

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

ST. ELIZABETH'S, 10030 Third Street, Sidney: **Sat. 4:30 pm and Sunday 10:30 am.**

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, 7742 West Saanich Rd.: **Mass suspended temporarily**

WEEKDAY MASSES

AT ST. ELIZABETH'S: Tues., Wed., Thurs. & first Friday of the month: 9:00 am

RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 3:30 – 4:00 pm or by appointment.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, May 6

10:30 am **Funeral Mass at
St. Elizabeth for Hans Edwards**

3:30 pm **Confessions**

4:30 pm **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

SUNDAY, May 7

10:30 am **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

TUESDAY, May 9

9:00 am **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

WEDNESDAY, May 10

9:00 am **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

10:00 am **Taiji Qigong**

THURSDAY, May 11

9:00 am **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

1:00 pm **CWL Executive Meeting**

FRIDAY, May 12

NO 9:00 am Mass

Fr. Rolf on Pender Island

SATURDAY, May 13

K of C GARAGE SALE at St. Elizabeth

3:30 pm **Confessions**

4:30 pm **Mass at St. Elizabeth**

Pastor's corner; called forward to do the works of Christ (John 14:1-12) May 7, 2023

As a Christian community we are already celebrating the fifth Sunday of Easter and next Sunday we will be celebrating Mother's Day. **We can be thankful and pray for all those life-giving and caring mothers who accompany and sustain us in our personal and communal life. Happy early Mother's Day!**

In this month of Mary we are also thankful for and pray to our mother Mary, Mother of the Church. We invoke her solicitude upon our country and all the countries in the world and ask that she intercede with her Son Jesus to hear the prayers of her children who seek protection from the ravages of conflicts and wars, healing and reconciliation for those who are ill or are separated from others in loneliness, wisdom and courage for those who assist the sick and the distressed, and eternal rest for those who have died.

I personally want to express my gratitude to all of you who shared with me your wishes and prayers on the occasion of my 83rd birthday on April 28. Thank you also for the cards, gifts and goodies, for the meals shared. **I am truly blessed to be a member of a wonderful, caring and joyful faith community that inspires and sustains me in my vocation as a human being, as a Dominican and as a priest.**

During this Easter season we have readings from the Book of Acts, which is Luke's second Gospel, relating how the Acts of the

Spirit of the Risen Lord accompanied the first Christian communities in Jerusalem, in Galilee, in Antioch, in Damascus, in Asia Minor, in the Hellenistic world, right to Rome, etc. At first glance these faith communities seemed idyllic in their unity and in their faith but it probably took a great deal of humility and acceptance of others. We too can recognize and be grateful that we are a diverse community united by our faith and by our concern and caring for each other and for the poor both here as well as elsewhere in the world. It is wonderful to see how the various ministries in our parish are continuing to serve the sick, elderly and lonely. We are all important to each other and connected to each other in so many ways.

This Sunday May 7's reading of **Acts 6:1-7** remind us that **we need to do reality checks from time to time**. The passage shows that in the early Christian community some people were starting to fall between the cracks. In the distribution of food some widows were being neglected along ethnic/racial lines. The whole community did something about it ("the twelve called together the whole community...") by choosing people "full of the Spirit and of wisdom", in this case, "deacons", all men. I am sure though that they were not alone. There is evidence that there were women who were designated in the same way in the early church. They had women "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" helping them, not just in the distribution but in the preparation, etc. Pope Francis continues to try and change the Church so that more women are accepted in leadership roles. Not all Catholics are in favour of that type of change, not just in other cultures but also in our own so-called enlightened Western world. Change always takes time, humility and patience.

Reality checks in our own time show us that we are not always ideal Christians; that there are controversies, small and large; that there are divisions; that we forget that people fall between the cracks. **But as Christians, people of hope, we must show concrete signs that Christ welcomed all people and peoples "home", that Christ is truly alive in our midst by continuing the works that Jesus did:** not showing favoritism in our reaching out to feed the hungry and neglected; by being a healing and reconciling presence; by doing everything we can to bring about true justice and peace in our relationships, in our economic, political, social and religious systems and institutions.

