



Confirmation and First Holy Communion

By Barb Shenton

Children's Religious Education Coordinator

On Sunday June 7, 2015 at our 10:30 am Family Mass, St. Patrick's welcomed 28 students to be Confirmed and to the Table Of The Lord. These students have completed a two-year journey of faith as they prepared to receive these Sacraments of Initiation thereby completing their initiation into the Catholic Church.

They began the final leg of the journey in February 2015 when they were Called by Name in front of the whole church at the 10:30am Family Mass. Here the children and parents made their commitment to the whole parish – that they were taking time and care to prepare for these sacraments through instruction and prayer here at Church (Children's Liturgy of the Word & weekly classes before 10:30am Mass) and in their homes.

The children learned how the events of Holy Week and Easter are intricately connected with the Eucharist and how they are now in Communion with the whole Church when they participate in the Sunday Liturgy. We are called to COME – gather at Mass, LISTEN to the Word of God, DO – Break & Share Bread, and to GO – into the world as missionaries to spread the Good News by our words and deeds.

To prepare for Confirmation, the children revisited the

symbols of WATER, OIL, LIGHT, and a WHITE GARMENT used in baptism and connected them to their Confirmation. They know that they have Put On Christ in Baptism and that they been strengthened to continue their Journey of Faith through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received in their Confirmation.

Bishop Gary celebrated with Father Al at this beautiful Mass. He thanked the parents first and foremost for continuing to fulfill the promises they made at their child's Baptism. He recognized that the commitment brings with it both challenges and great joy as they teach and model their faith. The home and family is the first teacher about prayer and learning to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Bishop Gary thanked the children for their hard work and attendance to classes and church. He assured them that they would be strengthened and blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Eucharist in their lives.

We completed the celebration with a reception in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall that was provided for by the St. Patrick's School PAC and the Oak Bay Catholic Women's League. The students received a prayer card and a single-decade rosary from the CWL. The PAC provided cake and refreshments!

Congratulations to all of our students!

May God continue to bless your Journey of Faith! ✚

Triduum 2015 — Alleluia! He is Risen!



Couples For Christ

By Abet and Cely Valentin

Couples for Christ is a Catholic movement dedicated to the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. Anyone who wants to build a stronger relationship with God, by discovering and living more fully the power and gifts received through the Holy Spirit, would benefit from our ministry.

CFC couples have committed themselves to the Lord and to one another so that they may grow in maturity as men and women of God and fulfill their primary vocation of raising families grounded in Christian values. We meet for prayer, discussion, sharing and fellowship and all members of the family can participate.

Through our ministries, all family members are sustained as they grow through the different stages and states of life. CFC Kids for Christ, CFC Youth for Christ, CFC Singles for Christ, CFC Handmaids of the Lord,

and CFC Servants of the Lord all provide a support environment for every member of the family.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, one with the Catholic Church, blessed to witness to Christ's love and service, Couples for Christ is a united global community of family evangelizers that sets the world on fire with the fullness of God's transforming love.

We are committed to live in God's righteousness and holiness through a life of love and service. We work for the renewal of families that will serve God and build generations of Christian leaders through social justice, respect for life, and work with the poor.

We build a community of committed Christian families that strengthens and revitalizes the community life of our parish.

Any validly married Catholic couple or individual can become members of CFC. Although a Catholic movement/organization, CFC remains open to having non-Catholic Christians as members.

Those who want to join CFC complete a Christian Life Program, leading participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them. It starts with an orientation followed by 12 weekly sessions, which consist of teaching, group discussion and fellowship.

After completing the program, couples then join a small group called a household. The household is composed of three to five couples who meet weekly for mutual support and encouragement in the Christian life under the direction of a household leader.

The household meeting is held in the homes of group members on a rotation basis. A typical meeting involves time for prayers, sharing, discussion, and fellowship. It would normally last about 2.5 hours.

For more information, visit the global website: www.couplesforchristglobal.org ✚

Knitting Classes

By Margaret Hyde

Learn to Knit and/or Crochet Classes were held on Wednesday mornings during July and August this summer in the parish center. Fourteen people attended, some came most weeks and some came on a "drop-in" basis. There were all ages from 7 to considerably older! Some were absolute beginners; some needed help to follow knitting and crocheting patterns. Those with more experience helped the beginners

People were charged \$2 for the photo-copied instructions. St. Pat's Hobby Group provided pencils, file folders, needles, hooks and yarn to practice with. Everyone brought their own refreshments and often provided treats for the rest of us. Heidi provided chocolate! Thanks, Heidi.

