

Pastor's Corner - Ascension and Pentecost 2018

There are a number of feast days which we celebrate with wonderful music, great liturgies, good food and great company. I am sure we can all name them: Christmas, New Year's, Easter, the baptisms of our children/grandchildren. And then there are those other feast days which in our consumer world take on ever greater dimensions: Valentine's Halloween, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, etc. All these feast days are celebrated with their holidays, their gifts and cards, with special flowers and balloons, specialized food, etc. Well, there is another very important and great feast day which so far has escaped the consumer mentality but which for us Christians is really as great a feast day as are Christmas and Easter: yes, Pentecost! Just as Christmas would have no meaning without Easter and vice versa, so the Ascension and Pentecost are an inevitable outcome of Christmas and Easter. They are all linked and very important.

Easter was the celebration of the highlight of our faith: in Jesus God became flesh and lived within our human existence. Jesus tried to tell us who God is for us. Jesus' whole life, his words and his actions revealed to all of humanity the incomprehensible, illogical and irrepressible love of God for all of humanity. In Jesus, we learned that God loves us as brother, as father, as sister, as mother. God's love, God's mercy and healing, God's wisdom and strength became real, became flesh in Jesus and were present in our midst. And all this so that Jesus might by his suffering and death free us from all that binds and oppresses us and bring us "home" to God. At the feast of the Ascension we celebrate that the Christ event came full circle and that the risen Lord, born the vulnerable babe in Bethlehem, has gone home to God and glory after a full life of joys and pains, struggles and hopes. The feast of the Ascension is a reminder to us that we too are destined to go home and live in the glory of God, that **we might become sharers in God's divinity.**

Jesus the anointed one needed to leave us. Why? Well, Jesus himself gives us a response. In the Gospel of John Jesus will say that he has lost nothing of what the Father had given him. Jesus is not returning to God and glory empty-handed! Jesus has taken with him everything that is ours. He has taken us with him because he loved us so intensely, so closely that we could not possibly be separated from him! God remains close to the ones he loves, to all of us. How? By the gift of the Holy Spirit: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him/her to you (John 16:7-8)." **This Spirit God is already in us!**

It took a while for the first disciples of Jesus to understand that the physical presence of Jesus in their lives would continue with the greatest gift that Jesus could give them: the Spirit of God which had encouraged him in his life and which raised him from death. At first they were frightened, confused at the loss of their beloved Jesus but then God again took the initiative and the gift of the Spirit overpowered their fear and paralysis and empowered them to become messengers of the good news by their words and actions. The power of the Spirit had no limits in them and now in us.

Yes, the Spirit is here in us and yet not fully here. When Jesus' Spirit is in us, then we are the Lord's and he is ours. And yet, there is still the pain of waiting for the Spirit's fulfillment in eternal life, the pain of hope not completely fulfilled, the pain of a pilgrimage not ended. But we do not look up toward heaven or to the future like the men of Galilee in **Acts 1:10**: "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" We are called to keep our eyes fixed on the present. We are called in our daily lives to make real among us the "first fruits" of the gift of the Spirit in us.

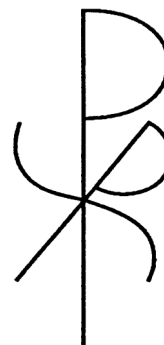
Karl Rahner in his book "**The Content of Faith**" tried to explain this paradox of the already here and the not yet by writing: "When the Spirit performs the miracle of faithfulness and courage in our poor lives from day to day, there is the Spirit of Christ. And where the Spirit of Christ is present, the true festival of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated."