In this weekend's Gospel passage from **John 14:1-12** Jesus says he is the "way", that Jesus' way of loving is to be our way of loving. Jesus says that he is the "truth", that what he is saying about God being full of mercy and compassion is the way to for us to believe in God. As we journey towards the feast of Pentecost let us yearn and pray for the gift of the Spirit that She may unite us with Jesus the Risen Lord and empower us to live the life he lived.

Jesus invited all people to feel at home with him no matter what their background; he promised the criminal crucified beside him that he would find a home with Jesus. He promised rest for the weary and comfort for the comfortless. As the Gospel passage reminds us: "Do not let your hearts be troubled ...in my father's house there are many dwelling places (John 14:1)." Let us make sure that the life we lead as Christians will break down all barriers and will bring us ever closer together. The Gospel passage reminds us and the gift of the Spirit of Pentecost assures and empowers each and everyone of us: "the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these... (John 14:12)."

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit [RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreportingsystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

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

***Pamela Hobbs who died on April 10: funeral at a later date.
Hans Patzak Edwards who died on April 23 : funeral on Saturday May 6 at 10:30 am at St. Elizabeth.
John "Jack" Cullen who died on Nov. 21, 2022: funeral on Saturday May 20 at 11:00 am at St. Elizabeth***

KIDS CORNER !! [Click Here for May 7, 2023 Children's Liturgy](#)

USED HEARING AIDS

A parishioner from Holy Cross is collecting used/old hearing aids to support St. Patrick's Hospital in Offinso, Ghana. If you have any to donate please drop them off at the parish office and Fr. Rolf will collect them.

Our Parish needs YOU on Parish Council etc. !

We are looking for people willing to organize in the coming months coffee fellowship after the 10:30 Sunday Mass. After the hiatus of the last three years of the Covid-19 pandemic we need to return to regular meetings of Parish Council and the Parish Annual Meeting. **Please, consider putting your name forward for Parish Council.** We hope to have a General Meeting of the Parish in early June so that we can begin anew in the fall.

Please, contact Mary McGovern, Fr. Rolf or the Parish Office 250-656-7433 or e-mail: spparish@shaw.ca

A big thank you to Ray Ehrlich and Bert Vandersande for volunteering to cut the grass around Our Lady of the Assumption and the rectory and to **David Westley** for volunteering to do so at St. Elizabeth.

Also thank you to **Steve Otway** for getting our lamppost in the back parking lot working again!

MARCH FOR LIFE VICTORIA: Thursday May 11

We invite you to join the March for Life in Victoria! Together let's make the pro-life movement visible! During the week of May 8 – 12, make homemade signs to hang in your window, garage door, or fence, draw with sidewalk chalk, paint on your front windows, get creative! If you cannot be present in Victoria for the March for Life, we encourage you to take your signs and march through your neighbourhood with your household. Roy Battilana is arranging rides; picking people up at St. Elizabeth's and other locations along the drive to St. Andrew's Cathedral. A special Mass will take place at 12 PM and then a short break for lunch, before heading to Centennial Square, where the march will begin at 1:45 PM. The official Rally starts at 2:15, on the lawn, in front of the BC Legislature. If you need a ride to and/or from this event please reach out to **Roy Battilana at 250-213-3354, before May 1st.**

GARAGE SALE: Saturday May 13 at St. Elizabeth

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual garage sale on Saturday 13 May at St-Elizabeth.

Please look around your homes as this is a good opportunity to get rid of unused or unwanted items. We accept most household items including furniture. All items must be in good sellable condition. No hide-a-bed, mattresses or clothing items are accepted. Since the trailer is at full capacity we will not be able to pick up or receive your items until Friday May 12 at St-Elizabeth. Your support would be most appreciated.

