



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY - April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter

"I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the lord GOD. I will seek the lost...You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God, says the Lord GOD." Ezek 34

In today's Gospel according to John, we hear the familiar story of the Good Shepherd. This passage has a deep reassuring message for the reader, but understanding the context provides a richer understanding. Jesus' use of the shepherd analogy harkens back to Ezekiel's Old Testament writing. God the Father admonishes the shepherds of Israel for having been self-serving. He promises to be the Good Shepherd who will rescue and care for His people. In today's reading, Jesus is speaking to and admonishing the Pharisees for being 'hired hands' and not caring for the people of their flock. The Good Shepherd's distinguishing characteristic is his heartfelt love for his flock. Shepherding is not a job; it is a vocation. Jesus is the New Testament Good Shepherd.

Just prior to this particular account the Pharisees had interrogated the man who had been cured of blindness, by Jesus, on the Sabbath. The young man defended Jesus as being from God, but the Pharisees drove the young man out, telling him that he was born entirely in sins and admonished him for trying to teach **them**. Jesus assures the blind man that he has it right, and it is the Pharisees who are blind. Then he proceeds to try and teach the Pharisees not only that leadership should be driven by love, but he also reveals his true identity as Son of God.

Jesus knows his flock as intimately as the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. And, Jesus says, *his flock* knows him with that same intimacy. That is a profound statement. How is it that we know Jesus with this level of intimacy? No casual relationship would be good enough to reach that bar. The Pharisees, although learned religious leaders, were considered to be outside of the flock. Although they knew Scripture and the rules of the Law very well, they had not learned how to emulate the love that they could have found therein, the love of a merciful God. The love that pursued God's Chosen People relentlessly, the love that never failed. They had the head knowledge but not the heart conversion. The people bore the burden of the Law applied without mercy and suffered from a leadership that was prideful and self-serving.

Jesus explains that he will lay down his life for his sheep, even the sheep outside his flock. He will do so of his own accord, and he will raise it up again. This in itself is both a paradox and a mystery. A dead shepherd isn't usually of much use! But in this case, it has been our salvation. The message here is not just for the Pharisees, the leaders, who are called to be good shepherds. It is for the sheep too, who are called to truly understand the deep relationship in which the Good Shepherd longs to engage us. He went the distance for us. How far will we go for him?

Love. Mercy. Genuine relationship with God. Always. The Good Shepherd invites us. He has sent the Spirit to accompany us. His love never fails.

On this World day of prayer for Vocations let us pray for more leaders with heart.
Relying on the Spirit,

Sheila Wall

"I have called you by name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you." Isaiah

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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Effective Immediately: As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until further notice. That means all weekend and weekday Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9am-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJ hospital chaplain please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - GIANT 50 / 50 RAFFLE

JACKPOT IS OVER \$32,000 AND GROWING! Get your tickets at our KofC website www.kofcbc5050.ca All tickets are sold online. The more you buy the less it costs.

\$10 for 10 tickets, \$25 for 50 tickets, Best Value **\$50 for 200 tickets!** Draw Date: 6:30 pm, Friday April 30th, 2021 Proceeds support our local charities. When you buy tickets, we're working together to make our communities better. Thank you for your support! [BC Gaming Licence #127997]

MOUNT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND OTHER VEGGIES

Last Chance to order veggies and flowers! Veggie starters and daisies are ready for pick up. May 15th pickup for tomatoes, geraniums, and hanging baskets. Great growing weather and lots to see in the garden. **Greenhouse staff 100% vaccinated but mask still required.** Mount St. Mary Hospital thanks you as well!
Ellis Achtem, 250-477-6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca

JOB POSTING - CHAPLAIN UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA AND CAMOSUN

The Diocese of Victoria, is accepting applications for the position of Roman Catholic Campus Chaplain. The Catholic Chaplain reports directly to the Bishop of Victoria, or his delegate. We seek a Chaplain who is committed to helping students grow and flourish within the Catholic faith tradition while living and learning in a secular campus environment. The Chaplain will work in collaboration with the Catholic Christian Outreach team, and a *Multifaith Chaplaincy* team at the University of Victoria. The successful Chaplain will be committed to meeting a stranger on the road, envisaging and engendering an open world, and nurturing connections across many religious and secular communities. This position will not be confined to a standard 9-5 weekday work schedule. For more info: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

After many, many years in the role as Garden Coordinator for our parish, Joe Mendonca will be stepping down from this position. We are beyond grateful for the many years of service Joe provided, and the beauty that was born in our garden through his hard work, and the hard work of the many volunteers who toiled in our Parish garden beds over the years.

At present, we are looking for someone else who is willing to take over this role. Tasks of the Garden Coordinators include: coordinating fall and spring clean up, ensuring that each garden bed has been "adopted" by a volunteer, and overseeing/assessing the general needs of the garden beds around the parish. If you are interested or have more questions please call the office: 250-477-5321

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL

Grade 2 gardener's at St. Patrick's school:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4261154173947343>



PRAYER REFLECTION

Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing.
—Albert Schweitzer

In this world, we give ourselves, with God’s help, the eyes and heart that a final transfiguration will make into organs of a power of adoration and of a capacity for bliss—both unique to each of us.
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own; therefore, we are saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.
—Reinhold Niebuhr

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

Diocesan Blog: It’s a happy day for the Diocese of Victoria – Bishop Gary received his first Covid-19 vaccine dose this morning! We haven’t beat this virus yet, but every time someone gets their shot, we’re one step closer to the day when we can get back to the liturgical gatherings, activities, visits and community we’ve all been missing.

Are you curious about the ethical issues around the Covid-19 vaccine? Is it okay for a Catholic to get vaccinated? The short answer is yes!

Here’s a great summary from The Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories: https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020_12_02_Letter-to-the-faithful-on-Vaccines.pdf_English.pdf

More background from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CLARIFICATION-CCCB-Statement-on-COVID-19-Vaccine-Choice-9-March-2021-EN.pdf>

And the official word from the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith:

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

Please continue, in the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry, to be kind, to be calm, and to be safe!

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be livestreamed from Holy Cross Parish, Saturday, April 24th: Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, April 24th

Intention: Seny Narciso +

SUNDAY, April 25th

Intention: Galasso & Assunta Colangeli +

MONDAY, April 26th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, April 27th

Intention: Clive Loader +

WEDNESDAY, April 28th

Intention: Robert Bell & Timothy Lord+

THURSDAY, April 29th

Intention: Clive Loader +

FRIDAY, April 30th

Intention: Clive Loader +

At this time there are no in-person Masses being held.

The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.

Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.



COLLECTION for April 18th, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 1,561.55
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,238.55