We exchanged tips, ideas, patterns and offered lots of encouragement to the beginners.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and hopefully will continue using their new skills in the future.

Many thanks to those who helped me and to those who provided treats. The classes were a very worthwhile project to undertake. ✚

Children's Liturgy of the Word

By Frank Falzon

Children's Liturgy of the Word at St. Patrick's Parish offers our children age 4-10 a special liturgy of the word every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass during the school year. It is a part of the Mass in which our children can worship and reflect on God's Word together. Children's Liturgy focuses on the Gospel heard by the adults, but in a way and in a setting designed to be very accessible to children. Leaders use a Children's Lectionary and develop a children's homily designed to focus their attention and make

them think about the Gospel of the day. Children's liturgy usually lasts between 10-15 minutes. The children are always back upstairs with the entire community to participate fully in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Children's Liturgy currently has six adult leaders, each of whom does at least one month-long rotation with the children. Our volunteers are parents of children who currently attend or have attended children's liturgy. Each leader is committed to growing in his or her faith and in nurturing the

spiritual development of our Catholic young people, including fostering their love and appreciation of the Mass. Each of our leaders can testify as to what a blessing it is to be a witness to the spiritual openness our children have to God's Word, how humbling it is to hear their prayers of intercession and what a grace it can be to hear their insights on the Gospel. It is a genuine privilege to be part of such a wonderful ministry and such a wonderful team. If you feel a special calling to join us, put your name forward. You don't have to be a saint to apply! ✚

St. Patrick's Prayer Group

By Marie Weicker

Do you ever feel helpless or frustrated when listening to the news, or talking to family and friends about their struggles and problems?

How often do we then say, "Well, all we can do is pray", while thinking that prayer is not enough?

But prayer is the most important thing we can do! Prayer is the best way we can help our loved ones and our whole suffering world.

St. Patrick's Prayer Group was started in 1981 by Fr. John Laszczyk, Isabelle Cavin and Kay Davies to provide an opportunity for parishioners who wished to get together to pray for the many intentions of our families, friends, parish, and the whole world.

Over the years, many St. Patrick's parishioners have been members - Eric Kuhn, Anne Doyle, Mary Rogers, Paul Vickets, Wilfrid Weicker and Kathleen Lees, among others.

Originally the group met in the church, but in the late 1990's we decided to try meeting in various members' homes. After meeting in Kathleen Lees's place, new member Wilfrid Weicker offered his home for a meeting. This worked so well that the group permanently began meeting there, and we continue to meet at the Weickers' home.

The meeting begins on a positive note with gratitude prayers. This is always uplifting! We then pray for our per-

sonal intentions, as well as those of others, and those who have asked us to pray for them. We are always happy to take requests from anyone in need who asks or calls the contact number.

We always pray for the many needs of our world, and specific areas of concern like pro-life, vocations and our country. After the intercessions, the main prayer is the rosary (or the Stations of the Cross in Lent), and the Divine Mercy chaplet. This is followed by a short bible reading, as well as singing throughout with our professional musician, or just listening to some spiritual music.

We are a welcoming and caring group who do not pray or sing in any perfect way, but just from the heart. Our meetings bring us the peace and comfort we all need in our daily lives. It helps us feel Our Lord is there for us and our loved ones in our adversities and challenges, and gives us the joy of knowing we are really doing something positive for others.

The Prayer Group meets from 1 to 3 pm every Monday (except holidays), at 2701 Asquith Street. You can contact Marie Weicker for any prayer requests at 250-598-9254, or Mary Weicker at 250-361-7015. We are always happy to welcome new members, even if just for a "come and see" trial. ✚



Hope and Love: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick's

By Gordon Stuart

The Vincentians of St Patrick's wish to thank all who contribute through our society to support those in need. Your generosity helps many families, individuals, single parents and others with insufficient incomes. Your kindness has given others hope and love.

Since the members of our conference are all unpaid volunteers, 100 per cent of your donations go directly to help the less fortunate.

Our members volunteer at the Social Concern office working in the food bank, either preparing hampers or serving the poor directly at the front desk.

We also operate the Green Circuit program that collects donated fresh produce at four Fairway Market stores for food-bank distribution. There's always a need for new Green Circuit volunteers. If you can spare one weekday morning once every three weeks, and you can lift

a produce case that weighs up to 40 pounds, please consider this rewarding volunteer opportunity.

We also collect donated bread from Cobs bakery for the food bank, prepare income tax forms for the needy, visit the elderly in nursing homes and participate in the Christmas Giving Program delivering Christmas greetings and a Fairways grocery card to senior citizens.

