

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

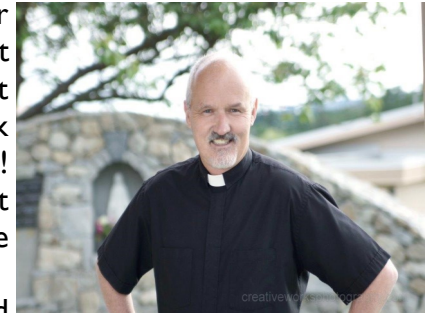
Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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 15, 2019

Third Sunday in Advent

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.” The placement of the pink candle in the third week instead of the fourth betrays an almost childlike exuberance: I can’t wait! Advent waiting is fundamentally an affirmative experience. To be Advent people, we must dream big dreams and expect the impossible with the confidence of faith.



John in prison betrayed his impatience to Jesus. He had testified boldly to his belief that Jesus was God’s Lamb, indeed the expected one for whom John had prepared the nation. John had worked particularly hard in tilling the soil for the harvest he anticipated. But now he couldn’t wait any longer. “Are you the one who is to come?” John asked Jesus. A strange question from the one who had already declared that Jesus *was* the one. But Jesus is not offended. In fact, he seeks to reassure John that his first impression was true. “Go and tell John what you hear and see.” Jesus has confidence that John will recognize the harvest by the fruit it bears.

The letter to James commends us to wait in patience, too, but this time the image is of a farmer tilling the soil. The main difference between a farm and a desert is deliberate human intervention. God makes the desert bloom; the farm depends on our efforts. But not entirely: Even on the farm, a lot depends on sun and rain and other acts of God. And maybe the most important ingredient in farming is time—the harvest can’t be achieved just any old day but only when the crop is ready. Waiting for God to act, or for our own labor to be fruitful, are similar in that both involve “possessing our souls in patience,” as Jesus once advised.

Waiting is a faith-inspiring event because it requires us to take our hands off the controls for the time being. We have done our part. We have made our effort. What happens next is not ours to determine. “Waiting in joyful hope” is like realized eschatology: What will be, already is. What we await is given to us now. If we hope in it, it is ours. If we expect to possess it, we already do. All good things come to those who wait. Without the wait, there is no harvest. A few questions to ponder this coming week: when have you seen the flowering of a “desert” situation? Are there deserts in your life that you would like to see bloom? When have you hesitated, like John the Baptist, in your certainty of Jesus? What signs have you seen that he is “the one who is to come”? Are you a hopeful person, or cautious or pessimistic? How does your ability to be hopeful influence your announcement of the Good News?



Advent joy
Father William

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

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your office or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Thomas Chinnappa** to make this request.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, Tues. Dec. 24th:

Holy Cross: 4pm and Midnight mass
St. Patrick's: 6pm (family mass with pageant), and 9pm

Christmas Day, Wed. Dec. 25th

Holy Cross: 9am
St. Patrick's: 11am



Holiday Office Hours:

Tuesday, December 24th: 9am-12noon	Tuesday, December 31st: 9am-12noon
Wednesday, December 25th: Closed	Wednesday, January 1, 2020: Closed
Thursday, December 26th: Closed	
Friday, December 27th: Closed	



REMEMBERING YOUR 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 in the foyer. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop in the collection basket.

ANAWIM HOUSE DONATIONS

Socks, underwear, gloves and toques are great gifts for Anawim House! There is a box in the foyer to collect these items. Please consider donating. Thank you.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASSES

We're are in need of Liturgical Ministers for the Christmas and New Year's Masses. If you know which Mass you will be attending and are able to help out, please put your name on the sign-up sheets in the foyer. Please note that we are especially in need of eucharistic ministers at the Midnight mass. Thank you!

LIBRARY (Tues. to Fri. 9am-2pm)

Advent Readings: the Divine becoming Human --- 2,019 years ago

Advent and Christmas by A Chiffolo.
Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen by G Uhlein
Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations
Walking with James Martin SJ (a recent private audience with Pope Francis)

*More advent resources can be found at:
<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/about-advent>



UPCOMING FUNERAL

There will be a funeral for Ron Tinney here at Holy Cross Parish on Wednesday, December 18th at 1:00pm. There will be a reception to follow after the funeral mass. There will be no 9am mass on this day.