For more information contact Andre at: 250-588-3580 OR email him at: twolapins@shaw.ca

GARDEN BABIES FOR BIRTHRIGHT PLANT SALE

Birthright Victoria will be holding its annual plant sale in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus garage sale on **Saturday, May 13** at St. Elizabeth's church. Birthright offers spiritual and material support to women who choose to continue a difficult pregnancy. Birthright's catalogue of plants for sale can be accessed online at www.birthrightvictoria.org . Plants ordered online can be picked up at the Birthright greenhouse or in Sidney. For info on how to pick up pre-ordered plants contact Art Menu at menu@islandnet.com or phone 250-656-0138.



VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: Sunday May 14

Please join us for a **Mother's day choral concert** on **May 14th at 2 pm** at St. Elizabeth's, featuring guest artist, **and our own pianist, Joseph Shadian.** Tickets are \$20, kids under 12 yrs are free, students \$10. Tickets can be purchased at Tanner's Books or on-line at viachoralis.ca.



CWL SAVE THE DATE: May 18

CWL Members. You are invited to our **May General Meeting on Thursday May 18th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. At this meeting we will have an engaging speaker, **Bertha Landrie**, our new Diocesan President. Bertha will be discussing an important initiative of our National Council, the **Unity Outreach Program**, getting input from members throughout the country. Coffee and tea will be provided, but donations of goodies are appreciated. If you have a friend who is keen to learn more about the League, bring them along - all ladies are welcome!

CCCB WEBINAR: Saturday June 3

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's Office for Family and Life will host a free webinar on "Concrete Ways to Renew Practices of Family Holiness" on June 3, from 10 – 11:30 am. The presenter is Msgr. Philippe Bordeyne, President of the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences in Rome. To register to attend the webinar, or to be notified when the recording is available, please [click here](#).

NEWS from the DIOCESE:

Roots of Reconciliation May 29 – June 1 at Holy Cross Parish in Victoria from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm each day: a four-day workshop along the Returning to Spirit reconciliation model (<https://www.returningtospirit.org/>). Insights developed during the workshop create space for participants to discover how previously-held behaviours, judgement, assumptions or perceptions have kept them stuck in a disempowering story. This is for you if you:

- want to explore your own assumptions, judgements and behaviours
- are ready to deepen your experience with reconciliation
- are curious and open minded about what reconciliation can look like on a personal level

To register and for info visit <https://www.returningtospirit.org/workshopcalendar>, email info@returningtospirit.org, or call 204-889-4579 or 1-855-244-3963. Participate in this powerful and potentially life-transforming experience!

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA BURSARIES & AWARD: Deadline July 15, 2023

The Jawl Bundon LLP Bursary (\$2500): for a grade 12 Catholic student who has been accepted to a post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to Indigenous students, and to students who live outside of Greater Victoria and Nanaimo.

The Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary (\$1000): for a lay woman who is accepted or enrolled in a program or course for ministry in the Church, such as religious education, social justice, liturgy, social action, care of the sick.

The Char Deslippe Memorial Award (\$500): for a teacher working in Catholic Island Schools or a parish catechist serving in children, youth or adult ministry.

LIBRARY CORNER

In response to enquiries we are offering a book discussion on **Tuesday May 9th in the library at 10:00 am**. Please bring a book that you wish to share with others. We look forward to seeing you then; coffee, tea and goodies provided. Cathy and Theresa

Visiting the sick and shut-ins and monthly Mass at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Proof of vaccination and wearing of masks are no longer required (but encouraged) in the hospital and in most long-term care homes. As a result, the Parish will restart the regular visiting ministry of the sick and shut-ins in their homes. If you are interested in joining this wonderful ministry, please, contact **Fatima Warner at 250-656-8863** or the **Parish Office at 250-656-7433** or e-mail spparish@shaw.ca

We have also restarted the monthly Mass in the chapel at Saanich Peninsula Hospital. About 45 persons attended the Mass on Easter Monday. Thank you to Oceanna, hospital chaplain, and all the volunteers who made this possible. **The next hospital Mass will be on Friday May 19 at 11:00 am.**