

Dear members of our faith community;

November 22, 2020

These are the last days of our Liturgical Year and of the month of November, a month when we remember the horrors and sufferings of past wars as well as of present conflicts and violence in so many parts of the world. As we feel sometimes our present world in a mess again, let us also denounce and regret the hatred, stupidity and the lack of wisdom that often bring about this mess. This weekend's feast day of Christ the King reminds us that only God, the God of all people, is the benign ruler and shepherd who has our and humanity's very best interest at heart; that goodness, forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy and peace must rule our hearts, our actions and our world.

On November 17 we celebrated the feast day of our patroness here in Saanich Peninsula Parish: St. Elizabeth of Hungary who was a queen of Thuringen, a region in present day south-east Germany and Czech Republic, who reached out to care for ordinary people, for the sick, the aged and the needy of her time. Because of conflicts and opposing religious loyalties she even had to suffer animosity from her own family descendants. She is a patron saint of the Franciscan Third Order and of Catholic Charities.

We in Saanich Peninsula Parish, being in a Church with an option for the poor, want to continue to reach out to the needy of our time and in our world, both close by as well as far off. That is why we have prepared and are proposing a 2021 budget of \$200,000 that, despite a roughly 20% drop in foreseeable revenues, maintains a substantial amount of money for donations and for support of our partners in mission, the Parishes of St. Francis of Assissi in Tofino and Holy Family in Ucluelet. I want to thank all who have continued to support financially the parish with their donations, sometimes to a greater extent than before. Without this support we would not be able to function. This is also true for the Diocese and it is great to see that as of Nov.18 we have reached 78% of our goal of \$ 46,000 in the Diocesan Appeal "Horizon of Hope." Please, remember that any donation, no matter the amount, is appreciated.

On Friday Nov.13th a combined meeting with three members each of Parish Council (Mary McGovern, James Bryce and Diane Guglielmi) and Finance Committee (Jim Williams, Jerry Loughheed and Ray Ehrlich) set out the following budget of which you find the summary in an attachment ([Proposed 2021 Budget - Click Here](#)). We tried to cut ordinary expenditures to a minimum and will use a small portion from our MIC reserve fund. Please, look at it, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the above members or myself with your comments.

You may have noticed that Peter Taylor, chair of our Finance Committee for the past number of years, was not present. Due to ongoing health concerns during this Covid-19 pandemic Peter regretfully asked to resign from the committee back in September; he also wished younger members of the congregation to come forward to take on the responsibilities of various committees. In the name of the Parish I want to thank Peter for his many years of service to our community. I found his advice and insights very helpful in determining our journey together. Peter, we wish you and your family all the best.

And yes, you who in the past number of years have become a member of our faith community here in the Parish, we need you and your talents and gifts. In all fields we need volunteers to come forward. There will always be serving members to help you become familiar with the ministry in which you may have an interest. They are all ministries, because we all minister to one another and reach out to others. Thank you for coming forward. Please, let Melanie or myself know by phoning 250-656-7433.

You can also contact directly the leaders and many members of the various ministries who we wish to thank for their continued service and leadership.

I want to thank again all those who were part of the very successful telephone bee which Melanie organized earlier. Let us, please, continue to reach out to the many, many parishioners who are isolated either at home or in nursing homes or assisted living, or who feel not safe to come to church right now. Many have told me how important and comforting the calls have been to them

We all need to take the initiative to reach out, in whatever we way can, to those in our community who are not able to come to the weekend masses. Many are not able to come because they are first responders, people who are vulnerable because they are helping the elderly, the sick whether at home or in nursing homes, in hospitals, or in assisted living homes. Let us be thankful for their devotion and their service as caregivers, nurses, cleaners, doctors, teachers, nursing aids, restaurant workers, etc. Please, be assured that all of you are present in our thoughts and prayers when we gather for prayer, (thank you musicians and singers who sing in our name), and the Eucharist at the five weekend masses. This weekend we want sing in our hearts happy 100th birthday (Nov. 17) to John Weicker in Broadmead Lodge, to Peter Yearwood who will celebrate his 98th birthday in The Peninsula. We want to congratulate Stan (who is 96 and in Broadmead) and Maureen Hall who are celebrating on Nov. 29 their 71st wedding anniversary. On this last weekend of our Liturgical Year we also want to remember those written in our November Book of Remembrance: all those who in our Parish have died in the past year and all of our deceased family members who passed on their faith to us.

