



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

Mission Statement: Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY - December 12, 2021

Third Sunday in Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent is here, and once more in liturgical time we are invited to rejoice, on cue. Everywhere you look, the landscape is decorated with lights and festive symbols of mirth, even faith. It is a season geared for happiness, for togetherness, for a softening of the heart, and the release of old grudges. "Joy to the World" seems an appropriate sentiment right about now. Why not just go with the flow and rejoice? Yet underneath the atmosphere of levity and cheer, we know that all is not right with the world, not by a long shot. Today in Canada is a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. We know that just below the surface of this holiday season lurks all the reasons the world has for sorrow. War and violence, bigotry and divisions, hunger and misery and loss and death have not gone away just because we've scattered tinsel and sung, "Tis the season to be jolly." For too many of our sisters and brothers, this Advent is just another month of the year, and Rejoice Sunday is just another day to struggle through. How do we surrender to personal happiness, much less liturgically sponsored joy, when we know what the news of the day will certainly bring for many? Today is "Gaudete" Sunday, from the first word of the entrance prayer at Mass, which means *rejoice!* That is what the pink candle on the Advent wreath that we light today signifies: "Be glad! Christmas is almost here. It's not too late to prepare."

We need to listen...there is more..."Do not worry about anything," scripture tells us. "Have no anxiety at all." Why not? "The Lord, your God, is in your midst"; "the Lord is near." But how: "What should we do?" Answer: "Shout for joy," of course, and "cry out with joy and gladness"—in a word: "Rejoice!" And pray: "In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Act: Your kindness should be known to all." Share your basic necessities, John the Baptist says to the despised tax collectors and soldiers, don't give in to corruption. Serve one another: Loosening the thongs of sandals is a slave's work but John is willing to do it because he knows "a mighty savior," "one mightier than I is coming." We have no reason to fear brothers and sisters for today we rejoice!

In this flexible time when new life takes shape and we await a child who is coming to us, we also await the future that is arriving along with him. We look backward to the historical arrival of the Christ 2,000 plus years ago. We also look forward to his return, which could be another 2,000 years or perhaps only two minutes; God knows. But as theologians often remind us: Jesus came once, will come again, and also arrives in our midst today and every day. John has some wonderful advice for us! "Master, what should we do?" our situation is very different, but the question is the same. Should we go along with the world, or refuse to be part of it? John's answer is a wise answer. Don't be a glutton or a Scrooge. Act justly and with honesty. Be generous. Protect and do not exploit the weak and those in need. Give with joy. This is a time when it is very easy to think only of our own wants and pleasure, but just as easy to give from full and joyous hearts to others: to the sick and the lonely, to the homeless poor, to the refugee and the seeker after asylum, to those who are abused and neglected. John's answer is profound because it is so simple. Just do what you do and do it honestly and well. Just do what you already know to be right. Just do it.

Let us keep on doing good,
Father William



Third Sunday of Advent

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm
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 on Saturday at 6pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Reconciliation Service has been cancelled. In lieu of this Father William will be making himself available for **private reconciliation on December 18th from 10am to 12noon at St. Patrick's Parish and 1pm-3pm at Holy Cross Parish.**

Christmas Schedule 2021**FRIDAY December 24th - Christmas Eve*:**

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 4pm (livestreamed)

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 6pm

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 7:30pm

Holy Cross Parish Mass, Midnight

SATURDAY, December 25th, Christmas Day:

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 11am

*there will be no 4pm or 6pm Mass on this day.

SUNDAY, December 26th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Holy Cross Parish, 9:00am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

FRIDAY, December 31st - New Year's Eve*

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

SATURDAY, January 1st - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

St. Patrick's Parish, 10am

SATURDAY, January 1st - The Epiphany of the Lord (Anticipatory Mass)

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

St. Patrick's Parish, 6pm

SUNDAY, January 2nd - The Epiphany of the Lord

Holy Cross Parish, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

*There will be no 9am morning Mass on Friday December 24th or Friday December 31st.

** The parish office will be closed on December 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st and will re-open on January 4th with regular hours. There will be 9am morning Mass on those days.**Liturgical Ministries – Christmas Mass Schedule / new COVID 19 Directives**

- Sign up Sheets, as well as the Christmas Mass Schedule, are now posted in the church foyer. Please consider signing up for a Ministry spot if you are able to.
- Also posted, for information only - Regular Schedules for: Sun. Dec. 26 - 9am; Sat. Jan 1 - 4pm; and Sun. Jan 2 - 9am
- Attn Ushers: Due to the newest COVID 19 Directives, one Usher at each Mass will need to use a counter (provided) to ensure we do not exceed our 50% capacity at each Mass (140 attendees max.). Masks continue to be required by all those 5 years of age and older, other than those with a specific reason why they cannot (described in the Directives).

