

# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

**SUNDAY - December 8, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Advent is the season of hope. But what power does hope have in this world? It seems such a frail thing, a mere disposition. Depending on the present circumstances, hope can appear more like a delusion, a silly dream, the folly of those who aren't thinking very clearly. Look at the world. See who occupies the seats of authority and controls the forces that shape us all: markets, courts, governments, laboratories, church, temple, and mosque. In the presence of such people—who may well be the modern-day Tiberius Caesars, Pontius Pilates, Herods, and Caiaphases—what good is hope? Catholics and other Christians spend one month every year practicing and cultivating the art of hope. But hope is more than an art: It's one of three theological virtues, along with faith and love. Because faith, hope, and love work in tandem, to be lacking one is to be handicapped in all three. Though hope cannot be self-generated, it must be consciously and routinely practiced—and can be lost if it's not.

That's why we have a whole season dedicated to the exercise of hope. If there were a "Hope Gym" we could visit to develop this gift, it would make things easier. And in a sense, there is: it is our story of salvation. The people who walked in darkness did see a great light. The captives of Zion did come back rejoicing, sheaves, and all. Israel placed their hopes in God, and God delivered. Literally. And when John the Baptist stepped forward and promised that rough ways would be made smooth in the time of salvation, his kingdom proclamation was answered in the arrival of Jesus. If you've ever traveled to previously unknown places, you appreciate the importance of having a reliable guide. A good guide speaks the language, knows the lay of the land, and anticipates obstacles along the way. John the Baptist is such a guide for our Advent journey. He cautions us to prepare the way for deeper access to the divine mystery we approach in this season. John tells us that the right spirit for this encounter is repentance: a turning around, a fresh effort. Some of us may need to be forgiven. Others have some forgiving to do. Heed this guidance! Prepare the way of the Lord! Do these words speak to you?

Christian hope is not blind, ignorant, or without basis. We hope for the future because we possess the story of a glorious past of prayers answered and dreams achieved. Listen to Baruch console his once-exiled community, promising a triumphant return carried on thrones along level paths under shady and fragrant trees. Baruch proclaims that we will be remembered by God. Do you feel remembered? Do you feel led by God? Both Baruch and John the Baptist prophesy that every valley will be filled in to level ground. What are the valleys in your life that need leveling?

We hear it from John the Baptizer, who speaks to a wilderness that needs to hear Good News! John the Baptist expresses that in his preaching of repentance, forgiveness, and change. Join me and other priests from the Victoria region at Saint Andrews Cathedral for confessions on Dec 12 at 7 pm, and at Sacred Heart on Dec 19 at 7pm. Thomas Hoffman writes in *A Child in Winter*: "God invites us to a quiet place of reflection and bounty. This Advent, choose some time for silence. Make space within yourself to grow large with the abundance of God's favor. Make this a time to fill your lungs deeply with God so that you can breathe Christ into the world."

Prepare the way of 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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

[www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://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](http://RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

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

### LIVESTREAM MASSES

**Live Mass broadcast this weekend!** Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish on Sunday at 11am. 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 111 families of Holy Cross have contributed thus far and we have raised \$46,835 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.

### African Aids Angels

African Aids Angels will be on sale before and after mass on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15. These angels are created by volunteers from donated fabric, ribbon and jewelry, some of which has been donated by Holy Cross parishioners. For this we thank you. Money collected goes directly to help support an orphanage in South African and one in Zambia.

**Large standing angels are \$25 and smaller peg angels are \$10. Sales are cash or cheque only.**

Thank-you for your support of these children who have been orphaned due to the HIV virus. Many blessings to you.

### 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 Times & 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

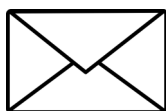
#### Clergy Consult:

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

### 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

Would you like to receive the bulletin by email? Please email [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org) to be added to the list.