*We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the soul of: **Kurt Johann Sommer** who died on Nov. 14 and whose funeral will be Nov. 23 at St. Elizabeth. Due to covid-19 by invitation only.*

Recent Blog: The Diocese sent the latest Blog “Church of Many Faces” which this week features our Parish with our two churches of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Sidney and Our Lady of the Assumption in Saanichton. Take a moment to view it and then share it with friends and family members:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/saanich-peninsula-parish-a-pilgrim-church>

- **Christmas celebrations:** Because of uncertainties re. the pandemic regulations we will wait another week before creating the Christmas Mass schedule. This year Christmas Eve will fall on Thursday Dec. 24 and Christmas Day on Friday Dec. 25. If all goes well there will be a good number of mass times available and ample time for you to sign in. Please, do not phone the office at this time and wait. Thank you for your understanding and patience.
- The celebration of **baptisms, weddings and funerals** have and will continue to be possible but with limitations and observance of strict protocols. Most of the time the families decide to make these private and for very small gatherings. If you wish to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)**, please, contact me to arrange for a day and time.
- Due to the pandemic there is no separate **Religious Formation** program for children. There is a **Saturday 3:30 pm (Note the new time !)** family mass for children together with **parents/grandparents**. If you wish to attend, please let us know 😊
- **The Nov. 29, 2020 to Nov. 2021 MISSALS HAVE ARRIVED!**

Missals are available in the church lobby! **They are \$5.** Get them while they last!

- Regarding **in-person-meetings: Alcoholic Anonymous/Noon Serenity**, an essential service and ministry, is now meeting in the reception area of **St. Elizabeth's on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays at 12:00 noon.** Thank you to the volunteers who organize these very important gatherings observing all the necessary protocols of our Parish and of BC Public Health.
- Melanie has developed a "**Saanich Peninsula Parish**" profile on **Facebook**, which we hope will enable parishioners to ask questions, discuss issues, provide news, all for the spiritual wellbeing of parishioners. We invite those of you who are Facebook users to join this **Private group!** Look for the profile that shows our stained glass window!
- The **hospital and home Visiting Ministries** will continue to be by phone or electronically.
- **On the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henri you are "expected" to wear a mask even if it is not yet obligatory**
- **The next special collection: Catholic Missions in Canada: weekend of Nov. 29**

Shalom ! (a Hebrew prayer and blessing that God bring to pass the deepest desires of your heart),
Fr. Rolf, OP

Mass Registration & Guidelines to follow that will help us:

- Continue to let the Parish Office know by **Thursday at noon** if you wish to attend an available mass time. Call 250-656-7433 or email spparish@shaw.ca
- **Do not substitute your spot for someone else to attend.** We need you to keep your spot for contact tracing.
- **No church hopping.** As a member of Saanich Peninsula Parish, you should be staying here. The other churches in the Diocese are asking the same from their members.
- If you are absent for **more than 2 weeks and there is no communication to the office**, we will remove you from the roster so that people on the waiting list can come.
- **Please, follow the social/physical distancing and other regulations. They are for the protection and safety of other people in the community as well as for your own. And remember, other people feel safer when you observe them.**
- We thank you for your cooperation, flexibility and understanding.

Summary:

There are now **5 Sunday Masses**, all at St. Elizabeth's:

- **Friday 10:00 am Mass** *Remember this Mass is considered to be **your** Sunday Mass.*
- **Saturday 3:30 pm Mass** (**Note new time!**; *this is a children's family mass*)
- **Saturday 5:00 pm Mass**
- **Sunday 9:00 am Mass** (**Note new time!**)
- **Sunday 10:30 am Mass**
- **Sunday 1:00 pm Mass** in French at St. Jean-Baptiste in Victoria

As a reminder, we are still unable to gather at Our Lady of the Assumption and there are no weekday masses at St. Elizabeth's.

Aside from sacramental and other "essential" ministries, all "in person" meetings/gatherings of various groups and organizations remain suspended.

