

# 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](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)

**Web site:** [www.spparish.com](http://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](mailto:rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org) **Parish Council Chair:** Mary McGovern

## SUNDAY EUCHARIST

**ST. ELIZABETH'S**, 10030 Third Street, Sidney: **Sat.:5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 am.**

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**, 7742 West Saanich Rd.: **NO Mass until further notice**

## 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.

Dear members of our faith community

January 16, 2022

When we look at the life of Jesus there are two very important themes which flow from his baptism which we celebrated last week and which we will be celebrating in the next few weeks.

When Jesus is baptized in **Luke 3:21-22** it is written that Jesus “was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him ... a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved...” This shows Jesus relating to God and the Spirit in an intimate way and how they form a unity. Throughout his ministry Jesus tried to tell us who God is for us and how God wished humanity and the whole of creation to be united. Jesus prays in John 17: 22-23: “Father, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me.” From Jesus’ prayer flows the importance for us as Christians to pray for Christian Unity which is celebrated around the world from Jan. 18-25 or Sun. Jan. 16 - Tues. Jan. 25 (the feast of the conversion of St. Paul the Apostle). It includes Sunday Jan. 23 which Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter Aperuit illis declared as the “Sunday of the Word of God.” It is the Word of God and the Word made flesh in Jesus the Christ, the risen Lord, which unites all Christians. Each Sunday, in the words of Pope Francis, “the treasure of the Word of God is proclaimed and broken open so that we might experience its unfathomable riches before the world.”

This week of Prayer invites us to see what unites us as Christians in the richness of our diversity and to pray that we may move always closer to that unity for which Jesus served and died. It also invites us **to work together with other Christians in the various local, national and international movements which try to bring about God’s reign of justice, peace, greater respect and preservation of God’s gift of creation.**

There is another ministry which flows from the baptism of Jesus and from our own baptism: throughout his ministry Jesus reached out to the sick and to those who were struggling with anxiety and mental health issues. When Jesus asked his followers to continue his ministry he asked all of us to continue that important and essential ministry: true faith in action. It is a way of being Christ’s presence, of being the loving face and caring hands of Christ.

Throughout the last 2000 years the Church has done exactly that, no matter how difficult it was during conflicts, wars, natural and man-made disasters, during pandemics. **We are all called to continue that essential mission in our own time and world.** We may not be able to do so in-person at the moment but we certainly can reach out by phone, e-mail, by other means of our imagination.

It is also important for us to prepare ourselves properly and to acquire the necessary skills. That is why our Diocese offers each year training sessions for **Pastoral Care Ministry** volunteers to visit the lonely, sick, injured, elderly, and dying in hospitals, seniors' residences, extended health care facilities, and at their homes. **Again this year the free 9 training sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to noon beginning January 29 to April 9, 2022 (with a break on March 19 and 26 because of the school spring break).** These training sessions are also available for anyone who cares for family members; in the words of Bishop Gary "as a means to help share the message of Christ's healing love and compassion with those in need."

Space is limited to 60 participants, and preference will be given to those who can participate in all nine sessions. **You must get registered and you can do so by phoning the Parish Office at 250-656-7433.**

Here is a link describing the 9 sessions: [Virtual Pastoral Care Training Session Descriptions](#)

As during the last two years during the pandemic you are urged to remain at home if you are vulnerable or not feeling well. It is now even more important during the Omicron variant. There may be in extreme circumstances (rarely given) a medical exemption from being vaccinated. **However, as Pope Francis and our Bishop Gary repeatedly have said, there exist no religious and moral grounds for refusing to get vaccinated. As always our conscience needs to be informed and guided in this instance by what is necessary for the common good. Please, do not follow the interpretations and directives you may find on websites or from ill-informed religious sources.**

Please, contact me at 250-656-7433 if you wish to discuss this.

Shalom, Fr. Rolf, OP

### **THANK YOU FROM ANAWIM HOUSE:**

*Dear Friends of Anawim,*

*Everyone at Anawim House would like thank you for your continued support. The care and compassion you have shown for those seeking acceptance and support at Anawim is overwhelming. This Christmas season has been particularly challenging for those that are under housed not only by the pandemic but also by the severe weather. Your generous donations have demonstrated to God's precious poor that they matter. Blessings of joy and peace in 2022!*

### **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM TIMOR LESTE:**

*"Our dear Fr. Rolf and parishioners:*

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! Christmas is here once again giving us hope for a better New Year filled with blessings from above. The sisters and the children are very grateful to you for making our year 2021 filled with blessings, in spite of the pandemic, the flood that destroyed the orphanage's fence, ceiling, roof and filled our compound with water. You are our mission partners in spreading the love and peace that Jesus brought in this world. Your support makes our mission alive and goes on. On the eve of Jesus' birth and everyday we will remember you in a special way in our prayers. May the Lord's blessings accompany you always. Keep our love and prayers, The sisters and the children"*

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM OUR ISLAND'S WEST COAST PARISHES

*"Dear Parishioners of Saanich Peninsula Parish:*

*Blessed are those who give and share generously not only on Christmas but all through the year!*

*The West Coast Missions of Holy Family, Ucluelet and St. Francis of Assisi, Tofino are immensely grateful for all your financial support.*

*May your generosity be returned ten-fold this Christmas and throughout the coming year. May God's blessing shine down upon ALL of you and your families!*

*Loving greetings from the West Coast Missions Parishioners" **Sister Lilia Semeniego***



## CHILDREN'S CORNER – LITURGY & ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Due to the pandemic, we understand that not everyone can attend mass right now. Therefore, we include weekly children's liturgy notes with an activity that kids and parents can do at home (only 2 pages). Please read the Scriptures with the children first before the activity.

[Click Here for Jan 16, 2022 Children's Liturgy](#)

If you have children **who are 8 years and older** who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation & First Communion, let us know at 250-656-7433 or e-mail: [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca) We will explore online or in-person preparation for the sacraments to be celebrated in late spring or early summer 2022 😊

### TAX RECEIPTS

Please do not call the office for your 2021 Tax receipts. They will be available when we have processed everything. Stay tuned for upcoming bulletin announcing when they are available.

### KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS CHARITY APPEAL

The K of C Charity Appeal tickets - only \$3, with a 1st Prize of \$60,000, all cash prizes. Can only be bought online with a credit card, by going to the website: [www.KofCDraw.net/C9703](http://www.KofCDraw.net/C9703) The money is used to support local charities and the Bishops of BC. A limited number of tickets means your chances are very good. If you need help purchasing tickets, please contact Jim Williams at 250-656-9658 or email him at: [jim.williams@smus.ca](mailto:jim.williams@smus.ca).

### REVISED COVID-19 DIRECTIVES

Please find below, links to the memo from Bishop Gary Gordon regarding directives for maximum capacity (50%) and mask wearing during worship services as well as updated General and Liturgical Directives and Music Ministry Covid-19 Prevention Plan.

- [Memo regarding new directives for maximum capacity and mask wearing during worship services \(December 7, 2021\)](#)
- [General and Liturgical Directives - December 7, 2021 update \(December 7, 2021\)](#)
- [Music Ministry Covid-19 Prevention Plan - December 7, 2021 update \(December 7, 2021\)](#)

### PASTORAL OUTREACH TRAINING: Register by Thursday, January 24

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 29, 2022, and running until April 9 (with no sessions on March 19 & 26 for Spring Break)**. Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, clergy or religious, a caregiver to a family member, or someone who is considering simply adding these skills to their toolbox, 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 (of the Diocese of Victoria) 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. Please register through the parish by Jan. 24, 2022. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca)