



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

In his final public address, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin said, "A dying person does not have time for the peripheral or the accidental. He or she is drawn to the essential, the important." That is true of the spirit of Advent as well. "The days are surely coming," warns Jeremiah. "Be alert at all times," says Jesus. Days are growing short. Do you trust in the promises of old, that "Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety"? Do you accept Saint Paul's prayer that I "increase and abound in love for one another and for all"? We begin the new church year in the spirit of expectation: we don't call this season Advent for nothing. Something is "coming, coming," and we're asked to prepare for its arrival. Is it a good surprise or a bad one? Is it something we've been longing for, or something that's going to ruin everything? If we had to decipher this arrival from today's readings, we might say it could go either way. Jeremiah insists wonderful days are on the way, an era of justice and security. Jesus warns that nations will be in distress, the heavens will shake, and people will die of fright. Are we supposed to take our pick? Do we get a choice which way things will go? Yes, we do! Yes, we do. If we are people of justice and right, then the time that is coming will be the best season of all. It will be the answer to prayers, the day of salvation, the arrival of the company to deliver us from every evil right on schedule! But if you and I benefit from systems of injustice and oppression, if we stand on the backs of other people and enjoy good things at their expense, then we should be afraid, very afraid. Because a day is coming that will spring captives into liberation. And the same day will close like a trap on those who oppress. The Advent we get is the one we choose.

Our Advent season is an invitation to hope, a hope that is anchored in God's faithfulness and his all-embracing concern and mercy for us which have taken on flesh in Jesus. It is on this basis that, in the words of the Gospel, stand up and raise our heads high. We can be confident, eagerly awaiting God's always-new beginning with us. That new beginning of God, which is always near at hand, will surely come; and it will transform us into new women and men. It will transform us into makers of peace, doers of justice and lovers of integrity. To that God we like to cling. In that God we hope. How to live until then? With hope—the hope of a prophet who still hopes though he is sitting in prison amidst the siege of his holy city. With watchfulness and prayer, undistracted by the false certainties of the pleasures and "anxieties of daily life." And with confidence, heads held high like a people ready for a new Exodus to freedom, because they know what they have to do and that their "redemption is at hand." Jen Allen writes: there is mystery and freedom in waiting, in being entwined with the Lord in longing, hope and trust and expecting him in eager stillness or still eagerness. "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:14) Wait for him to come. Watch for him. To do otherwise is utter futility. Perhaps it's enough, this Advent, to focus on these little things. Perhaps it's enough to look up from our cell phones, TVs, newspapers, and computers a lot more—to truly grasp what it means to say, "God so loved the world . . ." Be still. Advent is the pilgrimage of waiting. Make quiet your anxious heart. Can you hear it? Someone is coming...

Wait for the Lord,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

***We acknowledge and respect the
Lekwungen peoples on whose
traditional territory Holy Cross Parish
stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt
and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose
historical relationships with the land
continue to this day.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from Holy Cross Parish on Saturday at 4pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Bishop's Appeal Update

The *Sharing God's Gifts* Appeal is very active in all parishes throughout the Diocese of Victoria and I am happy to announce that 108 families of Holy Cross have contributed thus far and we have raised \$45,985 towards our goal. This is an encouraging start and we are asking you to join your fellow parishioners in supporting this Appeal with a gift. We need your support because your contribution will make a difference! Our parish project is supporting Anawim House and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (locally & internationally). Parish Goal: \$ 70,000



Donations for Christmas Florals

We invite all parishioners to help support the Christmas floral display in our church this season. You can contribute by picking up an envelope in the foyer, filling it out with the name of a loved one or family to be remembered, and returning it in the collections basket or at the office. The names will be honored on a card in the poinsettia displays.

CWL Christmas Luncheon Saturday, December 14th

CWL Christmas Luncheon tickets are now available for Members at \$30, & Non-Members at \$36. Purchase tickets at St. Patrick's Parish office, open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 3pm. Last day to buy is Wed Dec 4th. Come and join your CWL sisters for some good food, conversation, and a few laughs to celebrate this Advent & Christmas season. Call or email St. Patrick's Parish for more information: stpat190@telus.net / (250) 592-7391

Prayer for the Children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross Preparing for First Reconciliation

Merciful God, help us to ask forgiveness when we need to. Help us to forgive others who have wronged us. And let us be peacemakers in our school and in our family. We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and love. Amen.

We have 16 children preparing for their First Reconciliation to be held on Saturday December 7, 2024 at 11am at Holy Cross Parish with a reception to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!



Holy Cross Parish's Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Tuesday December 24, at 6pm
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, at 9am
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31, at 4pm
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, at 9am

Advent Reconciliation Services

St. Andrew's Cathedral	Thursday, Dec 12th, 6:30pm
Sacred Heart Parish	Thursday, Dec, 19th, 6:30pm
St. Patrick's Parish	Saturday, Dec 7th, 5-7pm

Confession Availability & Clergy Support

Confession Times:
 St. Patrick's: Friday 11:30 – 12:00
 St. Joseph's: 1/2 hour before Mass
 Sacred Heart: Saturday 3:00 – 3:45
 Our Lady of Fatima: Saturday 4:00

Clergy Consult:
 Please call the Parish offices.
 St. Patrick's: (250) 592-7391
 St. Joseph's: (250) 479-7413
 Sacred Heart: (250)-479-1611
 Our Lady of Fatima: (250) 658-1587

WORD OF THE WEEK

APOCALYPSE

Alternative name for the Book of Revelation, the final book of the New Testament, that describes the end times in symbolic and allegorical language. Apocalyptic literature is concerned primarily with the fulfillment of history and God's purposes and often involves a human intermediary receiving hidden visionary knowledge of future events. We profess in our Creed a belief in "all things visible and invisible."