HANTI SIDRA GIFT CARDS...BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

HANTI SIDRA **ONE GLOBAL FAMILY**

Have you ever tried to find a gift for a person who doesn't need anything? Why not get a Hanti Sidra Gift Card? We offer a group of themed cards that allow you to make a donation of \$20.00 or a larger amount of your choice to one of our projects in Eritrea or South Sudan in the name of a friend or loved one. You receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation. Cards can be used, customized if necessary, for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, weddings, memoriams, etc. **Check out our 2020 collection of Gift Cards here at:**

https://spparish.com/files/docs/Card_Samples_2020.pdf Contact Stephanie Schroeder at 250-655-3635 or email: hantisidra@gmail.com for more info. or to request cards with your donation.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the cards will not be available in the St. Elizabeth's Church foyer as in past years. When you contact Stephanie you can make arrangements to drop off your donation and pick up your cards or have them delivered to you. All donations by cheque should be made out to **HANTI SIDRA FUND**. If you make a cash donation of \$20.00 or more and would like a tax receipt, please fill out one of our cash donation slips or envelopes.

OUR ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Our Parish has pledged so far \$ 36,245 or 78.79% towards our goal of \$46,000 in the Horizon of Hope Diocesan Appeal. A few appeal envelopes are available in the foyer. You can also put your donation in an envelope marked Diocesan Appeal and put it into the collection basket. Please, participate; no matter what the amount your donation is important for the life of our Diocesan faith community. The Parish portion (20%) will be used to help the West Coast Missions of Ucluelet and Tofino. Thank you for your participation and your generosity. Please click on link to view Bishop Gary's recent Video:

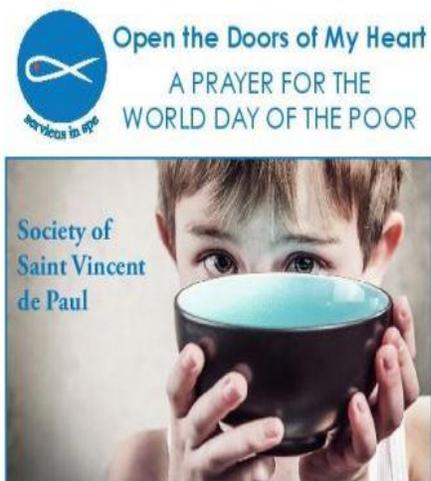
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/horizonofhope2020/#bishops-video>

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - NOVEMBER SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN



Thank you for your solidarity and generosity! Development and Peace – Caritas Canada wishes to thank Saanich Peninsula Parish for its generosity! Money will help our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East with their immediate needs and in their work for a just recovery. If you were unable to contribute to the collection, it is not too late!

You can contribute to the parish collection or make an online donation at www.devp.org on Development and Peace website are by clicking directly to the donation page [Here](#). Watch this short [Video](#) to learn more about the work of Development and Peace during the pandemic.



"As long as Lazarus lies at the door of our homes (cf. Luke 16:19-21), there can be no justice or social peace." Pope Francis

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR – AND FOOD DRIVE

At the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, on Nov. 20, 2016, in his Apostolic letter, entitled Mercy and Peace, Pope Francis invited us to celebrate the World Day of the Poor on the 33rd Sunday in ordinary time. We celebrated that special day on **Nov. 15th**. According to our government 1,900,000 Canadian families struggle every day to make ends meet - and that was before the Covid-19 crisis! Our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (St. Elizabeth of Hungary Conference) invites you to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters, especially at this uncertain time. We encourage you to lend a hand by participating in the donation of non-perishable food items which are being placed around the altar in the church. After Nov. 22 the items will be given to the Saanich Peninsula Food Bank

and to the St. Vincent de Paul Social Concern Office. Of course, financial help is always appreciated too. Thank you for your continuous support in using the monthly blue SSVP donation envelopes or by pre-authorized debit (PAD). Lucy Bandet, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Conference.

