

Pastor's corner – peace makers

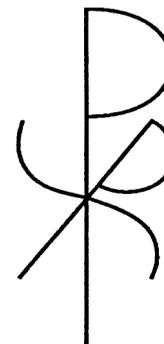
Seventeen days ago we began our pilgrim Lenten journey during which we were invited to enter into this sacred time and space through traditional elements of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we live right now numerous human-made tragedies of armed conflicts in Syria, in the Sudan, in the Eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Myanmar as well as sudden outbursts of violence closer to home in schools and neighbourhoods, these practices are even more appropriate. After all, they are a way of clearing our minds, hearts and schedules so that we might see with our pilgrim eyes and hearts what is really important and essential. It brings me today to be thankful for the gift of each day, the gift of safety and peace. It also brings me to reach out to those in need both here and in those far-away places. In a sense Lent and what we are now experiencing through natural and man-made disasters, help me to notice life and remind me not to rush through it. Lent helps me to see that it is all about "being": being more aware, more conscious of who I am, who God is for me and who God is calling me to "be". It is about acknowledging my yearning for more than what the world around can give me and my hunger for God. It is about recognizing that my "being" for others, acknowledging and supporting others, can feed my soul and, ultimately, can feed others. It is about searching for my natural self, my God-given self, and finding inner peace so that I can enter into dialogue and together with them become peace-makers.

Our practices during Lent are only successful if they lead me closer to God and closer to my fellow human beings. So we pray and turn to God: "change our hearts." Our Parish retreat the weekend of March 9-11 focuses on our need to come to and experience forgiveness in our human relationships and in our relationship with God. We also recognize that change is a slow process and that it only comes about with each decision and choice we make, each good action, one day at a time.

Then we find peace and become peace makers. With 28 days left on our Lenten journey, here are 28 ways of peace making:

- Day 1 – Today, I will reflect on what true peace means to me.
- Day 2 – Today, I will look at opportunities to be a peacemaker in my family, in my relationships, at work, in school.
- Day 3 – Today, I will practice praise rather than criticism.
- Day 4 – Today, I will take time to admire and appreciate nature and make good use of resources.
- Day 5 – Today, I will acknowledge every human being's fundamental right to justice, equity, equality.
- Day 6 – Today, I will appreciate the earth's bounty and all those who work to make my food available
- Day 7 – Today, I will work to understand and respect another culture.
- Day 8 – Today, I will look beyond stereotypes and prejudices; I will embrace differences, value others
- Day 9 – Today, I will choose to be aware of what I talk about and I will refuse to gossip.
- Day 10 – Today, I will live in the present moment and release the past.
- Day 11 – Today, I will speak with kindness, respect and patience to every person on all my devices of communication.
- Day 12 – Today, I will affirm my value & worth with positive "self-talk" - refuse to put myself down.
- Day 13 – Today, I will tell the truth and speak honestly from the heart.
- Day 14 – Today, I will cause a ripple effect of good by a random act of kindness toward another.
- Day 15 – Today, I will choose to use my talents to serve others by volunteering a portion of my time.
- Day 16 – Today, I will identify something special in everyone I meet.
- Day 17 – Today, I will turn off anything that portrays or supports violence whether on TV or internet.
- Day 18 – Today, I will greet this day, everyone and everything, with openness and acceptance.
- Day 19 – Today, I will drive with tolerance and patience.
- Day 20 – Today, I will constructively channel my anger, frustration or jealousy into healthy activities.
- Day 21 – Today, I will take time to appreciate people who provide me with challenges in my life.
- Day 22 – Today, I will talk less and listen more.
- Day 23 – Today, I will notice the peacefulness in the world around me.
- Day 24 – Today, I will take time to tell a family member or friend how much they mean to me.
- Day 25 – Today, I will acknowledge and thank someone for acting kindly.
- Day 26 – Today, I will send a kind and supportive anonymous message to someone.
- Day 27 – Today, I will strive to learn from my mistakes.
- Day 28 – Today, I will listen without defending and speak without judgment.

Let each day be a prayer: "God, what is it that we can accomplish together today. God will answer: we will discover it together"; with God's grace our Lenten journey will be joyous and fruitful! Shalom,



Saanich Peninsula Parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Parish office: 10030 Third St, Sidney
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Web site: www.spparish.com

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Pastor: Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

Admin. Assistants: Melanie Ehrlich & Gary Koett

Associate Pastor: Fr. Thomas Chinnappa

Parish Council Chair: Mary McGovern

SUNDAY EUCHARIST at ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.

at OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Daily at St. Elizabeth's: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

Third Friday: 9:00 am at the Legion Manor, 7601 East Saanich Road, Saanichton

Last Friday: 11:00 am in the Chapel at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Remaining Fridays: 9:00 am in a private home (for location see "This Week in Our Parish" ...)

RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 4, 2018

Exodus 20: 1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25 John 2: 13-25

Psalm 19: Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would

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

Feb. 4.....	\$ 4,102
Feb. 11.....	\$ 3,320
Feb. 18.....	\$ 3,514
Feb. 25.....	\$ 2,480
Pre-Authorized Debits	\$ 4,835
Monthly Target.....	\$23,000

We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the soul of John Enright whose funeral was on Mar. 3.

SHARE LENT 2018: TOGETHER FOR PEACE

This year's Development & Peace's theme for Share Lent 2018 is **Together For Peace**. At this weekend's Masses, you will receive a 'mini magazine' outlining challenges that face our sisters and brothers around the world as well as how your efforts through D & P are "knocking down walls to build bridges". Pope Francis' Lenten message of the imperative need for dialogue as an essential component of peace echoes throughout the stories and reflections in this mini-magazine. It contains a wealth of information and inspiration. Lent calls us "to reflect on the profound meaning of peace by discovering the importance of dialogue within the context of reconciliation and peacebuilding." This does not just happen in far away countries. We are invited to grow as peacemakers in our own space. Such an opportunity is at our doorstep in our Parish Retreat happening this coming week, Friday through Sunday, March 9 - 11.

