

November 12, 2023

Greetings and blessings to all our parish:

I am a firm believer in the presence of the Holy Spirit working in and through each of us in this time of transition here at the Parish of Salt Spring Island. Bishop Anna has asked me to join the people of this parish as we journey together toward the arrival of our next incumbent. At this moment, the search for our next spiritual leader is just getting started.

We must ask ourselves several questions as we embark on this journey.

- 1) Who are we as a parish?
- 2) What is it we are looking for in our next spiritual leader?
- 3) What are we able support in this new ministry? Time? Talents? Resources?
- 4) What is it the Creator is asking us to be at this point in our journey of faith as a parish?

In our daily prayers, I ask each of you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the next steps in this journey. Pray also for our parish and each one of the many souls who call this their parish home. A time of transition can be unsettling for some, and exhilarating for others. Yet we are all on this journey of discernment together.

I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you. I am someone who enjoys discovering new ways of using many of the opportunities available to us for the sharing of our faith. I enjoy all the Holy Spirit offers in my life and I look forward to discovering what God is asking our congregation to be, as a parish.

My spouse, Lynn, and I reside in Saanichton BC, on the lands of the Tsawout First Nation. In 2012, we moved west to Vancouver Island from Southern Ontario. Two of our children were already residents here in Victoria. The arrival of new grandchildren made the transition to west coast living all that much easier. We also have children and grandchildren residing in Ontario, whom we try to visit yearly.

My role as interim priest-in-charge is to help this congregation during this journey of transition toward the arrival of our next incumbent. I look forward to meeting as many of our parishioners as possible in the time I am with you. Please understand that when a new incumbent has been selected, has accepted the position, and has arrived in the parish, I will be leaving the Parish of Salt Spring Island. At that time, I will be available to Bishop Anna for appointment to another parish in transition.

Blessings.

Paul+