



# 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](http://www.spparish.com)**, e-mail: [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto: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 - 4:30 pm, or by appointment.

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

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Co-Chairs, Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan

## EUCCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney  
250-656-7433

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).

## EUCCHARIST AT

### OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am  
Remaining Fridays at 9 am in a private home.



**CHRISTMAS EVE: DEC. 24, 2011** - Isa 9:2-4, 6-7 / Titus: 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-16

**CHRISTMAS DAY: DEC. 25, 2011** - Isa 9:2-4, 6-7 / Titus: 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-16

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: JAN. 1, 2012** - Num 6:22-27 / Gal: 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

## 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.*

## 2011 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

**No 8:30 am Mass at Assumption**

**10:30 am - Mass at St. Elizabeth's**

**2:00 pm** - El Shaddai Fellowship  
at St. Elizabeth's, followed by

**3:30 pm Mass**

*TUESDAY, Dec. 27*

**No 8:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's**

**11:00 am - Funeral Mass**

for Cecile Bouchard at St. Elizabeth's

*WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28*

**9:00 am - Service of the Word -**

**No 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's**

*THURSDAY, Dec. 29*

9:00 am - Mass at St. Elizabeth's

*FRIDAY, Dec. 30*

11:00 am - Mass at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

### SATURDAY, Dec. 31

#### New Year's Eve

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

### SUNDAY, Jan. 1, 2012

#### New Year's Day

**8:30 am - Mass at Our Lady of Assumption**

**10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's**

## PARISH REPORT

### COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):

December 4: \$ 3,273

December 11: \$ 4,391

December 18: \$ 3,592

Monthly Target: Approx. \$23,000

## 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 Visitation Team, please call the parish office.

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

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

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

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

## THANK YOU!

A warm thanks to all those who contributed to our beautiful Christmas decorations. A sincere thank you for the gifts of time and talent to those who serve in the many ministries. Prayerful thanks and appreciation for all your Christmas gifts and donations. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of the children, families and the Dominican Sisters and Brothers in East Timor, Mindinao and Indonesia. Fr. Rolf, OP

## YEAR END DONATIONS

The parish can only issue 2011 tax receipts for donations received by **Dec. 31**, regardless of the date written on the cheque. If you have any questions please call the parish office. Thank you for your attention and support.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** until Tuesday, January 3.

## "THE CHURCH" - PART II: JAN. 9 - FEB. 13

Mondays, Jan. 9 to Feb. 13 at Holy Cross, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Includes a review of Vatican II, an overview of Catholic social teaching, role of Mary in the Church. Presented by Dr. L. McKeown. To register call 250-477-5321.

## EPIPHANY EXPLORATIONS: JAN. 19 - 23

Conference at First Metropolitan United Church with Sr. Mary Jo Leddy, Marcus Borg, Richard Rohrbaugh, Elizabeth May. Mark your calendars! For more information, see: [www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany](http://www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany).

## PARISH GROUPS' CHRISTMAS BREAK

Regular parish activities will resume in 2012 as follows:

- **Friendly Hours:** Thu. Jan. 5 at 11:30 am
- **Prayer Group:** Thu. Jan. 5 at 2 pm
- **Religious Education:** Sun. Jan. 8 at 9:45 am
- **Faith Reflection Group:** Mon. Jan. 9 at 1 pm
- **Memory Plus:** Mon. Jan. 9 at 1 pm
- **CWL Meeting:** Tue. Jan. 10 at 2 pm
- **Taiji Qigong:** Wed. Jan. 11 at 10 am
- **Knights of Columbus:** Tue. Jan. 17, 7:30 pm

For the latest schedule, please check the online Parish Calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/sppcal>.

## "JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE": JAN. 10 - FEB. 7

"The Emergence of Universe, Earth, Life and Humans", with Gertie Jocksch, SC DMin. A series of interviews in conjunction with the "Journey of the Universe" film. Each session includes reflection and dialogue. Tuesdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 7, 10 am - noon at Friends Meeting House, 1831 Fern St, **OR** Wednesdays, Feb 1 to 29, 7 - 9 pm at First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd. See poster in foyer for topics. \$70 for all 5 sessions (drop in \$15). Please register by Jan 3, 2012.

## Pastor's Corner - Christmas 2011

On November 27 we heard a call from Jesus in the Gospel of Mark to "Stay awake" and to actively watch and wait for the unveiling of a great mystery. This week our four weeks of preparation has come to the end and with the whole of creation and all people of good will we can rejoice because once more God, the ground of all being, has found us and brings us peace. God's unconditional love and forgiveness offered to us at our well-attended communal reconciliation service of December 15 and which made us whole again, is now bearing fruit in the birth of Christ in our midst, in our hearts. The Light of the World, the Light of my life is renewing me and is again with me continuing the journey of life. Even if I think I am not ready God has already taken the initiative and comes to me to renew me and to make me whole again. All I have to do is to let go of my anger, of my failings, to let go of all that oppresses me, to be truly repented and to welcome Him back home in my heart and in my being. All I have to do is to inhale God's power, life and love so that I can become little by little, one day at a time, the person God has intended me to be.

That is why we can say "Today is born our Saviour!" And in a way I can say "Today is born my Saviour!" Yes, we are part of a new birth, of a new beginning that begins today and continues as a new beginning tomorrow. The readings of these last four weeks continue to encourage us to be patient and hopeful, to be prayerful, and always to be given over to joyful gratitude for the many of God's gracious and daily blessings which are showered on us every day of our lives. We are not so much bearing gifts for the babe of Bethlehem but rather the child Jesus brings us the gift of His Spirit to be with us always and to inspire and encourage us so that we might become sharers in the divine nature of God. Meister Eckhart, a 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic of the Dominican Order, wrote: "There is only one birth – and this birth takes place in the ground and core of the soul. Not only is the Son of the heavenly Creator born in this darkness, but you too are born there as a child of the same heavenly Creator and none other."

Christmas reminds us that our only response to God's daily blessings lies in the gift of ourselves in return, in the words of Micah "to do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God." In this season of gift-giving our greatest gift is of our very selves: to let shine through us the gifts and talents that God has given to each and everyone of us without exception. Yes, God has given us these gifts so that we might reflect them in what we are, in what we do, in what we say. Like all gifts they cannot remain wrapped and hidden; we need to unwrap them so that they can become gifts of joy for others. Those gifts of our very selves include our talents, our time, our treasure, our caring, our compassion, our prayers, our love.

In the early Church people called Christmas the sacrum commercium, the "holy exchange": God becomes human in Jesus, God's gift of love to us, so that the human can become divine. We are reminded once more that the greatest gift of all is God's love for us and our love for each other.

May the peace and joy of Christ's birth bring you and yours that wholeness of peace, joy and hope in a spirit of thanksgiving. And may this coming New Year of 2012 be for you a year of holy exchange, giving praise to God by unwrapping the gift you are for the joy of others. Shalom!

May the blessings of Joy and Peace at Christmas continue for you throughout the new year 2012!

Fr Rolf, OP

A. Kott

Jim Sweet

Parish Council Finance Committee