PRAYER REFLECTION

Patience attains all things. The one who possesses God is lacking in nothing; God alone is enough.
—Teresa of Ávila

You know quite well, deep within you, that there is only a single magic, a single power, a single salvation . . . and that is called loving.
—Hermann Hesse

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **LIVING DEEPLY—DYING WELL: End of Life Health Issues – Workshop January 11, 2020, 10:30 – 2:30 pm in Cathedral Hall.** We live in a culture that, if we do not prepare to die well, someone else will make decisions for us. Very often they may not reflect our beliefs or wishes. Each person has a God given responsibility to make informed decisions on their own behalf and then communicate those decisions to someone they trust. We plan to live well. It is also our responsibility to plan to die well. **Lunch will be provided with a donation requested. Presenters: Phil Jennings, Tim McGee, Annette Turgeon. To register:** Please call St. Andrew’s Cathedral 250-388-5571 or email standrewscathedral@gmail.com
- **PASTORAL CARE OUTREACH TRAINING:** The 2020 dates for the annual Diocesan Pastoral Care Outreach training are posted on the bulletin boards in the church foyer. First session will be held at St. Patrick’s Parish on February 22nd. For more info on the sessions please contact the parish office: 250-477-5321. Registration is required.
- **CAMP HOMEWOOD:** It is Camp Homewood Time!! **All Youth (Gr 7-12) are invited to attend “Great Things” from Jan 31- Feb 2, 2020.** This is a ‘can’t miss’ weekend of faith and fun. Bring a friend! Face to Face Ministries will lead meaningful talks, games, praise and worship AND there is all the fun of Camp Homewood- archery, sailing, riding and more! Register before January 15th at the cost of \$160.00 (This is a great Christmas gift for children and grandchildren!). See your youth coordinator or parish office for more info or for a registration package.
- **INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY:** Have you ever wondered what theology is? How is Jesus both human and divine? Why is God both One and Three? Why did Jesus institute a Church? Join Fr. Harrison Ayre at the Cathedral parish for an introduction to some of the core elements of Catholic theology. Once a month, on a Friday night from 7 – 9 pm and then on the Saturday from 10:30 – 12:30 (see dates below). Fr. Harrison will be exploring some of the core elements of Catholic theology and teach not only the various elements of Catholic theology, but provide exercises to help the participants think theologically. This is an introductory class, but come expected to be stretched! Register at the Cathedral parish office 250-388-5571 or standrewscathedral@gmail.com. **Dates are: Jan. 24 & 25; Feb. 7 & 8; March 13 & 14; April 24 & 25; May 22 & 23.**

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 15th

Third Sunday in Advent

9:00am Mass: **Jose Pacheco +**

MONDAY, December 16th

Office Closed

TUESDAY, December 17th

9:00am Mass: **Danny Davies (int)**

WEDNESDAY, December 18th

1:00pm Funeral Mass for Ron Tinney

THURSDAY, December 19th

9:00am Mass: **Pat Heise +**

FRIDAY, December 20th

9:00am Mass: **Vincent Favor +**

SATURDAY, December 21st

4:00pm Mass: **David Gaffney +**

SUNDAY, December 22nd

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**

Jose DeJesus +

MONDAY, December 23rd

Office Closed

TUESDAY, December 24th

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

WEDNESDAY, December 25th

12:00am Midnight Mas

9:00am Christmas Day mass



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the Birthright Fudge sale. Together we raised \$642 at Holy Cross alone, selling 103 packages of fudge! How sweet we are.

Special thanks to our sellers this year: Sheila Wall, Diane Kirkwood, Shirley Lee, and Maria Arruda.

A big thank-you from the Social & Eco Justice Committee to all who participated in the Write for Rights last Sunday, and who wrote 59 letters in defense of human rights. Our thanks also go to Fr. William for his ongoing support of this annual campaign.

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bjeens958@gmail.com



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

COLLECTION for December 8, 2019

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3, 576.25
Loose	\$ 490.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 095.00
TOTAL	\$ 5, 161.25

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy	Debby Pietraszek	250-477-7375
Liturgical Ministries:		
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Music	Various Choirs	250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 9:00	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	John Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson	250-477-6455
	Muna Haddad	1-778-881-5843
Parish Council	Debra Prior	250-661-0252
Finance	David Begg	250-658-0870
Maintenance/Bldg.	Ed Boomars	250-881-8124
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Call office	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Children's Rel. Ed.	Barb Shenton	250-592-7391

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Valentina Boyd	250-813-0230
Catholicism		
Library	George Murphy	250-658-6061
Outreach/Visiting	Sheridan Cooper	250-598-0248
Bereavement / Funeral / Follow-Up	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Funeral Reception	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322

SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

Diocesan Appeal	John Bartle Clar	250-995-1891
Could You Ever Come Back To The Church	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
RCIA	Glenn Palahicky	250-479-1331
	Phil / Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
RCIC	Barb Shenton	250-592-7391
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Parish Office	250-477-5321
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322
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