. Dec. 1, 5 pm - Sun. Dec. 4, 1 pm. Bethlehem Retreat Centre, Nanaimo. To register or for more info please call 1-250-710-7675. Live-in: \$394.

CHRISTMAS AMERICAN STYLE: DEC.3

Sat. Dec. 3, 7:30 pm, the Linden Singers perform music of our southern neighbours at First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd., Victoria. Guests: St. Patrick's Elementary School Intermediate Choir. Tickets \$20 / \$17. For more information see www.lindensingers.ca.

FEEDING THE POOR IN MEXICO

Rudy van Lierop, Lay Brother of the Poor, will be visiting the Betesda orphans and the elderly centre in Mexicali, Mexico to bring food to the poor. If you want to help this worthy mission, please send a cheque to Lay Brothers of the Poor, 6911 Bayside Place, Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1B2.