



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY December 16th, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

The Third Sunday of Advent, the pink candle of joy is lit and the waiting, hoping, preparing, which predates us by thousands of years, continues with us today.

Many of those living in the time of John the Baptist were eagerly seeking – the Messiah. John, the Baptizer, the desert dweller, brought the people a message at odds with the times, a message of repentance and love, a message that would ‘renew the face of the earth’. So radical and hopeful was his message that people from all stations in life sought him out. He was besieged by all – the dishonest and reviled tax collector; the abhorred, occupier-soldier; citizens ordinary and marginalized, authentic and curious. They came to the desert, to the wilderness, to the heart of their personal dryness and parched lives, yet lives teeming with riches to be unearthed.

One question asked by all who came to John, echoes through the sand dunes and reverberates in our own times, “What should we do?” John told the people that another, far greater than he, was coming. They needed to prepare the way for this Messiah. He told them to repent, to turn to God, to love one another, to be ready for the one for whom they longed and about whom John said he was not worthy even to untie the string of his sandal.

And today, these many years later, what is our answer to the question “What should we do?” On this Sunday of joy, we should rejoice and be glad because God, the Anointed One, the Redeemer is in our midst. We give thanks because the Messiah has re-established the relationship between Creator God and us, his created, a relationship that is ours to grow. We trust because the Lord forgives our transgressions and takes away “the judgements against us” and assures our salvation. We hope because our Messiah renews us in his love, gives us his spirit and promises to walk with us always. We prepare ourselves to welcome the Messiah and to be faithful imitators of his love, doing good works, taking care of one another, daily giving thanks and praise and living out the Good News that we have received.

In the midst of severe tragedy living the Good News of gratitude may not come easily. At these times simply being in our circumstances and remaining faithful, however tentative we may think it to be, is ultimate thanks and praise. Remember when Jesus hung on the cross wracked by pain and dying, he cried out, “My God. My God. Why have you forsaken me?” These words neither betrayed Jesus’ faith in his father nor did they diminish his thanks and praise. Much earlier that day Jesus had asked his father to change what he knew lay ahead of him. Yet, he embraced his father’s plan for our salvation. He knew that his father walked the road to Calvary with him, that his father would never leave him, that his father would send community to support him on this dreadful journey – the women of Jerusalem, Simon of Cyrene to help him carry his unbearable load. His father gave him the strength to endure to the glory of resurrection. Jesus is with us in the exact same way in everything, even our times of greatest struggle. His life in us sustains us, his union with us in our moments of suffering continue unbroken and he gives us the strength to endure to our resurrection.

Listen to our heart; the babe of Bethlehem is calling our name and speaks to us, expect it; be ready!

Trudy Holden

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

Fr. Karam Alraban, Parish Administrator

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

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The 2019 collection envelopes are ready for pick up in the foyer of the church. Please pick them up as they will only be in the foyer for a limited time. For those of you who do not have a pre-numbered envelope but would like one please call the office: 250-477-5321. These envelopes help us track your donation for tax receipt purposes. **Please also remember our pre-authorized debit option.**

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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 at the back of the church. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop it in the collection basket. Last day to get your name on the Christmas tree is Friday December 21st.



ANAWIM HOUSE



Anawim House welcomes your financial donations and Christmas gifts of new clothing for the poor. Place your gifts in the Christmas box at the entrance of the church during the Advent season. Christmas trees will be available at Anawim House during the Advent season. Thank you for being partners with us in caring for God’s precious poor, the anawim.

NEWCOMER FAMILY—MARTIN, SANRDA, ANEETA, AYTALA

We are fast approaching that time of year when we prepare for Christmas. It’s the time when many of us attend church and/or community Christmas events. If you plan to take-in a community Christmas event that you’d like to invite the Newcomer Family to attend with you that would be nice. Contact information for the family can be obtained from the office. Thank You, Refugee Cttee.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

The mass schedules for the Christmas masses and the New Year’s mass are in the foyer. If you are attending these masses and would like to help out with the liturgical ministry please sign up for the mass that you will be attending.

Christmas Masses

Monday, December 24th: 6:00pm, 8:30pm

Tuesday, December 25th: 10:00am

New Year’s Day

Tuesday, January 1st: 10:00am



SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

Joint Wellness—Starts up again January 3rd.

Wednesday Social group—Starts up again January 9th at 1pm.

Duplicate Bridge—Wednesday 7pm.

Social Bridge—First Sunday of every month.