LENTEN LIBRARY

On our Lenten journey please take time to check out the new books on display on the trolley at the rear of the church. We are accepting donations of books with a Lenten or Easter theme – if you wish to donate a book please leave it in the "Return Book" box on the library shelves and enclose your name and telephone number. Thank you in advance. The Library team.

C.WL. BRIDGE TOURNAMENT: MAR. 17

Sat. March 17, 11:30 am - 3:00 pm at St. Eliz. Tickets on sale now. \$20 / person or \$80 / table (incl. lunch). **Call Olga Sweet at 778-426-1941.**

NEXT WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 5

1:00 pm Faith Reflection
7:00 pm **Stations of the Cross**

TUESDAY, MAR. 6

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
2:00 pm ~~CWL Exec. Mtg. cancelled~~
2:00 pm **SVDP Conference Mtg.**
7:30 pm **K of C Executive Mtg.**

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
10:00 am Taiji Qigong
6:00 pm **Parish Council**

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
2:00 pm Prayer Group
6:00 pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's followed by Eucharistic Adoration
10:00 am Mass at the home of Kay Richards
7:00 pm **Parish Retreat at St. Elizabeth**

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

9am-noon **Parish Retreat at St. Elizabeth**
12:00 noon lunch
1 - 4 pm **Parish Retreat**
~~2:00 pm El Shaddai cancelled~~
4:00 pm Confession
5:00 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

8:30 am Mass: Our Lady of Assumption
9 am - 12 pm **Parish Retreat including**
10:30 am **Mass at St. Elizabeth's**

For the latest schedule see tinyurl.com/sppcal

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Holy Cross: Thurs. March 8 at 7:00 pm
St. Joseph the Worker: Thurs. March 15 at 7:00 pm
In our Parish at St. Elizabeth: Friday March 16 at 7:00 pm.

SAANICH PENINSULA PARISH RETREAT! THIS WEEK! MARCH 9 - 11

This interactive Retreat at St. Elizabeth's will be focused on "Living Gospel through Forgiveness."

Retreat Program

Fri. Mar. 9: 7 - 9 pm (session+break)
Sat. Mar. 10: 9 am - noon (session+break)
12:00 noon Lunch (bring bag lunch if desired: soup & beverages will be provided:)
1 pm - 4 pm (session+break)
Sun. Mar. 11 9 - 9:45 am (session+break)
9:45 am (break)
10:30 am - Mass followed by fellowship

Patti-Anne: "The retreat is consistent with a Lenten deepening of prayer, meditation, and engagement on scripture with focused information about forgiveness, based also on information from social and evidence based sciences."

This retreat will be led by Fr. Peter Doherty from Calgary along with our own parishioner Patti-Anne Kay. They have given this interactive retreat to many different parishes and recently published a book through **Novalis** entitled "**Forgiveness**".

View the book synopsis on the following link:

tinyurl.com/spp-retreat-book.

No registration required; a good will offering collection will be taken at the end of the retreat.

Give yourself a Lenten gift - plan to attend this unique opportunity.

SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN CAN COME WITH THEIR PARENTS TO THE RETREAT TOO!!

To accommodate parents who plan on attending the retreat, Jim and Carla Fretwell have kindly volunteered their time and talent to organize fun activities and games to occupy the children! So bring them along: faith based weekend that both parents & children can enjoy and reflect upon!

PASTORAL CARE OUTREACH

Diocesan Pastoral Care Outreach Training workshops. Bring a bag lunch. **NEXT SESSION: Listening & Communication and Mental Health** March 10, 2018 9 am – 3 pm
St. Patrick's (Oak Bay) (250) 592-7391
stpat190@telus.net

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2017 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS - in the foyer of the church

CHRISM MASS: MARCH 22

On Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm, at the Cathedral, Bishop Gary Gordon will be the principal celebrant at the Chrism Mass for the blessing and consecration of the oils that will be used in all our parishes in the coming year. **All are invited to attend. A reception will follow.**

K OF C BURSARY

Register for a \$500 bursary from the BC / Yukon K of C: a 6 week process with a final completed application by the end of June. Only for students entering their 2nd or later year of post secondary education in an approved institute. For more info call **Roy Battilana 250-652-0340.**

ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS POSITIONS

Island Catholic Schools are accepting applications for positions posted on their website: <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

JAZZ VESPERS: MARCH 4

Sun., Mar. 4, 7 p.m. at St. John's United Church, Deep Cove, with The George Essihos Trio.

"HERE I AM LORD, IS IT I, LORD?"

The words to this beloved hymn remind us of God's call to serve Him through service to others. Later this spring **our Parish Council will need 'new recruits' to serve as Parish Council members. It's not too soon to start listening for your call to service.**

HUNT FOR EASTER EGG TREATS

The Religious Education program is planning an Easter Egg Hunt. **If you would like to contribute some treats for this occasion, please drop off your donation at the parish office.** Thank You.

STARFIELDS, A FESTIVAL OF HOPE

Together with other faith groups, this festival of hope takes place **April 13-15** at various worship and other spaces in Victoria. Events include poetry, music and workshops. Purchase tickets at Munro's books 250.382.2264, Ivy's 250.598.2713 or www.starfields.ticketleap.com
More information on bulletin board in the lobby.