GRATITUDE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The 9-10 Club soup kitchen sends our heartfelt thanks to the generous parishioners of the Diocese of Victoria: first to St. Andrew's Cathedral, who 37 years ago this month gave us a home; then to all the parishioners of Greater Victoria, who have helped in your own way. You have given us your time – as volunteers, your wisdom, your monetary support, and most recently your home baked goods for our pandemic takeout meals. We cannot overstate our gratitude to you! Because of the pandemic, we can no longer invite our diners inside to eat and now provide a take-out service. We look forward to the day when we may welcome back into our home those who depend on us for sustenance. In the meantime, though **twice as costly**, with your continued financial support, our takeout service will carry on providing hearty meals until that joyous day! If able to, please donate online through Canada Helps, <https://www.canadahelps.org> or by sending a cheque to: 9-10 Club Serving Soup to the Hungry, 740 View Street, Victoria, V8W 1J8.

BIRTHRIGHT FUDGE

Birthright is taking Orders for their delicious Chocolate Fudge this November! A bit of sweet in this challenging year! The packets make great stocking stuffers or holiday gifts. Arrangements have been made for pre-paid orders to be delivered to the parish office for collection in December. Please see the order form attached to this email to view the delicious varieties. Then, contact Peggy Chapeski at 478-5372 or email her at info@birthrightvictoria.org. Your purchase supports the pro-life pregnancy support work of Birthright Victoria.



CALLING ALL LADIES

During our time of isolation these past months many of us are looking at ways we can help those less fortunate than ourselves. You might consider joining the Catholic Women's League. Globally it supports women's programs in developing countries. Nationally the League promotes awareness of and responds to political and social issues that affect all Canadians. And locally the League supports such charities as Anawim House, the Sidney Food Bank and Saanich Peninsula Hospice. Not only does the League reach out to the community and beyond but we are a group of women getting together monthly (in normal times) fellowshiping and making new friends. We would love to have you join us! Membership is only \$30 a year. If you would like more info. about the Catholic Women's League please check out the national website: www.cwl.ca If you would like to join, please call Doreen at 250 538 7668



The Knights of Columbus is holding their annual Charity Appeal once again this year, in support of local and provincial charities! However, with the continued challenges of Covid-19, it has some new twists! All prizes this year are cash, with 1st Prize being \$100,000! Tickets are still \$3 each, but with no paper tickets, they must be bought online by credit card. Go to: www.KofCDraw.net/C9703

By purchasing through our Council 9703, a portion of the sales returns to us for local distribution. Last year's sales allowed us to share over \$1600 with local charities. We thank you for your support in past years, and hope we can count on you again this fall!

Share this URL with friends and family in BC, or buy tickets for them! There are only 200,000 tickets available, and the draw is on January 30, so get yours early! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Williams (250-656-9658). BC LLC# 126541

PLEASE, DO NOT DROP-OFF ITEMS AT THE CHURCH

Due to Covid19, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is not picking up clothing, books, housewares or garden items etc. of any kind from our church. Please do not drop off/leave any items at the church either outside or inside! You will need to look for alternative means of donating your items. ***Our library is also not accepting books during this time.***

WANTED TO RENT

Affordable 1 bedroom suite for a single, quiet, mature lady. Long term rent sought for anytime after Dec.15 and before Jan.13th. For more info, contact Donna Thompson @ 250-656-2064.

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Thanks to all who are continuing your weekly donations including the Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD's) and E-Transfers. This is essential for the Parish to stay afloat and to keep our staff. If you wish to send via E-Transfer, you can do so directly to the Diocesan Development Office at developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org. Include your Full name and Parish Name "Saanich Peninsula Parish" in the e-transfer message so it can be passed on to our parish. Let us know at sparish@shaw.ca once completed so we can track it.

If you give donations for several weeks, could you, please, consolidate them into one donation or cheque and place it into one envelope. It helps our counters a great deal!

The Diocese and the Parish have received three payments under the "Canadian Federal Emergency Wage-subsidy" program (CEWS) for March, April and May. The Diocese and we were not eligible for June. The CEWS program is continuing from July to December with new guidelines but at a much lesser and every month at a declining rate; so far we have received **two payments of \$1785/month and one of 1468.27/month**, which is less than one quarter of our monthly payroll. Please, express gratitude to our Canadian Government.

THE 2021 ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

CELEBRATE MASS ONLINE AT ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL IN VICTORIA

Join **Bishop Gary Gordon** and other celebrants for mass, Monday to Friday at 7 PM as well as on Sundays at 10 AM through live stream from the Cathedral. Simply click on:

www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream