

**Pastor's Corner - Lord I Am Not Worthy - January 15, 2012**

Article by D. Todd Williamson:

Few Gospel accounts are as powerful as the story of the Roman Centurion who has heard of Jesus and his great deeds. The Centurion seeks out Jesus to help him, for his servant is paralyzed and suffering. Of course, Jesus agrees and offers to come to the Centurion's home to cure the servant. In faith, the Centurion utters these powerful words: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8:8, NRSV; see also Luke 7:6).

This is, truly, a story of faith. Recall, that the Centurion is a Roman - a Gentile - one who would be considered ineligible for the promises that the Lord had made to his Chosen People, Israel. Yet he had faith that Jesus could heal his servant. He even called Jesus "Lord." Because of this, Jesus was willing to go to his house - an act that would have been forbidden and would, according to Jewish standards, made Jesus unclean. Yet Jesus was willing to do this. In the end, this story is as much about the faith of the Centurion as it is a story of the ends to which Jesus will go to bring health, wholeness, and salvation.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Church puts the words of the Centurion on the mouth of every member of the liturgical assembly as we too prepare to receive health, wholeness, and salvation through the gift of the Eucharist? With the implementation of the English translation of the third edition of *The Roman Missal*, this full statement of the Centurion will be our response to the invitation to Holy Communion: "Behold the Lamb of God, / behold him who takes away the sins of the world. / Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb."

It is no accident that *these* words, in *this* exchange, should take place at this point of the Mass. Look at what is happening: we are being invited to "behold" the Lord, as he is present in the Eucharist. Not simply to "look," not simply to "notice." We are to "behold" him - to see him, with the eyes of faith, and to see what he is doing for us in this liturgy. He is preparing to feed us with his very body and blood!

This makes the most sense if we look closer at the Gospel accounts and the story of the Centurion, particularly from the Gospel according to Matthew (it is also recounted in Luke), for it is only in the Matthean account that Jesus replies to the Centurion "many will come from the east and the west, *and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven* [emphasis added] . . . .

Go; let it be done for you according to your faith" (Matthew 8:11, 13, NRSV).

Now look again at the liturgical exchange at this point in the Eucharist. We are invited to "Behold the Lamb of God." The invitation references the vision of the book of Revelation (19:9, NRSV), where the angel says to Saint John, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." The wedding feast of the Lamb, and the "banquet in the kingdom of heaven," that Jesus references in Matthew (see above) *are the same great banquet!* And we are being *invited* to that banquet, at this moment in the liturgy!

Surely, there are no better words with which to respond to this invitation - "Lord, I am not worthy / that you should enter under my roof, / but only say the word / and my soul shall be healed." The liturgy invites us, at this moment, to the same faith, to the same conviction, as that of the Centurion belief in what Jesus can do. Then, as the Centurion was assured presence at the great banquet of heaven, so too might we be admitted to that same banquet, *here*, in this Eucharist! If there was hope for him, then surely there is hope for us, too!

Notice that in the revised translation of this exchange, the emphasis is *not* on our unworthiness. Truly, in fact, *none* of us is worthy of so great a gift as the Eucharist. And that's the point! It is not our merit that admits us to this great banquet. Rather, it is our faith in Jesus Christ - the same faith as that of the Centurion! God's grace given in the sacrament of the Eucharist is free gift. We need only respond and accept this gift.

The full response of the Centurion helps us to recognize that Christ's promise of health, wholeness, and salvation is ours if we accept the invitation. That promise is fulfilled in the Eucharist, in Holy Communion which we are about to receive!

"Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb!"

*"Preparing Your Parish for the Revised Roman Missal: Homilies and Reproducibles for Faith Formation"*

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# 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)



**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)



## 2nd. SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 15, 2012

**1 Sm 3:3-10, 19/ 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20/**

**Jn 1:35-42**

**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 \_\_\_

## IN OUR PARISH

### COLLECTIONS:

January 1 collection: \$ 5,080  
January 8 collection: \$ 4,842  
Monthly Target: Approx. \$ 23,000

*We offer condolences to the families and pray for the repose of the souls of:*

- *Aart Timmers*
- *Hugh Kielt (funeral Wed. Jan. 18 at 1 pm)*
- *Elizabeth Johnman-McLean*

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT

Thank you to all who have supported St. Vincent de Paul in its ministry, outreach and collections during 2011. Our monthly collections came to \$19,000, which was within \$100 of the 2010 total despite the recession. And to cap this, in August, our appeal to contributors to consider donating to famine relief in Africa brought in an astonishing \$12,485 (which was matched by the federal government). We continue to donate \$100 each month to the Sidney Lion's Food Bank to support the care of the poor, and gave a further \$2,000 to provide Christmas hampers to 20 families. Calls for help, especially from the First Nations communities on the peninsula, have fallen off dramatically over the past two years. Also, calls for food assistance from the Thrift Store in Sidney have virtually disappeared. The balance of our funds goes to support the work of the downtown Social Concerns Office. Our membership is aging rapidly, and we welcome younger members to assist us as we explore new pastoral ways of assisting the poor in our midst, as well as the elderly and housebound seniors in their own homes and care homes. Joe Rigby, Conference President