As we prepare for the feast of Pentecost on May 20th let us today pray that we may come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism and renewed especially at Pentecost. Already described in **Isaiah 11:2-3**, these **seven gifts of the Holy Spirit** are later described by Saint Ambrose as poured out on a believer at baptism and confirmation as being:

Spirit of Wisdom; Spirit of Understanding; Spirit of Counsel; Spirit of Strength/courage, Spirit of Knowledge; Spirit of Godliness/reverence; Spirit of Holy Fear/ awe and wonder. Let us pray that we may once more receive these seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and that our daily lives may bear it's fruits in our world, described in **Galatians 5: 22-23** as being: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Shalom,

Fr. Rolf, OP



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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Mailing address: 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3

Rectory: 250-652-1557

Web site: www.spparish.com

Admin. Assistants: Melanie Ehrlich & Gary Koett

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.



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 13, 2018

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Mark 16:15-20



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 20, 2018

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:

3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

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**

April Total..... \$19,901
 May 6 \$ 4,284
 Pre-Authorized Debits (March)..... \$ 4,905
 Monthly Target..... \$25,000
 Pope's Pastoral Works Collection \$ 1,018

We offer condolences to the family of Linda Kipot - funeral Sat., May 19 at 11am. at St. Eliz.

**ARBUTUS SINGERS RETURN MAY 16!
HOME GROWN FOOD FOR SOUTH SUDAN:**

A fundraising concert will be performed at St. Elizabeth's Church on **Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm. The Arbutus Singers** from Victoria return for their 14th annual concert, featuring beautiful and inspiring music, celebrating their 20th anniversary as a choir. All proceeds will be go to **Hanti Sidra One Global Family**, a Sidney-based charity, to expand a very successful program that helps women and families in South Sudan to grow their own food. Tickets are only \$12 per person or \$25 for a family, and are available at the door. For advance tickets, contact Stephanie Schroeder at 250-655-3635 or densteph@shaw.ca.

PARISH COUNCIL NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new Parish Council which will include the following members: Mary McGovern (chair), James Bryce, Diane Guglielmi (**new**), Patty-Anne Kay, Leonarda Manalo, Sally McMillan (**new**), Marie Rosko (**new**), Cynthia Tandy, Peter Van Zyl (**new**). Council also includes Fr. Rolf, Fr. Thomas, Gary Koett (ex-officio) and Melanie Ehrlich (ex-officio). Best wishes for a successful term of service and a productive and collaborative year.

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN: JUNE 9 & 10

The Knights of Columbus "Pennies for Heaven Donation Drive" is rescheduled to June 9 & 10 so please keep those pennies (and bills) safe until then and maybe with the nice spring weather they may even grow a bit. This campaign supports seminarians and promotes vocations.

PASTORAL CARE WORKSHOP: MAY 26

Saturday, May 26, 9 am- 3 pm. Who am I as a Pastoral Care Visitor? At St. Joseph the Worker

NEXT 2 WEEKS IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MAY 14

1:00 pm Faith Reflection (**May 14 only**)
 * Note: Faith Reflection will adjourn for the summer and resume again on September 17

TUESDAY, MAY 15 & 22

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
7:00 pm K of C Rosary (May 15)
7:30 pm K of C Meeting (May 15)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 & 23

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 10:00 am Taiji Qigong
7:30 pm Arbutus Singers Concert (May 16)

THURSDAY, MAY 17 & 24

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
 2:00 pm Prayer Group
6:00 pm Parish Council (May 24)
 6:00 pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, MAY 18 & 25

9:00 am Mass
 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's (**May 18 & 25**)
 9:00 am Mass at the Legion Manor (**May 18**)
 11:00 am Mass at Saan Pen Hospital (**May 25**)

SATURDAY, MAY 19 & 26

11:00 am Funeral for Linda Kipot (May 19)
 4:00 pm Confession
 5:00 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAY 20 & 27

8:30 am Mass: Our Lady of Assumption
 10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship
11:30 am Samahan Fellowship (May 20)
11:30 am K of C Pancake Breakfast (May 27)

For the latest schedule see tinyurl.com/sppcal

Bring lunch. To register: call the parish office at 250. 479-7413 or sjtwoffice@shaw.ca

D & P AND CEMETARY CONTROVERSIES

No new information has been received in this regard. As we learn more, please trust that information will be shared when available. Your patience and prayers are appreciated.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

All youth grades 8 - 12 are invited to the "THRIVE" youth conference at **St. Andrew's High School: May 25-27**. "Slip and Slide/Praise and Worship/Games/Dance Party/Adoration/Great Food!" All who have attended in the past have said that they had a great time and that it is a great opportunity to meet others with faith based values in an environment where "strangers are friends that you haven't yet met". Register at rcdvictoria.org.

