

Saanich Peninsula Parish

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

Our 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.”*

St. Elizabeth church & parish office: 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3

Parish office: 250-656-7433 Rectory: 250-652-1557 Fr Rolf cell: 250-652-1990

Email: spparish@shaw.ca

Web site: www.spparish.com

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

Parish Office Coordinator: Melanie Ehrlich

Email: rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Mary McGovern

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

at **ST. ELIZABETH'S**, 10030 Third Street, Sidney:

Saturdays at 5:00 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.

at **OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**, 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton:

Sundays at 8:30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

AT ST. ELIZABETH'S: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & First Friday 9:00 am

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

Pastor's corner – September 12, 2021

Dear members of our faith community;

In this Sunday's Gospel of **Mark 8:27-35** we have Jesus ask his disciples and us, "Who do you say that I am?" He is not so much interested in what other people are saying of him but how each one of us see him in our lives. In the Gospel Peter only wishes to see the glory of Jesus: "You are the Christ", the long-awaited Messiah who will make our lives full of happiness and glory. When Jesus responds that it will include "great suffering, be rejected ... and be killed", Peter "rebuked Jesus." The first disciples did not want to hear that following Jesus would include sacrifice: "Whoever wants to become my follower, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever want to save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel will save it (8:33-35)."

During the present election campaign we tend to be like the first disciples; we only wish to hear the "good" news of all kinds of promises that will bring reconciliation and peace, and make our lives sweeter, easier, richer. Campaign organizers and speech writers make sure that that is the only message which candidates will communicate. After all, that is the way to get followers and win an election!

Jesus' call to his disciples was very different and in the eyes of the world foolish and bound to lose. Jesus was only guided in his "campaign" by the love of God which he wished to communicate to all people and all peoples everywhere. He called people blessed when they are poor and poor in spirit, when they are meek and humble, when they hunger and work for justice, when they are merciful and when they are peacemakers. He talked about sacrifice, about caring and reaching out to others; yes for loved ones but also for those outside our immediate circles, even those we disagree with, even our enemies.

Giving us the example of his life and his teachings in the way he related to God and to others, he called on us to seek the truth, to learn from each other and to be a leaven in society so that this world might strive to be a wiser, more just and better world. He asked us to care for the poor and forgotten in our land; for migrants crossing deserts, seas and walls with barbed wire and for those in far-off refugee camps; for those struggling under violence and oppression; for those unable to get vaccinated in poorer areas, etc. Paraphrasing someone else he kind of said: "Ask not from God what God can do for you, but what you can do for God and for your fellow human beings and for the whole of creation."

Jesus suffered defeat, a defeat that ended with death on a cross. But he ultimately triumphed; there is no risen Lord without the crucified Lord! And, let us be honest, we do not need nor want a bearded saviour who is triumphant sitting on a throne like our sweet religious images or like a modern comic strip or film hero. As a follower of Jesus I need and wish to have someone who is with me in my suffering and with us in the suffering of the world. I want someone who will encourage and support me and us when I and when we are trying to do what is right and when it hurts and costs. It is only then that we gain life by losing it: "whoever loses their life for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it."

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

Dora Verhagen who died on Sept. 3; funeral Mass will be later on Oct. 23 at 10:00 am

Jerry Loughead who died on Aug.22; funeral Mass was on Sept. 10 at St. Eliz.

Raymond Renaud who died on Sept. 3, 2020; funeral service was Sept. 3 at St. Eliz.

We welcome into our faith community in baptism:

Sophiah Bajao Schneider, daughter of Michael and Airene

Zeviana Tacluyan, daughter of Raphael and Gretyl

Alejo Lorenzo Villafuerte, son of Rejean and Maria Carmina

Lemuel Ralph Avila Rosales, son of Rafael and Jenilyn

Shalom, fr Rolf, OP

[IMPORTANT NEW LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP GARY GORDON – SEPT 9, 2021:](#)

"Following the memo and revised Directives issued on August 25, 2021, we received much feedback from members of our Diocese. Based on this, and the continuing high Covid-19 case counts in the Island Health Region, **we will now require face coverings for all people born in 2009 or earlier for all activities in church buildings in the Diocese of Victoria, including worship services.**

The B.C. government has also recently announced that proof of vaccination against Covid-19 will soon be required to access some events, services and businesses. ***All worship services are exempt from the requirement for proof of vaccination.*** As always, we urge all Catholics who are able to do so to follow the example of Pope Francis, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Bishop Gary and receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