In apocalyptic understanding, "the neat division between the present age (evil) and the age to come" is broken down, says Brendan Byrne, S.J. in *Words of Faith*. Through God's intervention in Christ, believers enjoy a taste of Kingdom come. Our liturgical worship, particularly the celebration of the Eucharist, is designed to help us step into this timeless divine realm where love is all. What is Advent's relation to the Apocalypse? For many of us, Advent is our happy place, a season of joy and warm feeling. Yet December can be a dark time of long nights and end-of-year regrets. Advent was conceived in the cultural context of winter solstice, when the sun's return was anticipated and celebrated.

Before electricity, longing for the light was bigger than we can imagine. This longing dovetailed with a church season celebrating the return of Christ our Light. "Return" is the operative word. Just as the sun swings back around at solstice, Christians anticipate Christ will come again. Most of us aren't thinking about the Second Coming when we set up the crèche. Yet the two are deeply paired. The Incarnation is the shattering belief that God entered time as one of us, dissolving history as usual. Incarnation opens a door, just as Resurrection opens another. Scripture with apocalyptic themes awaken us to the game-changing reality of our faith. This is why the start of Advent includes Apocalypse. It really is the end of the world as we know it! Apocalyptic literature in the Bible has sparked trepidation over what may happen to our fragile planet and fragile selves. However, the early Advent imagery of the heavens and Earth passing away is not intended to scare us but rather to encourage and assure us that "when these signs begin to happen," whether inconsolable grief at a personal loss or some cataclysm that shakes the whole planet, our redemption is secure. Our place in the hands of God cannot be shaken. Let this knowledge strengthen our resolve to grow in love for God and others. **It will work out in the end!**

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, November 30, 2024

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, December 1, 2024

9AM MASS: Ron Tinney+

MONDAY, December 2, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 3 26, 2024

9 AM MASS: Maria Fonseka+

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 5, 2024

9AM LITURGY OF THE WORD
WITH COMMUNION

John Turnbull+

FRIDAY, December 6, 2024

NO MASS

**The Chapel will be open this
week Tuesday to Friday 9 - 12**

**Reconciliation is available on
Saturday, November 30, at
3:30pm**

COLLECTIONS , November 24, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$	1333.00
Loose	\$	235.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$	1332.90
Catholic Missions	\$	345.00
Total	\$	3242.90

Would you like to receive the bulletin by email? Please email office@holycrossvictoria.org to be added to the list.

St. Andrew High School Advent Carol Concert and Raffle - Dec. 18th, 7pm

Our **Advent Carol Concert** will be taking place on **Wed, Dec. 18th at 7pm in the school gym.**

Come celebrate the reason for the season with readings & music by St. Andrew's Singers, Concert Band, and Jazz Band students. We will also have our annual **Advent Raffle** featuring gift baskets of chocolate, spa items, board games, Lego, and foodie gift cards. Raffle tickets can be bought at the concert for your chance to win! All are welcome to join us on Dec. 18th!

St. Andrew's High School Hire-a-Choir - Dec. 13th/14th

Are you having a Christmas party this year? Looking to up your 'festive factor'? Why not hire St. Andrew's Singers from St. Andrew's High School to provide live music for your party on **Dec. 13th or 14th!** For a suggested donation of \$50, you can hire the choir to entertain your family and guests with fun, festive tunes that remind us of the reason for the season! Please contact Philip O'Reilly, Music Director, and book now while there is still availability:

poreilly@cisdv.bc.ca

News from the Chancery

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is once again offering the online Journey Through Advent video series. As we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord, it is hoped that the videos will be a source of spiritual comfort, peace, and meaningful preparation for all who watch them. This year's spiritual reflections will be led by the Most Reverend Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto. To view the videos, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>.

Supporting Anawim

We ask for your help with donations of new and gently used warm winter clothing – from socks and underwear to parkas and pants, our community is in desperate need. There will be a decorated donation box at the entrance to the church.

Missing a Missal? 2024/2025 Sunday Missal are still be available for \$5 in the office.

The Monthly Sunday Bridge

Monthly Sunday Bridge in the Parish Hall will continue on December 1st. Please contact the office at office@holycrossvictoria.org to be connected to Tony Southwell for further information.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS:

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

Please return your books from the **No-vember Indigenous Book Fair** to the return box in the foyer.

Job Posting: Senior Accountant

The Diocese is now accepting applications for the position of Senior Accountant. The job posting may be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. The posting will be open until the position is filled.

Invitation from St Jean Baptiste Parish

Francophone? Est-ce que vous êtes au courant qu'il existe la Paroisse Française St.Jean-Baptiste à 307 Richmond, Victoria? Chaque Dimanche à 13 :30 hrs. nous célébrons en Français l'Eucharistie/la Messe avec notre cure le Père Rolf Hasenack, OP et avec des chants et accompagnement au piano et au guitar.

Hearing Loop System

If you wear hearing aids, switch your hearing aid to T-Coil and you will be connected to the hearing loop system. See: www.advancedlistening.ca

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team:

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, David Begg

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord
250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake
250-477-5321 / officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday,

9am Sunday;

9am Tuesday and Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday;

12:10pm Tuesday-Friday