



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 11th 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

“Be strong and do not fear! Here is your God.” Today is called Rejoicing Sunday. Today the candle on the Advent Wreath is pink, not purple as on the other three Sundays of Advent. It is meant to express our joy at the nearness of Christ's birthday. Yet, today's Gospel has a serious tone to it! John sends a plaintive question to Jesus directly. *How will I know—for sure?* he asks. Jesus does not scold John for lacking faith, for betraying weakness. Instead, he sends the most wonderful reply to the man with a prophet's heart. Jesus tells John that the generation Isaiah had foretold is now, and the signs Isaiah predicted are coming to pass in him. Jesus assures John that trusting in him will be a blessing.

Why did the Baptist send from his prison cell that urgent question to Jesus: “Are you He that is to come?” Hadn't John recognized our Lord as the Messiah several months previously, at the Jordan, when he proclaimed Him publicly as the Lamb of God? Did John, faced with almost certain death under Herod, have doubts or second thoughts about Jesus?

We never learn how John receives this response. We know his execution soon follows, but we do not know what comfort he derived from this last message from Jesus. John knew he would decrease; he vanishes from the story altogether, in fact. But those words of Jesus now linger in the air for our consideration: *Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.* Does this mean that we must surrender all doubt to follow Jesus? I am not sure that's possible or even human. The twelve apostles who walk behind Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem are always mumbling and questioning behind his back. At various times along the journey, they doubt Jesus' wisdom and leadership, or the meaning of his actions and teachings. They also, from time to time, doubt themselves and their participation in this dubious enterprise. Still, when the getting is good and many in the crowd's part company with Jesus, Peter makes the best case for continuing the way: “Lord, to whom can we go?” Faith in Jesus Christ does not banish all doubt. But it does mean walking in his way despite all uncertainty.

Even in my settled heart I am at times prone to doubt! Doubt is not always a bad thing, of course. Often it is the most reasonable response to an uncertain situation. None of us is a stranger to doubt. John the Baptist had a moment of doubt. John the Baptist held plenty of convictions since childhood, no doubt. That he was born to fulfill a great mission is something his parents must have told him early on. His training, his clothing, and his lifestyle all speak of the powerful motivation that drives him to do what he does and say what he says. The bottom line of John's life is quite simple. He understands himself to be the witness, the forerunner, the voice preparing the way. His fate is unimportant, but his mission is essential. We too must be faithful and patient as we follow and serve Jesus!

James presents us with the image of a farmer as the example of faithful living. The farmer trusts in the potential of the seed and the soil. What do I want you to know on this third Sunday of Advent? Be patient! Do not lose hope! God will come with vindication; God remembers his promises; God is faithful to his Word! Be patient, but work as hard as you can to bring about the kingdom. Speak words of courage and support to the poor so they can hear, see, walk and share in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. Rebuild the place for God among us. Make the temple clean once again, shore up its foundations, raise its walls to the sky and welcome God there at the center of the kingdom that is in our hearts. And know this: know this: God is faithful, God is always present as we see with new eyes, hear with new ears, walk sure footed on the path shown us, work to build up Jerusalem. He is coming and let us prepare and let us rejoice in his promise. *Gaudete!* Our labor together with God's grace will bring us to the time of harvest beyond all doubt. Saint Teresa of Ávila writes... *patience attains all that it strives for.*

Until then, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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.

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LIVESTREAM MASSES

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
2022 / 2023**

Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

			<u>Choir/Music</u>
SATURDAY, December 24th – Christmas Eve			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	VOX
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Rose & Brian
St. Patrick's Parish	Midnight	Fr. William Hann	Susan
SUNDAY, December 25th – Christmas Day			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Taft
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	CFC
SATURDAY, December 31st – 2022 New Year's Eve - Vigil of Mary, Mother of God			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Taft
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	CFC
SUNDAY, January 1st – 2023 New Year's Day – The Solemnity of Mary			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Janet
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	Bartle-Clars

CHRISTMAS 2022 AT ANAWIM HOUSE !!

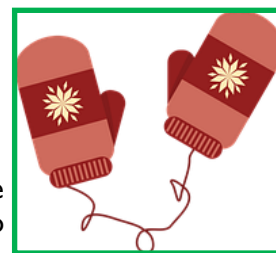
Your continued generosity in support of Anawim Companions Society for so many years is very much appreciated. You have always answered the "cry of the poor" and helped us provide a safe environment for those seeking to make positive changes in their lives.

As you are all aware the need for this support is becoming greater with more challenges. This Christmas, as we have for more so many years, we would like to continue to provide a "family" Christmas dinner and gift giving. This will take place on **December 16th**.

We are asking for your help with donations of NEW warm winter clothing. There will be a decorated donation box in the entrance to your Church starting November 26th until December 18th.

If you would like to make a donation and are unable to attend your Church you can contact Anawim House at info@anawimhouse.com You can also call 250 382-0283. If you would prefer to make a financial donation you can donate through <https://www.anawimhouse.com/donations/?preview=true> or by mail to Anawim House, 973 Caledonia Ave. Victoria, B.C. V8T 1E7.

