



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

The scripture readings this week all deal with change—radical change. Listen to the promises! Isaiah bombards our senses with all sorts of images and models: filled valleys, leveled mountains, fiery prophets, gentle shepherds. They are all familiar to us but were new when Isaiah prophesied. At the same time, we are to patiently await the new heaven and Earth the Messiah will bring, says Peter, even if it takes a thousand years. Mark gives us a “retro” prophet, an Old Testament figure to begin his New Testament gospel, a character out of synch with his time. But isn't that the real message of Advent? What is new is old. God has always loved us. The Messiah is the ultimate sign of that love. And what is old is new. The message of salvation is as fresh today as it was 2,000 years ago. God's promise of love remains for us if we remain faithful to God. Advent is what brings the old and new together, like John the Baptizer. Despite the overwhelming evidence of injustice and violence, on this smooth road between God and us, justice and peace shall kiss.

John the Baptist expresses that in his preaching of **repentance, forgiveness** and **change**. It is not true, as some would say that John the Baptist is a prophet of doom. He is a prophet of hope. By preaching **repentance**, he points out the possibility in us to change, and to change the world with ourselves. By preaching **repentance**, John suggests that we are not bound up by the world in which we live, that we do not have to settle for what everybody else does, but that we are truer to ourselves when, in all our dealings, we go the path of **honesty, integrity** and **justice**. By preaching **repentance**, John wants to energize us, so that we may be able to withstand the temptation, which is so rampant, of drifting along passively with distorted values and of failing to stand up for our own and each other's humanity.

An alternative is possible. A new humanity can be built. But first, we must get right with God and with each other. There is hope in our world. In Jesus, to whom John points, God's hope entered this world. If we go after this Jesus, if we go his path, then it is God's pledge that we do not find ourselves on a dead-end street, but on the wide-open road to a new world. The generation into which John the Baptist arrived was waiting for the fulfillment of its hopes, just as we are. John told them that it wasn't enough for people of faith to wait: They had to *prepare*. It makes sense. If we really trusted that God was coming, we wouldn't just sit around and wish that it would happen. Hope is not a passive virtue. We can't just sit on it. Hope is a working virtue. We lean into it—and into its fulfillment—as we prepare for what we trust is coming. Comfort is coming. Kindness and truth are coming. Justice and peace are coming. Jesus the Lord is coming! And if we believe that, we will live as though it's already come to pass. In the heart of God—which we come to know in our experience of hope—it already has.

Advent hope
Father William



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor
4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@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 St. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

African Aids Angels

Thank-you so much to all who have donated bling for angels. You will soon see the gorgeous angels that have been created using these recycled treasures. African Aids Angels will be on sale at Holy Cross this Saturday, December 9th before and after the 4:00 pm mass and Sunday, December 10th before and after the 9:00 am mass. All funds earned go to help support children orphaned due to the HIV virus at an orphanage in South Africa and one in Zambia. Many blessings to you for your support.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

2023 / 2024

Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

SATURDAY, December 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann

SUNDAY, December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William



Sunday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann
- Holy Cross Parish Midnight Fr. William Hann

Choir/Music

VOX
Paul Rosetti
Bartle-Clar Fam.



MONDAY, December 25th – Christmas Day

- Holy Cross Parish 9:00am Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann

Tafts
CFC

SATURDAY, December 30th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Family



SUNDAY, December 31st Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann

SUNDAY, December 31st – 2023 New Year's Eve, Vigil of Mary - Mother of God

- Holy Cross Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Fam.



MONDAY, January 1st – 2024 New Year's Day, The Solemnity of Mary - Mother of God

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann CFC

Anawim There is a box in the foyer to accept donations of new clothing items for residents and guests to the drop-in program at both Anawim houses. Christmas tree sales continue at 973 Caledonia Avenue.

Simbang Gabi - Filipino Tradition of Advent Preparation

All are invited to join in the Filipino tradition of celebrating the devotional Masses in preparation for the coming of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Special Masses will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View Street on December 15, 7:30pm; December 16 and 17, 5:00pm; December 18 to 22, 7:30pm; December 23, 5:00pm. For more information email katesismongpilipino@yahoo.com.

Prayer Reflection

You don't have to become something you're not to be better than you were.

—*Sidney Poitier, Measure of a Man*

Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine.

—*Saint John Chrysostom*

I call something a miracle when an ordinary person achieves something extraordinary. We all have the potential to create miraculous changes.

—*Tina Turner, Happiness Becomes You*

Write for Rights!

What is **Write for rights?** For over 20 years Amnesty International has been a beacon of hope for those whose rights have been wronged. It is a global movement where individuals come together to use the power of their words to create change. The Social Eco Justice Committee invites you to join the annual letter writing campaign . Please consider giving one hour of your time Sunday Dec. 10 following the 9am mass at Holy Cross and the 11:00 am mass at St. Patrick's Parish. All materials, refreshments and instruction will be provided. For more information visit <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>

Remembering your Loved Ones at Christmas

In past years we have welcomed donations for the Christmas floral display. Let us remember a loved one by contributing towards a Poinsettia that will bear your name. Please pick up an envelope in the foyer of the church or in the office. Once you have filled it out, please drop it off at the office or into the collection plate.