Internationally, we assist a twin St. Vincent de Paul conference in Haiti and support a family in India through the Save a Family Plan.

We're also embarking on some major housing projects to assist those in need. In addition to the society's Yates Street complex, that houses about 40 residents, we recently absorbed about 40 more units of the former St. Andrew's Housing Society.

The society just finished partnering with another agency to build Hope Centre in Sooke, where the partner provides housing for at-risk

youth and the society operates a thrift store and a social concern office to assist those in need.

Finally, the society will be breaking ground soon for another project called Rosalie's Village aimed at housing older women and single moms. The project will include urgently needed child-care spaces.

These are all projects that benefit those in need, but we require your help. Please support us financially and consider joining us in the rewarding experience of assisting others. The work is light, the hours are good and the benefits are everlasting!

For more information on volunteering please call **Gord Stuart** at 250-477-6952 or e-mail gord-stuart@shaw.ca, or come to our monthly meeting from the 7 to 8 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in the parish centre board room. ✚

CWL Educational Bursaries

By **Lorrie Van Somer**

Members of St. Patrick's Catholic Women's League work hard to be community builders. Part of our purpose is to give back to our community by promoting the love and peace of Jesus.

Every year we include money in our budget for six educational bursaries. Amounts for each bursary vary and information on how to apply for a bursary may be obtained from a CWL executive member or through the parish office.

This past June, CWL Education Chair Lorna O'Neill and CWL member and St. Patrick's Religious Education Co-ordinator Barb Shenton were pleased to award bursaries to these worthy recipients: Olivia Pearse, Aidan Canil, Simone Caruso, Logan Labossiere, Miguel Carreiro and Rowan Bowman.

Other recipients of bursaries associated with St. Patrick's CWL include:

- ▶ The Frieda Smith Memorial Bursary: Aidan Canil
- ▶ The Hilda Wharf Award: Stephanie Ganz
- ▶ St. Andrews High School Christian Leadership Graduate: Caitlin Le

CWL mothers and grandmothers truly enjoy helping our young people along their educational and spiritual paths.

We encourage all St. Patrick's families to inquire about our bursaries. Applications will be welcome in the new year and please watch the parish bulletin for more information. ✚



Above: St. Andrew's graduate Olivia Pearse winner of BC Yukon Diocese Arts /Culture Award \$500, presented by Barbara Shenton

Below Left: Grade 6–Miguel Carreiro St. Patrick's School Bursary Winner, presented by Lorna O'Neill, Education Chairperson

Below Right: Grade 5–Rowan Bowman St. Patrick's School Bursary Winner, presented by Lorna O'Neill, Education Chairperson



CWL 2015 Rosary Procession



St. Patrick's School: A Tradition Since 1956

By Ms. Deanne Paulson, Principal

Here at St. Patrick's, the school year is off to a great start. Our student population is strong: 367 students in grades kindergarten through seven, with two classes at each grade level. We are excited to welcome three international students from Columbia, Japan and China.

Our school continues to value our connection with St. Patrick's Parish. Father Al Alilio, along with Father Harrison Ayre, are our school pastors. They regularly visit our classes and join us for special events. We always look forward to meeting them at the church for our monthly celebration of Mass. Our school tries to give back to the parish as often as we can. We were eager participants at the parish Bazaar, helping the Knights serve hamburgers and supplying cakes and baked goods for the CWL. In addition, school choir members, under the direction of Ms. Kathleen Seu, will sing at four Family Masses over the school year. From a broader perspective, our school is deeply involved with the initiatives in the diocese. This month, for example, we will welcome Bishop Gary Gordon for our annual World Food Day. In the spring, Face-to-Face ministries will lead a school-wide retreat for Catholic Schools Week.

A major focus for school improvement will be on emergency response to potential natural disasters, especially earthquakes. The Ministry of Education protocol for schools in session is to seek cover until notified to evacuate. Last year we installed an early warning system monitored by a team of professionals at UBC. This system is designed to notify us of the need to seek cover. To support the protocol, we just installed heavy-duty Lifeguard structure desks in the wing of the school with the lowest safety rating. The desks have three sides and a floor and are designed to house two people and protect them from materials falling from ceilings or upper floors.

This upcoming summer will see substantial seismic upgrading to bring this area of the facility up to 2016 seismic code. These installations and improvements will support our cutting edge earthquake response plan.

I would like to extend my personal invitation to you to join us for our annual open house on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Come and tour the training ground for our future Catholic leaders. ✚

St. Patrick's Knights at 2015 Operation Trackshoes

