

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

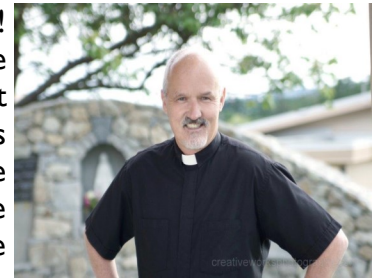
Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY December 10th, 2017
Second Sunday in Advent



From Fr. William's Desk

All of the readings today have an answer to these deep questions! The readings basically tell us: "**clean up your act.**" If we are not sensing the presence of God in our lives, it may not be only because we are half-asleep, but because our hearts are in need of some **housecleaning**. The good news of Jesus Christ—the Message!—begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you; He'll make the road smooth for you. Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a Baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His Baptism—a holy Baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out".



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

The readings of Advent remind us that, as people of faith, we're waiting for two seemingly contradictory things. We're waiting for the end of the world as we know it: for this broken history of ours to be rolled up like a carpet and laid at the feet of the One Who Is to Come. We're waiting for the dissolution of all things, as the Second Letter to Peter puts it. And none of us can feel sorry at the thought that sin and death, evil, violence, cruelty and injustice, war and crime, and disease and pain will be wiped out at last. When we listen to the nightly news, we may all be ready to shout: Come, Lord Jesus!

But that's not all we're waiting for, of course. The coming of our Lord isn't only about saying good riddance to the bad old days forever. We're also eagerly awaiting an astonishing new world "in which righteousness dwells." We're waiting for rebirth as innocent and beautiful as the baby at the heart of our Advent longing. We can dare to hope for these wonderful things because we're preparing nothing less than the "way of the Lord" here. Forget the stairway to heaven. We're building a superhighway! John the Baptist, the highway's advance man, was one of those rare pivotal figures who appreciated exactly where he stood in human history. As a prophet he had the ability to read the future as accurately as the past. He could see the ax poised at the root of the tree of his generation. Heck, he could feel its weight in his own hands. Everything had to come down: That's why he preached repentance. John also knew someone mightier was on the way. That gave him the courage to speak an unpopular message and then to fall like a tree himself, chopped down by the same injustice he came to denounce. Baptism with water could wash away the past. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit would ignite a future beyond every story ever told.

Prepare

Father William

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor
Fr. Karam Alraban, Associate Pastor

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

PASTORAL CARE VISITS WHILE IN HOSPITAL

We remind the faithful that privacy legislation in BC prevents the release of information regarding hospital admissions. If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Ian Stuart** to make this request.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**Sunday, December 24th:**

Fourth Sunday in Advent masses—8:30am, 10:30am

Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord masses—6:00pm, 8:30pm

Monday, December 25th:

Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord mass—9:30am

Sunday, December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph mass—8:30am, 10:30am

Monday, January 1st:

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God mass—10:00am

**REDISCOVER THE ART OF DYING—A 5 WEEK SESSION**

Fr. William will be hosting a five week book study on Sr. Nuala's book starting **Saturday, January 27th from 1-3pm**. The program will run 5 weeks (Saturday Jan. 27th, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th), exploring 2 chapters per week. *Sign up sheets are in the foyer, please register for this program.*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

"Console my people, console them." We are reminded that our guilt is to be atoned for, as we prepare a way for Jesus. Faithful love and loyalty join together; saving justice and peace embrace. During this sacred time of year, let us be reminded by Saint Mother Teresa: "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Development & Peace wishes you all a blessed and fruitful Advent season.

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS THANK YOU

Our non profit organization began at Holy Cross 18 years ago. Initially donations from the sale of angels helped fund the Thembalethu Orphanage, St. Mary's hospital in S. Africa, an agricultural program in Malawi and the Makeni Ecumenical Centre in Zambia. Two years ago changes happened, the Malawi project ended and St. Mary's hospital changed hands. The government of S. Africa now funds retroviral drugs. Your generous donation of \$570 presently contributes to Thembalethu and the Makeni Orphanages for children affected by HIV. African AIDS Angels is very grateful for your continued support. Thank you.

AT THE LIBRARY

(in the Parish Centre –Tue- Fri: 9am-2:00pm)

Daily Readings for the Advent of Christmas --- making New Year's promises more likely!

- *Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations, by Sr. Wendy Beckett*
- *Through the Year with Francis of Assisi, by M. Bodo*
- *Daily Light by S. Bagster*
- *Lord, Teach Me to Pray (in 28 days) by K. Arthur*

PRAYER REFLECTION

Jesus my Lord has come, then. He has smoothed out your rough places and changed your disorderly ways into level paths, making in you an unimpeded road, a road that is absolutely clear, so that God the Father may walk in you and Christ the Lord make his dwelling in you and say: My Father and I will come and make our home in them.