**Please find your collection envelopes for 2025 in the foyer, sorted alphabetically. If you do not have collection envelopes, contact the office to have a box assigned to you.**

**Monthly Sunday Bridge in the Parish Hall** will continue on January 5th. Please contact the office at [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org) to be connected to Tony Southwell for further information.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Immaculate Conception**

Dogma of the Catholic Church, since Pope Pius IX officially declared it in 1854, that Mary was “full of grace” and uniquely conceived without the stain (*macula*) of original sin. Not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, a singular event for which Mary’s Immaculate Conception prepares. The Immaculate Conception shines like a beacon of light for humanity in all the ages. If Christ is the day that never fades, Mary is its dawn, shining with beauty said Saint John Paul II. As Mother of the church, Mary gives birth to our hope and understanding of discipleship. Just as Mary Immaculate was prepared before birth to be the Mother of God, we’re rescued from the effects of sin by Baptism into the redemption of Christ and thus made ready for service to God’s mission. Why do Catholics believe in Mary’s Immaculate Conception? The teaching of Mary’s sinlessness from the moment of her conception assumes the heft of dogma, a Greek term for “what seems right.” A dogma is an infallible teaching, which must be 1) contained in scripture or part of post-biblical tradition; 2) explicitly proposed as a divinely revealed belief; 3) issued as a solemn decree that can be later developed but not deliberately rejected without risk of heresy. This teaching about Mary’s beginnings is essential to Catholic understanding despite any mention in the gospels of Mary’s origins. However, Marian stories are recorded in “post-biblical tradition” texts, such as The Birth of Mary, that provide valuable windows into early Christian belief. One thing is clear: The Early Church believed the Incarnation bound Jesus and his mother in a singular, physical infusion of divine grace. The Immaculate Conception represents a very early understanding of this most pure bond. Mary’s Immaculate Conception shows that it is possible, through God’s grace, to have an unbreakable bond with God. For Mary, it led to her yes to giving birth to Jesus, the savior of the world, who would overcome sin and bring humanity back into communion with God.

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE**

SATURDAY, December 7, 2024

11AM: Children’s First  
 Reconciliation Service

**4PM LITURGY OF THE WORD  
 WITH HOLY COMMUNION:**

Derek Niebergall+

SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, December 9, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 10, 2024

9 AM MASS: Romey Simas+

WEDNESDAY, December 11,  
 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 12, 2024

9AM MASS:

Ranjith, Mercy and Nicholas+

FRIDAY, December 13, 2024

NO MASS

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

***No Reconciliation scheduled***

**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](mailto:poreilly@cisdv.bc.ca)

**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!

**COLLECTIONS , December 1, 2024**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,280.00
Loose	\$ 375.00
Anawim House	\$ 500.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,332.90
Catholic Missions	\$ 40.00
Socio & Eco Justice	\$ 20.00
Needs of the Church	\$ 20.00
World Mission	\$ 20.00
Christmas Florals	\$ 270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,857.90</b>

**Thank you to all our volunteers who supported the First Reconciliation Service this Saturday, December 7th. Especially Michele Bristow for all the thought, creativity and effort she puts into organizing and running Sacramental Prep. We are very lucky to have you!**



## **News from the Chancery**

1) The Diocese of Victoria will be sharing a series of blog posts over the weeks of Advent that explore new ways to bring purpose, shelter, and hope to those in need. The first post, “No Room at the Inn: A New Look at an Old Story”, is now available to read at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/no-room-at-the-inn-a-new-look-at-an-old-story>

2) On December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church in Canada marks the *National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples*. This initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has been coordinated since 2002 by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council. To read this year’s reflection, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/2024-national-day-of-prayer-in-solidarity-with-indigenous-peoples/>

3) December 15 is the deadline to apply to the 2025-2026 cohort of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation’s Leadership Program. This certificate program, offered in partnership with Saint Paul University in Ottawa, was developed to help Catholic women strengthen their leadership skills in an environment which integrates faith and spirituality. The program will begin in June 2025 and is offered mainly online, with a final in-person residency in Ottawa in June 2026. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.cwlfcanada.ca/>.

4) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant. The candidate will bring extensive accounting experience along with their professional approach to the Finance Department. This position would suit an individual who thrives in a fast-paced work environment and enjoys dealing with a wide variety of people of different ages, backgrounds and cultures. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. The posting will remain open until filled.

Please return your books from the **November Indigenous Book Fair** to the return box in the foyer.

## **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. **Clothing for either Men or Women will be greatly appreciated!**

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

**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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake  
250-477-5321 / [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

**Sacramental Preparation:** Michele Bristow  
[mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org)

**Baptismal Preparation:** Beverly Pulyk  
[hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsbpaptismalprep@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](mailto: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