FLAVOURS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: JUNE 10

The Samahan Fellowship group invites you to a fundraising lunch featuring Indian and Filipino cuisine on Sunday, **June 10 after 10:30 Mass** at St. Elizabeth's. Proceeds to go towards our Ministry to First Nations. Tickets \$10/each or \$25/family. Tickets after Sunday Mass. Call Cynthia for more info/tickets 250-652-6191 or email ctandy@telus.net.

SISTERS OF ST. ANN CELEBRATION

On **Sat. June 2**, you are invited to join the Sisters of St. Ann as they celebrate 160 years of loving ministry. Festivities begin at **10:30 am with Mass** at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Reception to follow at the Royal BC Museum (boxed lunch provided.) **Please email your RSVP by May 15 to 160thevent@ssabc.ca.**

QUEEN MOTHER VERONICA PROJECT: MAY 22

Tues. May 22, 7 pm, St. Joseph the Worker Parish will host a presentation by Veronica Abugrago, the Paramount Queen Mother of the Bawku Traditional Area in the north east corner of Ghana, who has dedicated her time to empowering women and girls. Everyone invited.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CONCERT: MAY 22

Island Catholic Schools presents its Annual Choral Concert: **LORD OF ALL POWER**. Tue. May 22, 6:30 pm, at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Free. This concert will be livestreamed from www.rcdvictoria.org.

EARTH LITERACIES: MAY 26

Sat May 26, 10 am - 4 pm, Sacred Circle Dancing: Universe Power of Interrelatedness with Bernice Vetter, SC, \$70, bring lunch, Location: Friends Meeting House, 1831 Fern St. Register at Programs@earthliteracies.org, or call 250-220-4601.

ANAWIM HOUSE: MAY 24

Music and Inspiration, an evening of inspirational presentation and musical entertainment will be held on Thursday, May 24 from 7 to 9 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Hall. Cost: \$55. More info at: anawim-victoria.myevent.com.

TAIZE EVENING PRAYER: MAY 13

Evening Prayer in the Style of Taize at St. Mary's, Saanichton on the 2nd Sunday of the month: May 13 and June 10 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Diocesan clergy appointments and changes have been made for the following: Fr. William Hann, Fr. Karam Alraban, Fr. Sean Flynn, Fr. Marinaldo Batista, Fr. Eduardo Santos, Fr. Bernardo Injou Lee, Fr. Jose Prakash and Fr. Devane Sam. Details are available on the foyer bulletin board.

OFFICE CLOSED WED. MAY 23RD FOR STAFF DAY

The administration staff at St. Elizabeth's will be attending a Parish Support Staff professional development day at the Diocese on May 23rd and therefore the office will be closed on this day.

TAIZE MAY 18TH & JUNE 15TH

The promise of Easter and new beginnings welcomes you to join us at 'a time of quiet and beautiful chanting', Fridays, May 18th & June 15th, 6 - 7 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral for Prayer and Music in the Style of Taize services. End your week with a moment to reflect and nourish your spirit. Taize services welcome everyone.

SAT. JULY 28, 2018 - ORDINATION

Bishop Gary Gordon invites you to the Ordination to the Order of Deacon of: John Dawson, Dion Pomponio, Michael Watkins, Philip Yuson on Sat. July 28, 2018 at 10:30 am at St. Andrew's Cathedral. These men have spent 4½ years in prayerful discernment, study and ministry. We wish them and their families God's blessings. Following the Ordination, all are welcome to attend a reception at St. Patrick's in Oak Bay.