### THANK YOU

The family of Cecile Bouchard thanks St. Elizabeth parish for the many warm wishes, condolences, prayers, and masses said for our mother during her illness and after her death. We are grateful to Fr. Rolf for his spiritual guidance and for his many visits. We are grateful to all those who attended the service, the CWL and the Knights of Columbus for helping with the reception and to Ray and Maureen for their beautiful music at Mom's mass. All the love and support is sincerely appreciated.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### MONDAY, JAN. 16

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

### TUESDAY, JAN. 17

8:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
7:00pm **K of C Rosary**  
7:30pm **K of C Meeting**

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

9:00am **NO MASS**  
10:00am Taiji Qijong  
1:00pm **Funeral Mass at St. Elizabeth's For Hugh Kielt**  
1:30pm **St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**

### THURSDAY, JAN. 19

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

### FRIDAY, JAN. 20

9:00am Mass at the Legion Manor

### SATURDAY, JAN. 21

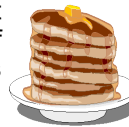
4-4:30pm Reconciliation  
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, JAN. 22

8:30pm Mass at Our Lady of Assumption  
9:45am Children's Religious Education  
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's  
11:30am **K of C Pancake Breakfast**

### K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: JAN. 22

Take the family out for breakfast next Sunday after Mass. The Knights of Columbus will be serving up a delicious breakfast for all to enjoy.



### ATTENTION ALL LECTORS !

If you were unable to attend the Lectors' Workshop in November, please pick up a copy of the "Guidelines for Readers" sheet in the foyer.

### 2012 DONATION ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2012 donation envelopes in the foyer. About 60 boxes are still awaiting pick up! Also, if you would like to start using envelopes, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

## IN OUR DIOCESE

### COORDINATOR APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Stuart Andrie, a member of our parish, on his appointment as the Diocesan Coordinator of the Office of Justice and Life, whose mission is to work together with parishes, diocesan groups and parish-based communities, and to promote the Catholic Church's teaching on social justice.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES: JAN. 25

The 3<sup>rd</sup> event in this year's Social Justice Series will be held on Wed. Jan. 25, 7 - 9 pm at Sacred Heart Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe St. Focus is on the Pacific Peoples' Partnership in West Papua. Presented by April Ingham and Todd Biderman.

### CAMP HOMEWOOD: FEB. 3 - 5

Calling all youth! Get away for a fun-filled weekend on Quadra Island and look at life in a slightly different way, with other youth that have the same backgrounds and interests. Great food, lots of activities & fun! Fri. Feb. 3 - Sun. Feb. 5. All inclusive cost is \$135. Call Roy Battilana at 250-652-0340 to arrange a ride. For more info see the poster in the foyer.

### HOW DO WE PRAY?: FEB. 7

Tue. Feb. 7, 7 pm at St. Patrick's Church. Fr. John Hibbard will give a one hour presentation on the topic: "How do we pray? Liturgical & Devotional Prayer over the Centuries". To register call St. Patrick's at 250-592-7391 or email parishsecretary@telus.net.

### MARK MALLET: JAN. 22

Singer, evangelist, Mark Mallet will be at St. Joseph's on Sun. Jan. 22, 7:30 - 9:30 pm for music and reflection. Everyone welcome.

## EPIPHANY EXPLORATIONS CONFERENCE: JAN. 19 - 23

First Metropolitan United Church is offering its annual five day "Epiphany Explorations" Conference, Jan. 19 to 23. Past participants describe it as:

- "a highlight in their faith journey, offering awe, inspiration, affirmation of gifts and insights"
- "a progressive understanding of Christianity"
- "this was the best conference in decades"
- "my soul is nourished after a long dry season"

Come to find out what people are raving about! Speakers will include, Marcus Borg, Richard Rohrbaugh, Elizabeth May, Rev. Canon Martin Brokenleg, Mary Jo Leddy. Cost: \$295, or \$25 per session. Conference information, brochure and registration form is available online at [www.firstmetvictoria.com/4582](http://www.firstmetvictoria.com/4582).

## GENERAL

### GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ISLAM

Wednesdays, Feb. 1 - 29, 7 pm at St. Patrick's Parish, 2060 Haultain St. Four evening sessions:

- *Historical Prospective of Islam*
- *The Four Pillars of Islam*
- *Living in a Majority Moslem Country*
- *Challenges of Christians to Live with Moslems*

Presented by Fr. Tony Gonsalves O.F.M. Fr. Tony has worked extensively in Moslem countries, and he has a great depth of knowledge to share with us. Everybody welcome!

### UVIC - JOHN ALBERT HALL LECTURES

*Testimonies of the Spirit: Christianity, Media and the Politics of Confession* - Jan. 19, 20, 23, 25, 7 pm, Social Sciences and Math Bldg, Rm A102. These lectures examine the impact of changing media on Christian practices of testimony and confession over the past 100 years in N. America:

Jan 19: *Media, Spirituality and Imagining Canada*

Jan 20: *Picturing the Soul - Protestant*

*Missionaries and their Photographs*

Jan 23: *Protestant Potlatch: Confession and the Ethics of Storytelling*

Jan 25: *Spiritual Radio: Testimony and the Optimism of Communication Technologies*