If you have any questions, pls. contact the Office (office@holycrossvictoria.org)

Thank you all for your continued support! Wishing you warm Advent blessings - Joanie Bidlake

PRAYER REFLECTION

Division is always a sign of the dwarfed soul, the heart which has yet to grow up enough. —Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything. —Julian of Norwich

The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self—all your wishes and precautions—to Christ. —C. S. Lewis

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream. Celebrate Mass on-line with Bishop Gary.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

A DECEMBER SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

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 project has been coordinated since 2002 by the **Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council** (CCIC), an advisory body of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

We encourage all parishes to include a suitable intention in their Masses on December 12th, such as the following:

On this National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, we ask that the Creator may show us the way to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, and a renewed fellowship.

In addition, please share the CCIC's reflection for this year with your communities. The text of the reflection is below, or it can be found online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/2021-national-day-of-prayer-in-solidarity-with-indigenous-peoples>.

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

As 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 their name.

Please pick up an envelope in the foyer of the church or in the Parish Office. Once you have filled it out, please drop it off at the office or in the Sunday Collection. **Deadline will be December 19th.**

PASTORAL MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

Effective December 7, 2021:

Fr. William Hann, appointed Vicar General *Pro-Tem*.

Fr. Dino Villadiego, appointed Rector *Pro-Tem* of St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish.

Fr. Lester Mendonsa, new to the Diocese of Victoria, on loan from the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia, appointed Assistant Priest at St. Andrew's Cathedral, and will provide pastoral and sacramental ministry to the Catholic community at the University of Victoria and Camosun College.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, December 11th

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession
4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone +

SUNDAY, December 12th

9am Mass: Filomena & Fernando Gaspar +

MONDAY, December 13th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, December 14th

9am Mass: Gordon Holden +.

WEDNESDAY, December 15th

9am Mass: John Gile +

THURSDAY, December 16th

9am Mass: Kelly Slade +

FRIDAY, December 17th

11am Funeral Mass for Pat Gaboury

Update: There will be only half capacity allowed in the church, which is 140 people at Holy Cross. Ushers will be counting people as they enter and will lock the doors when capacity is reached.

Masks are now mandatory everywhere at all times.



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

COLLECTION for December 5, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2,130.00
Loose	\$ 280.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,087.00

A D V E N T



○ come · ○ come · Emmanuel

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

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Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

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University Chaplain: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshenton@rcdvictoria.org

NOTE FROM THE UVIC/CAMOSUN CHAPLAIN LYDIA FOCH

There is always lots going on for University and College students! Gatherings are social and fun and a great opportunity to consider Christ in all things. For more information on what's coming up next please contact Lydia Foch: lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Welcome Fr. Lester! There is a new Priest on Campus and starting January 11th, 2022 he will be offering confession every Tuesday in the Multifaith Center at 10:30 followed by Mass at 11:30. He will also be offering Adoration every second Thursday of the month starting January 13, 2022 at 11:30 in the same location. *Parishioners are always welcome to join the students and to help build out Community in Christ!*

RECONCILIATION CORNER

If you missed the excellent **four-part Knowledge Network series** entitled "**British Columbia: An Untold Story**" (Oct. 19 to Nov. 2), you can watch it [here](#) for free. (You'll need to create an account with the Knowledge Network.) Episode 1 recounts the relations between Indigenous peoples and settlers; episode 2 tells the story of Black settlers in B. C., the rise of the labour movement and women's increasing participation in the work force; episode 3 relates the experiences of Chinese, Japanese, Sikhs and Americans immigrants; episode 4 focuses on resource extraction industries and the environmental movement, often led by First Nations peoples.

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS



There will be the annual African Aids Angels sale before and after Mass on Saturday December 11th and Sunday December 12th. Angels are \$10, please bring cash. All proceeds from this go directly to help support orphanages in South Africa and Zambia. For more info: www.aidsangelsvictoria.ca

2021 SIMBANG GABI AT ST. PATRICK'S

The traditional Filipino nine day novena Mass in anticipation for Christmas, called **Simbang Gabi**, is being held at St. Patrick's Parish from **December 15th to December 23rd daily at 5:50pm** with Fr. Roy Laudenorio. All are welcomed to join in this special opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ Jesus. More information is on the bulletin board and on our website: www.holycrossvictoria.org

St. Patrick's Elementary School Updates!

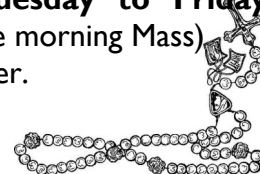
The [poinsettia fundraiser](#) was a huge success this year! Thank you to everyone who ordered and helped support this annual fundraiser for the school library.

Enjoy some of the lovely Advent scenes and art handing in the school [here](#).

MORNING ROSARY

Please join the rosary group that gathers in the Church every **Tuesday to Friday morning at 8:30** (before morning Mass) to pray the rosary together.

All are welcome.





Care for our Common HOME



Franciscan Youth Group

Sacred Heart Franciscan Youth Group gathers biweekly to build a community that cares for God's creation and one another by learning, having fun and deepening our faith.

Sundays at 1pm on Zoom

Register by email: religioused@sacredheartvictoria.com