Receptions following worship services, meetings that have a worship component, and essential services are also exempt from the requirement for proof of vaccination. This includes, for example:

- Baptism, wedding and funeral receptions immediately after the service

- Parish pastoral or finance council meetings
- CWL, Knights of Columbus, RCIA, catechism and youth group meetings
- NA/AA group meetings and soup kitchens

Proof of vaccination is required for all other uses of church buildings with more than 50 people in attendance. This includes, for example:

- Parish social or fundraising events such as dances, spaghetti dinners, bazaars, etc.
- Hall bookings to external groups

It is the responsibility of the pastor / administrator or their designate to verify proof of vaccination in these situations. The Province has provided information on how to do this at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof/businesses#verify-bc>

The previous General and Liturgical Directives issued on August 25, 2021 still apply, with the exception of these changes. Any questions about face covering or proof of vaccination or requirements can be directed to the Chancery by emailing chancery@rcdvictoria.org. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the implementation of these new requirements.”

• Parishioners in the Diocese of Victoria remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass at a church. Anyone who is sick or not feeling well must stay home.

- Parishioners are to be reminded not to shake hands or hug each other during the Kiss of Peace, unless they are sitting together as a family unit. Continuing the sign of peace with a gesture, such as bowing, is recommended.

- All people distributing Communion must either stand behind a clear Plexiglas screen or wear a face covering.

- Communion in this Diocese will continue to be distributed on the hand only.

As Pope Francis said in his video message on August 17th, **“Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love... small gestures for a better future”**.

widespread vaccination is our path to restriction-free liturgical gatherings, activities, and visits.

Please keep in prayer the many places in our world that do not have the kind of health care system that we do, nor an equitable access to vaccines. Thank you for your prayers and efforts as we work together during these challenging times.”

Bishop Gary Gordon

BACKGROUND FOR CATHOLICS ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Senator Murray Sinclair, the Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), once said of the residential school system: “It was education that got us into this mess, and education will get us out”.

The Diocese of Victoria has created a new page on its website with information about residential schools: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/residential-schools>. This “Background for Catholics”, adapted with permission from material provided by the Archdiocese of Toronto, includes information on the history of the schools, the recent announcements of unmarked graves, the archives and apologies of Catholic dioceses and religious orders, and past and current financial reparations. You can also download all the information in a single PDF [here](#).

Sharing this information is part of the Diocese's response to the TRC's Call to Action #59: to ensure that members of our Diocese learn about our Church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities are necessary.

As we read and reflect on this information, we call to mind the closing words of the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council's [Prayer for Tolerance, Forgiveness and Reconciliation](#):

DESTROYED HEAT PUMP

Earlier in August the heat pump serving Our Lady of the Assumption church was destroyed by someone who seemed to be interested in the compressor and the copper piping and wiring. Capital City Refrigeration which also services our heat pumps at St. Elizabeth put in the lowest bid of **\$4,425.00 + GST** with all the various warranties. The company installed and connected the new pump on **Sept. 10**. Since we have a \$5,000.- insurance deductible the full cost is born by the parish. We are looking into surrounding the new pump with a protective fence and gate.

SECOND COLLECTION Sept 12 and Sept. 26

We will be having a second collection for "**Needs of the Church in the Holy Land**". Normally this collection is on Good Friday; however we were closed due to the pandemic. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

On Sept. 26 the second collection will be for the "**Needs of the Church in Canada.**"

E-TRANSFER DONATIONS CAN BE SENT DIRECTLY TO OUR PARISH

E-Transfer donations can come directly to spparish@shaw.ca. Our bank account is set-up with "**Auto-Deposit**" feature and therefore **we do not require a security question to complete the transfer**. Thank you for all your weekly donations, including Pre-Authorized Debit's (PAD's). Your generosity is helping the Parish to stay afloat.

PASTORAL OUTREACH TRAINING: Register by Thursday, September 16

The Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will again be offered online this fall. Nine free sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 25 and running til November 27, 2021 (with a break on October 9 for Thanksgiving). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. This training is for those who wish to reach out to the sick and homebound.

Consider these questions: How can I encourage people to talk and share their stories? Can I really have an effect on someone's health with my visit? What is meant by the Ministry of Presence? Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team or an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, a caregiver to a family member, or someone who is considering adding these skills and would like to get involved, this training program is important. It will show why those who visit the sick are unique, and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Until pastoral access to homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities is fully available, Bishop Gary Gordon feels "it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need."

Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, and a reliable internet connection. **To register, please contact your parish office by Thursday, September 16th.** For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca