

## Pastor's Corner - March 13 - Lent a time to evaluate my choices

Last Sunday Jesus invited us in Matthew's Gospel (7:21-27) to build our faith, our house on rock: "the rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew ...but it did not fall." We know all too well that faith is no guarantee that we will not have to deal with storms of one kind or another in our lives. So Jesus invited us to make his words our home where we can find shelter, warmth, safety, strength: "my word will never let you down." He is inviting us to make those important as well as those every day choices which will show that we live in and are nourished by his words. In God's words we can find warmth and the healing which comes from the assurance that God accepts us as we are when we fail. In God's words we can find strength, that grace we need and which God freely gives to all of us when we need it, so that we might stand firm on solid ground in hard times.

As human beings we are given that blessing and that responsibility which allows us to make choices, either life-giving choices or destructive choices. Not all choices in life are equal. It is not as if we are faced with a kind of pot luck brunch similar to the delicious and wonderful brunch which the Phillipino community organized several Sundays ago! We cannot just pick and choose something here, something there! In life some choices will bring us closer to God and to our fellow human beings, others will do the opposite. Some choices may not seem very attractive to us and yet they have that wonderful result of bringing us closer to God and others. Lent can be a time when we are called to evaluate our choices. That is why it is a desert experience and that is why we are called to be desert people (cf. the pastor's corner of last week, March 6). In the beautiful parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-32) we can find hidden a desert experience. The prodigal son chose what he wanted and lived through his decision in misery before discovering his inner self in solitude: "Coming to his senses he thought ... I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you..." Only after that desert experience was he able to make a real life-giving decision. We are not any different. We all have our own desert experience: I need to pass through and abandon whatever enslaves and distracts me because I cannot enter the promised land of true freedom and happiness unless I go through the desert, my desert!

On this first Sunday in Lent we first see in Genesis how humans are being tempted by the devil and then how Jesus being tempted by the devil in the same way: to allow the best to be replaced by the mere good and that way to succumb to mediocrity. Each time the devil is trying to show that one can seek God's ends by means unworthy of God; kind of by taking all kinds of short cuts! However, unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus each time makes it clear to the devil: my relationship with God is the most important; only God can fulfill me; all my needs are met by God's love and care; there I find my true freedom, there I find my real happiness! St. Paul in the second reading to the Christians in Rome calls it obedience: "Just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all people, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all people. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous (Romans 5:18-19)."

May our Lenten journey bring me to the same conclusion as Jesus': only God can fulfill me; all my needs are met by God's love and care!

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](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 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

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

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



### 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

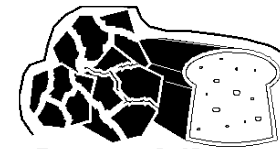
7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

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.)



Command these  
Stones

## 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

**MARCH 13, 2011**

*Gen. 2.7-9, 16-18, 25, 3.1-7/ Rom: 5.12-19/Mt 4.1-11*

### VISITING EUCCHARISTIC 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): \$ 4,070  
March 6: \$ 3,973  
Monthly Target: Approx. \$ 23,000

## IN OUR PARISH

### SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING: MAR. 16

Our St. Vincent de Paul conference is meeting on Wed. Mar. 16 at St. Elizabeth's. Parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings.

### K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: MAR. 20

Hungry? Next Sunday, March 20 you can enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast served up by the Knights of Columbus after the 10:30 mass.



### SUDANESE BENEFIT LUNCH: SUN. APR. 3

After 10:30 mass. Come and share friendship & lunch (wonderful homemade sandwiches & goodies etc.). Bake table, treasure table. Lunch by free will offering. To donate food or gifts, contact Stephanie Schroeder at 250-655-3345.

### THANK YOU TO OUR FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Many thanks to our Filipino parishioners for the delicious Philippine Luncheon. A total of \$752 was collected for a children's charity (to be determined).

### PARISH SURVEY REMINDER

Copies of the *Liturgy & Faith Formation* survey are available in the foyer. Please fill it in!

## IN OUR DIOCESE

### REDISCOVERING THE LORD'S PRAYER: MAR. 18 & 19

John Dominic Crossan will lead a conference at Parish Hall of The Church of St. John the Divine, 925 Balmoral St. on Mar. 18 & 19. Cost: \$90. Registration: 250-383-7169, or email [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca). For more info see the poster in St. Elizabeth's Church foyer.

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY, MAR. 14

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

### TUESDAY, MAR. 15

8:30am Mass  
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
7:00pm RCIA (note date change!)  
7:00pm K of C Rosary  
7:30pm K of C General Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, MAR. 16

9:00am Service of the Word (No Mass)  
10:00am Taiji Qigong  
1:30pm SVDP Conference Meeting

### THURSDAY, MAR. 17

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

### FRIDAY, MAR. 18

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

### SATURDAY, MAR. 19

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

### SUNDAY, MAR. 20

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption  
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
11:30am K of C Pancake Breakfast

### D & P SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES: MAR. 21

A presentation by Caroljean Willie, "*Faith Transforming Society: Moving Beyond Charity*" on Mon. Mar. 21, 7 - 9 pm at Holy Cross, 4029 Gordon Head Rd., Victoria will highlight the impact of international Christian initiatives to create a more just, caring and sustainable world for those most vulnerable. Caroljean currently represents the Sisters of Charity Federation at the United Nations.

### SACRED HEART WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS:

- "The Gift of the Mind" on Sat. Mar. 26, 9:30 - noon, with Suzanne Sparling. The Practice of Mindfulness: a morning of exploring mindfulness practices and their benefits. Discussion groups, meditation instruction, and suggested readings.
- "The Gift of the Spirit" on Sat. Apr. 2, presented by Sister Patricia Shreenan

For women only. Cost: \$10 per Saturday at the door, or prepaid to one of the coordinators. Call Paula (250-744-2588), Mary (250-370-0083), or Marilyn (250-479-1611) for more information.

### YOUTH VOICES VIDEO CHALLENGE

Youth Voices Challenge, sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, invites youth aged 13 - 19 to produce a video, 3 - 5 min. long based on one or more of Jesus' teachings. Top prize of \$1,500 for the youth group who gets the highest number of hits for their video. For further info and rules visit [www.catholicfoundationofvancouverisland.org](http://www.catholicfoundationofvancouverisland.org).

### ST. ROSE OF LIMA GARAGE SALE: MAR. 26

St. Rose of Lima, 6221 Sooke Rd. is having a Garage Sale on Sat. Mar. 26, 9 am - 2 pm, in aid of their Church Building Fund.

## GENERAL

### UVIC CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES: 4 PM (FREE)

- Wed. Mar. 16: "*New Translations of Medieval Jewish Stories*", Room 116 in Engineering Bldg.
- Wed. Mar. 23: "*Imaginary Friends*", Room A104 in Social Science & Math Bldg.

### CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOC. BURSARY

The Catholic Health Association of BC is awarding two bursaries of \$250 to graduating students who are members of a BC parish. Students must submit a 500 word essay demonstrating an awareness and understanding of the significance of "*Spirituality in Health Care*". Deadline Mar. 31. For more info see [chabc.bc.ca](http://chabc.bc.ca) - Upcoming Events.

### WATER DOCUMENTARY: MAR. 17

Thu. Mar. 17, 7 - 9 pm at Little Fernwood Hall, 1923 Fernwood, Victoria. This Canada Water Week, environmental organizations are coming together to talk about water. Join us for a screening of the documentary "*White Water, Black Gold*". Panel discussion afterwards. Suggested donation \$5 - 10 at the door.

### VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: SUN. APR. 17

Via Choralis presents the premiere of Nicholas Fairbank's *Sea Cantata*, including Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, op. 80, with Jennifer Mitchell (piano), Jared Richardon's Winds of Kananaskis, and two American folksongs arranged by Aaron Copland. Tickets: adults - \$20, 18 and under - \$10, are available from Tanner's Books, choir members, or at the door. For more information see [www.viachoralis.ca](http://www.viachoralis.ca).

### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE PROJECT

This is part of a series of 'open houses' aimed at fostering greater interfaith understanding. Coming up are:

- Sikh Open House, Sun. Mar. 20, 11:30 at 1210 Topaz Ave., Victoria.
- Jewish Open House, Fri. Mar. 25, 7 - 9 pm at the Jewish Community Centre, 3636 Shelbourne St., Victoria.

### INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE - 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Will be held in **Dublin, Ireland** from June 10-17, 2012. For information call Denise Buckley, Diocesan Liaison at 250-339-1807, call Christ the King Parish at 250-334-4716, or email [denisebuckley@shaw.ca](mailto:denisebuckley@shaw.ca).

### SPIRITUAL WISDOM: WED. MAR. 23

David Strong Building, Rm. C103, UVic, 7 pm. "*Wisdom Way of Knowing: A Path of Transformation*" presented by Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. She will introduce the Wisdom tradition and how it articulates a clear vision of human purpose and a practical means for getting there.