IN THE LIBRARY

(Library is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am-2pm)

Advent Readings

- *Advent and Christmas by A Chiffolo*
- *Meditations on the Incarnation: Advent Readings by B Groeschel*
- *Illuminated Life by Joan Chittister*
- *Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen by G Uhlein*
- *Through the Years with Francis of Assisi by M Bodo*

PRAYER REFLECTION

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.

—Julian of Norwich (1342-c. 1416)

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

—C. S. Lewis

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **MEN'S SUPPER:** New event coming to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford! Join us for our first annual "Men's Supper" on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The evening will consist of dinner, drinks (Your favorite beer!). Guest Speakers Fr. Dean Henderson and Danny Brock, prizes! and car show! Call or email Tyson Babcock for tickets (\$20 each, dinner included) 250 818 1503 or tyson.babcock@gmail.com. You don't want to miss it!
- **ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY ADVENT CONCERT:** Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00pm. This school concert will take place at St. Andrew's Cathedral downtown. Everyone is warmly invited to join the St. Patrick's school community for this seasonal event.
- **WHY LITURGY MATTERS:** Save the date for a **Liturgy Matters Workshop** on Saturday, February 23 at Ascension Parish in Parksville and a **Credible Christian Course** starting January 23 for 6 evenings at the Pastoral Center. More information and registration on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/> Contact gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org
- **CAMP HOMEWOOD RETREAT:** This annual retreat for Gr. 7-12 students will take place this year on Quadra Island from February 1-3, 2019. Cost is \$160 per participant (incl. all food, accommodation and activities). Registration package available in the office.
- **ADVENT CAROLS AT SARHS:** Come and celebrate the reason for the season with Advent carols and readings by the award-winning music ensembles from St. Andrew's Regional High School. Our annual Advent raffle featuring chocolate, spa items, coffee and more will also take place following the performances. All are welcome to join us at 7pm on Wed, Dec. 19th in the school gym!

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: Please note that Fr. Ian Stuart, Hospital Chaplain, is currently on medical leave from his responsibilities. At the moment, eight different pastors in Victoria, in addition to their regular duties, will carry the hospital phone for **emergency calls only** (250-889-3761) on a weekly rotation basis.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 16th

8:30 am Mass: **Amaro Martins + Hilary Ribeiro & Jose Pacheco +**

4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, December 17th

No Mass

TUESDAY, December 18th

9:00 am Mass: **Mary Hann +**

WEDNESDAY, December 19th

9:00 am Mass: **Kent Steele +**

THURSDAY, December 20th

9:00 am Mass: **Brian Wall +**

FRIDAY, December 21st

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

SATURDAY, December 22nd

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Reid Kyfuik +**

SUNDAY, December 23rd

8:30 am Mass: **Danny Fedrigo+**

10:30 am Mass: **Michael Leland +**

4:00 pm Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

A very big thanks from Birthright. With your help they reached a new record in fudge sales at Holy Cross! Thank you for supporting this local cause and the hardworking team at Birthright. They will be back next year with their fudge.

A funeral for Debbie will be held on **Wednesday January 2nd at 11am**. We keep their family in our prayers during this time.



Third Sunday of Advent

CONTACTS

Administrator: Fr. Karam Alraban

250-477-5321 rev.karam@gmail.com

250-294-9615 after hours

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Ian Stuart

250-889-3761

Pastoral Assistant: Anna Mendonca

250-477-5321 pastoralassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council: Esther Sangster-Gormley

egorm@uvic.ca

University Chaplain: Fr. Dean Henderson

250-721-8339 (office) 250-882-2151 (cell)

catholic@uvic.ca

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
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, 8:30	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
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
	Janita McHugh	250-220-4778
Parish Council	Esther Gormley	250-360-0107
Finance	David Begg	250-658-0870
Maintenance/Bldg.	Ed Boomars	250-881-8124
Cleaning Kitchens	Loretta Macdonald	250-477-6682
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Anna Mendonca	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



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

COLLECTION December 9, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2,342.00
Loose	\$ 710.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,095.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,147.00
SVPD	\$ 3,317.00



Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar/ Valentina Boyd	250-995-1891 250-813-0230
Catholicism	Fr. Karam Alraban	250-477-5321
Library	George Murphy	250-658-6061
Outreach/Visiting	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Bereavement / Funeral / Follow-Up	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Funeral Reception	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322

SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

Diocesan Appeal	Ed Chwyl	
Franciscans and Friends Youth	Maritza Chouza	778-533-1736
Could You Ever Come Back To The Church	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky	250-477-5321 250-479-1331
RCIA	Phil / Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
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		
Refugees	Trudy Holden	250-472-1079
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