—Origen (183-253)

Beneath an outward appearance of indifference, in the heart of every person there is a will to live in community and a thirst for justice and peace.

—Pope Paul VI

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** St. Patrick's Parish is seeking a Secretary for 25hrs/week: Tuesday-Friday from 9am-3pm & Saturday from 9am-12pm. A brief job description is available at <http://www.stpats-vic.ca> Resumes can be submitted in person to the Parish Office (2060 Haultian Street, Victoria, BC V8R 2L7) or by e-mail to Fr. Eduardo Santos: pastorstpat@telus.net.
- **ST. ANDREW'S FUND RAISER:** "Celebration of Elvis' Birthday & Fundraiser for a new Sports Field for St. Andrew's Highschool. Friday, January 12 at 7pm. Come out for fun, live entertainment by Iconic Tributes, Elvis and DJ Marilyn Montroe. Auction, wine, beer, light refreshments and birthday cake. Our regional high school needs a new field for our local Catholic High School Students. You can help by purchasing a ticket and coming out for the fun! \$50 a ticket, available at the parish office. Adults only, 19+.
- **ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL SURVEY:** St. Andrew's High School is requesting all Catholic parents and grandparents of school-age children to fill out this brief anonymous survey by December 8th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCKL633>

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

We welcome donations for the Christmas floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Christmas flowers and remember a loved one, please pick up an envelope at the back of the church. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop in the collection basket.



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

A reminder that all are invited to join the **annual Amnesty International letter-writing campaign** at our Parish Hall **today (2-3:45 pm)**. Writing materials and postage will be provided at the session, and instructions given to first-time participants.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 10th

Birthright Fudge for sale after masses

8:30 am Mass: **Angela Murphy +**

10:30 am Mass: **Agustin & Gus Medina +**

2-3:45 pm Write For Rights

4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, December 11th

9:00 am Mass: **Jack Ponsioen (int)**

TUESDAY, December 12th

9:00 am Mass: **Special Intention**

WEDNESDAY, December 13th

9:00 am Mass: **Pierce Farragher +**

7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service

THURSDAY, December 14th

9:00 am Mass: **Dan Taft +**

6:30 am Rosary Group

FRIDAY, December 15th

OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON

9:00 am Mass: **Ian Fraser +**

SATURDAY, December 16th

3:45—4:30 Reconciliation

5:00 pm Mass: **Pierce Farragher +**

SUNDAY, December 17th

8:30 am Mass: **Mary Hann +**

10:30 am Mass: **Hugh Loughran +**

4:00 pm Mass—Last mass before Christmas break.

Please note that the office will close at Noon on Friday, December 15th.

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to all the musicians who treated us to their inspirational song at our Amazing Grace concert, and to Noteworthy, who provided such beautiful music during our Advent Song mediation last Friday. Your musical talent was a wonderful gift for us all.

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321 after hours: 250-294-9615

Associate Pastor: Fr. Karam Alraban

250-477-5321 rev.karam@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Anna Mendonca

250-477-5321 pastoralassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council: Esther Sangster-Gormley

egorm@uvic.ca

University Chaplain: Fr. Dean Henderson

250-721-8339 (office) 250-882-2151 (cell)

catholic@uvic.ca

Refugees: refugees@holycrossvictoria.org

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy Liturgical Ministers	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server Music	Fr. William Hann Various Choirs	250-477-5321 250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson Janita McHugh	250-477-6455 250-220-4778
Parish Council	Esther Gormley	250-360-0107
Finance	David Begg	250-658-0870
Maintenance/Bldg.	Ed Boomars	250-881-8124
Cleaning Kitchens	Loretta MacDonald	250-477-6682
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Cynthia Watson	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Mom's/Tots	Partnership with St. Patrick's	
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION November 26th, 2017

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 5, 770.00
Loose	\$ 395.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 140.00
TOTAL	\$ 7, 305.00
Appeal Total to Date	\$78, 376.55
Total Pledges	181

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891
Catholicism	Jona De Jesus	250-858-5924
Library	George Murphy	250-658-6061
Outreach/Visiting	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Bereavement / Funeral / Follow-Up	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Funeral Reception	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322

SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

Diocesan Appeal	Ed Chwyl	
Franciscans and Friends Youth	Maritza Chouza	778-533-1736
Could You Ever Come Back To The Church	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky	250-477-5321 250-479-1331
RCIA	Phil / Sheila Wall	778-265-2134
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Sheila Wall	778-265-2134
Refugees	Trudy Holden	250-472-1079
St. Vincent De Paul	Martin Fletcher	250-592-9297
Univ/Camosun Bursaries	Tony Southwell	250-477-5738
Uvic/Camosun Outreach	John Oleson	250-477-6455