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

A Thank You Note from Pat Malcolmson

“This is long overdue. I had a bad fall in September and would like to thank my first Responder, Pat Davis, who not only mopped my bleeding hands but brought me soda bread for my comfort food! Thank you, Fr. William for your prayers and email. Thank you to Josephine, Julie, Catherine, Trish and Patricia for their phone calls. I am so blessed to be part of Holy Cross Community.”

South Island Harmony - A Cappella Chorus

South Island Harmony A Cappella Chorus presents “The Season Is ‘Round Again”, directed by David Christmas and featuring Trounce Alley Quartet, on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2pm at Holy Cross Parish. Admission is by donation, with proceeds to the refugee family in Lebanon being helped financially by Holy Cross Parish to come to Canada.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, December 9, 2023

4PM Mass: Mike Brennan+

SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

9AM Mass: Dr. John Calder+

MONDAY, December 11, 2023

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 12, 2023

9AM Mass: Mickey Brown+

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2023

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 14, 2023

9AM Mass: Gregory Anderton+

FRIDAY, December 15, 2023

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon via the side door.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

9AM First Friday of the month

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

COLLECTIONS December 2, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 7,945.00
Loose	\$ 545.00
Anawim	\$ 500.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 10.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,390.00
TOTAL	\$10,390.00

Advent Coffee Time

You are invited to come to the parish hall after the 9am Mass on Thursday, December 14th to enjoy some coffee, cookies and fellowship. Please let Trish Westwood know if you are able to contribute some goodies for this event, or call the office at 250-477-5321 to let us know. We hope to see you there!



News from the Chancery

1) On December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church in Canada celebrates the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This year, the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops asks us to take a moment to recall the Holy Father's Penitential Pilgrimage to Canada in July 2022, and in particular his words of prayer offered at Lac Ste. Anne. To read Pope Francis' prayer, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/national-day-of-prayer-in-solidarity-with-indigenous-peoples-12-december-2023/>.

2) Registration is now open for a new Indigenous Pastoral and Lay Leader Ministry Education course: "Contemporary Effects of Colonization II: Social Justice". No prerequisites are required for this online course, which will run on Tuesdays in the new year from January 9 to March 5, 2024 from 2:15-3:30 pm PST. The cost is \$200. For more information and to register, please visit <https://rcdos.ca/ministries-services/indigenous-ministry-2/indigenous-ministry-education/>.

3) On January 5 & 6 2024, the Diocesan liturgical conference "The Epiphany of the Liturgy: Welcoming the Closeness of God" will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Victoria. This free conference is an opportunity to enter into a richer experience of the Trinity in our Eucharistic Celebrations, and will be valuable both for those who serve in liturgical ministries and those who participate in the assembly. The presenters will be Dr. Glenn Byer and Dr. David Pitt, liturgical and musical educators at Catholic colleges in the U.S. The workshop will run Friday, January 5 from 7 - 9:30 pm and Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more information and to register please visit <https://EpiphanyLiturgyConference.eventbrite.com>; for assistance in registering, please email mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1331 ext 227.

Wooden Tables to Give Away

The parish has seventeen 8' tables and three 6' wooden tables to give away. If you are interested in having some or all of these please contact the office at 250-477-5321.

Coats for Kids

In 2009, the International Order of the Knights of Columbus launched its 'Coats for Kids' program with a simple goal of giving children in need the gift of warmth in the coldest months.

This winter, the six Knights of Columbus councils in Greater Victoria are, once again, participating and have donated over 260 of these colourful winter coats to First Nations, St. Vincent de Paul, schools and other area agencies which cater to needs of children and families, and also to Ukrainian refugee families in the greater Vancouver area.

Order-wide, this winter will mark the distribution of the **one millionth coat** to a child in need of warmth.

Next time you purchase a Knights of Columbus lottery ticket, burger or hotdog, attend a pancake breakfast, have your Christmas tree chipped or donate your empties, know that you are indirectly helping to fund this program - and your help is appreciated.

"Thank you" from the Knights and the Kids.



Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 (after hours)

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistants: Phil & Sheila Wall

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain:

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow

mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk

hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

62nd ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL RAFFLE

15 prizes totalling \$100,000

Grand Prize is a Toyota RAV4

Tickets are \$5 each, 10 for \$25 or **50 for \$50!**

Two \$1,000 Early Bird draws every two weeks

Get your tickets at our KofC Website at: kofcBCraffle

Main Draw Dec 16, 2023 : BC Gaming Licence #144568]

Last call! Draw is next weekend!



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.