



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

## Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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 13, 2020 Third Sunday in Advent

In the RC liturgical tradition, this Sunday is known as "Gaudete Sunday" from the first word of the Entrance Song in Latin. Gaudete means 'rejoice'! The readings today are much more exuberant as joy is about to burst forth. We are getting closer and the excitement is busting forth as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' coming among us. We reflect on the words from the **Thessalonians**, a letter written by Paul and is the earliest of Paul's surviving letters. It reflects his genuine love and concern for the community. Today's reading comes from his final statements. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The season of Advent is a season of waiting - the kind of waiting that is associated with the experience of pregnancy. You may remember that two weeks ago, on the first Sunday of Advent, I suggested that the season of Advent is really an invitation to relive a pregnancy: the pregnancy of Mary. We wait and watch with Mary. I also mentioned that the season of Advent is also an invitation to us as a Church, as a community of believers, as the mystical Body of Christ, to see ourselves, very much like Mary, as Christ bearers to a world so desperately in need of all the saving it can get!

In the last three months of pregnancy, the pregnant woman is weighted with her cohabitant. The heaviness can reach awkward and uncomfortable proportions. While the anticipation of birth fills her with joy, the reality of physical discomfort also calls for attention. It is really a mixture that marks these three final months for many pregnant women: anticipation and excitement, but also inconvenience and pain. Is that a reminder that the Christian life will also know a fair dose of struggle, darkness, and suffering?

If as a pregnant Church, we must give birth to the real Christ, something may have to give in ourselves, in our world, in our Church. Is that what John the Baptist is referring to when he summons us to make a straight way for the Lord? Old ways of relating may have to give way to new ways of relating. A world where forgiveness and trust become the common currency, replacing the outdated currency of revenge and suspicion will indeed be a new world that we, as a pregnant community may be called to give birth to; it will not happen without difficulty and pain.

In giving birth to God in the hearts of humankind, our disposition should be one of joy. The implication is that we Christians should be characterized as a joyful people. We are directed towards joy and thanksgiving because we are deeply aware of how God has acted throughout salvation history and know that he continues to act in and through Christ and his Holy Spirit.

We are halfway through Advent in a year of lockdown and we must accept the pain that comes with doing the right thing. A lot is stirring in today's readings, and it is all being stirred by the Holy Spirit. What can I say to you to comfort in this dark time? Dear friends, when all is said and done, we only need to know Jesus Christ, to be baptized in his name and to follow him as the one true road through the mess of human history. John testified to this light, and we do too when we embrace the gospel as true.

Joy all,  
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

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

**Effective Immediately:** As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until January 8th. That means all weekend and weekday and Christmas Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

As most of us have heard by now the new Provincial Health orders stipulate that in person gatherings, including all religious gatherings, are suspended until January 8th. Therefore, there will not be any in-person Christmas Masses held at Holy Cross or St. Patrick's Parish during this season.

**Christmas mass will be live streamed on our usual YouTube channel:**

<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**Christmas Eve, Live Streamed Mass, 4pm**—Holy Cross Parish

**Christmas Day, Live Streamed Mass, 12noon**—St. Patrick's Parish

**Advent Reconciliation:** Those who would like Confession before Christmas, please email Fr. William directly to book an appointment. Please make your appointments before December 24th.

Father continues to celebrate a daily Mass privately, and all Mass intentions have been honoured during this time. We will keep everyone informed via email and the website with any other updates or news in this regard.

This is an exceptionally difficult time for so many people. All of us are navigating our own unique situations during this time. We hold each other in prayer, and remember the many other ways we can reach out and support each other this Advent and Christmas season.

### **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 in the office. **Deadline is Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.**

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** **59TH ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL RAFFLE**



15 cash prizes totaling \$177,000 including the Grand Prize of \$100,000! The Knights are now selling tickets. Starting this year all tickets are sold online—there are no more paper tickets. \$30 for 10 tickets, single tickets only \$3. Get your tickets at our KofC website: [www.kofcdraw.net/C7934](http://www.kofcdraw.net/C7934). Proceeds support our local charities. When you buy tickets we're working together to make our communities better. Thank you for your support! (Draw date: January 30, 2021—BC Gaming License #126541)

### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES—SUPERINTENDENT OF ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The Diocese of Victoria is searching for a dynamic individual for the position of Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria (CISDV), with duties to commence August 1st, 2021. We are seeking a practicing Catholic who will lead with visionary impact, guide our schools with a strong Catholic identity, strive for academic excellence, and nurture a safe and caring environment. The successful candidate will have the ability to improve student achievement, provide leadership, manage employees for success, and communicate openly and clearly with all stakeholders. A full description of the role of the Superintendent is available at: [https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/media/user/docs/Policy\\_Manual/Nov\\_2016\\_300s/301\\_Superintendent\\_Role\\_Mar\\_2012.pdf](https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/media/user/docs/Policy_Manual/Nov_2016_300s/301_Superintendent_Role_Mar_2012.pdf)

**Application deadline:** February 8, 2021

Diocese of Victoria – Superintendent Search Committee

Attention: Fr. William Hann, Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools

4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 **Email:** [jobs@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:jobs@rcdvictoria.org)

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

I see Mary everywhere. I see difficulties nowhere.

—Saint Maximilian Kolbe

John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

—Saint Augustine

The prodigious expanses of time that preceded the first Christmas were not empty of Christ; they were imbued with the influx of his power.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

**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](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

**SUNDAY** ..... 10 AM

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** ..... 7 PM

**Diocesan BLOG:** The Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) in 1998, proposed that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. We are invited to join the Indigenous Peoples in Canada in a special way through prayer and acts of solidarity.

Please find below the link to the Diocesan blog post for this week which features St. Ann's Parish in Duncan.

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/st.-anns-duncan-open-hearts-and-minds>

**ADVENT MISSION with Bishop Gary:** The Bishop will lead an Advent Mission entitled "Light on the Horizon" reflecting on the Luminous Mysteries from **December 14-18, 2020** following the live-streamed Masses at 7 pm from St. Andrew's Cathedral. The live-stream may be accessed via the Diocesan website or the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

**FROM ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Did you know our local elementary school has a Facebook page that is updated regularly with school news and projects from the students at the school? If you haven't, already go check out what our parish affiliated school is up to: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/3877087992353965>

**OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY**

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick's and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>

**Live Mass broadcast this Saturday!** Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, December 12th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, December 12th**

No Mass

**SUNDAY, December 13th**

No Mass

**MONDAY, December 14th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, December 15th**

No Mass

**WEDNESDAY, December 16th**

No Mass

**THURSDAY, December 17th**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, December 18th**

No Mass

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please note that during December until January 8th all Masses will be temporarily suspended. Father William will continue to live-stream one Mass per week.**

**The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.**

**Thank you!**

**Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.**

**\*\*There are still 2021 calendars from Catholic Missions in Canada available, and the collection envelopes are ready for pick up!**



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

**COLLECTION for December 6, 2020**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 4,105.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,372.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,477.00</b>