The very popular Island grown, fresh cut Christmas trees will be on sale at the house from **NOVEMBER 30TH** Mon.-Fri.: 10am to 8pm, Saturday: 9am to 7pm, Sunday: 11am to 6pm.



Event: Saturday, February 4, 2023-**Called and Gifted live workshop** with Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge: Location: Holy Cross Parish: 9am to 3:30pm. An opportunity to discover God's call for your life God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you! **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Call of the Laity, Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, Explained Role of the Holy Spirit, Charisms Discernment Process, Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World. Please register by emailing Holy Cross office@holycrossvictoria.org; or St. Patrick's Parish stpat190@telus.net.

Prayer Reflection

Patience is the companion of wisdom.

—*Saint Augustine*

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.

—*Mother Teresa*

Jesus must become the heart of my heart, the fire of my life, the love of my soul, the bridegroom of my spirit. He must become my only thought, my only concern, my only desire.

—*Henri Nouwen*

Patience attains all that it strives for.

—*Saint Teresa of Ávila*

Third Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2022

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr.

Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcdvictoria.org



St. Patrick's School

The children of St. Patrick's School will be holding an Advent Carol Service at 6pm Tuesday, December 13th at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View St.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the **Diocesan Appeal**. Contributions to date are \$50,339.29. 115 families have participated. Our goal is \$80,000. Contributions continue to be accepted either online or by using the Bishop's Appeal envelopes found in the Church.

Arbutus Singers Concert

The Arbutus singers will be putting on a concert at St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday, December 21st from 7:30 - 8:30pm. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to support the 9-10 Club Serving Soup to the Hungry.



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 into the collection basket or take it to the office. Thank you.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE SATURDAY, December 10th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

SUNDAY, December 11th

9am Mass: Jose Pacheco+

MONDAY, December 12th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 13th

9am Mass: The Faulkner Family (Int)

WEDNESDAY, December 14th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 15th

9am: Dan Taft+

FRIDAY, December 16th

NO MASS

The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon

Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - 9am First Friday of the Month

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.

COLLECTION for Dec. 4th

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 3,870.00

Loose \$ 547.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,382.50

TOTAL \$ 5,799.50

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.

Thank you Corner

Thank you to Trudy and Anna who hosted an after-Mass coffee gathering last Sunday in the Parish hall.

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Daily Mass continues to be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Church in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe St) at 7pm, and will also be open to those who wish to attend in person. This change has also been posted at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

Boxes of envelopes for 2023 are ready to be picked up. Please have a look in the foyer to find yours.

A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR & a new SACRAMENTAL PREP COORDINATOR! Fr. William welcomes Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey to lead our Sacramental Prep Program at St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Parishes. Simona comes with an abundance of enthusiasm and a strong faith. She looks forward to working with staff, volunteers, parents, and their children who will prepare for Confession and/or Confirmation & Holy Communion.

Preparing your child for Confession, Confirmation & Holy Communion? Please download a registration form from <https://bit.ly/3hegxSM> and send a copy to sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org by January 3rd as we hope to begin classes in the second week of January, starting with a meeting for parents of children for First Confession and First Communion/Confirmation on Sunday January 8, 2023 at 10am at Holy Cross Parish. Interested parents are very welcome to volunteer in helping with the

Come join the Social & Eco Justice Committee at our **Write for Rights letter-writing session – held at the parish hall immediately after 9 am mass this Sunday Dec. 11.** Writing materials, instructions, and postage will be provided. Refreshments will be served. This annual parish event offers us a chance to come together during Advent – to inspire hope for victims of human rights abuses from around the world. Visit <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/> for more info.

New Year's Eve Taizé at St Philip Oak Bay is back this year! Please join us for a quiet time of reflection, music and prayer in preparation for the New Year. Saturday, December 31, 2022, 7:00 - 8:00 pm St Philip Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Rd We would like to hear from singers, musicians and readers interested in helping to lead this music-rich service : Peter Parker, email incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca More details: <https://www.stphilipvictoria.ca/events/new-years-eve-in-the-style-of-taize/2022-12-31> Practices are planned for mid-December. If interested please contact Peter Parker as soon as possible.

Are you doing Christmas baking? Please make a little extra and donate it to the Soup Kitchen at St. Andrew's Cathedral. All cookies and squares welcomed, including store-bought, but especially those that can be frozen! Please place donations in the labeled box in the foyer. Many thanks for your help!



African Aids Angels Thank you to all who have donated bling and other supplies for angel making. You have helped to enable volunteers to create beautiful angels which will be on sale before and after mass on Saturday Dec 10 and Sunday Dec 11th. All funds raised go directly to help support an orphanage in South Africa and one in Zambia. Many thanks and blessings to you for your generous support.

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: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Simona Stramaccioni

Camp Homewood Diocesan Retreat is back in person for 2023! We will be sending out more information next week with registration details. This event is open to ALL Diocesan Youth in grades 7 to 12.



Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 6 - 10pm in the Parish Hall.