



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

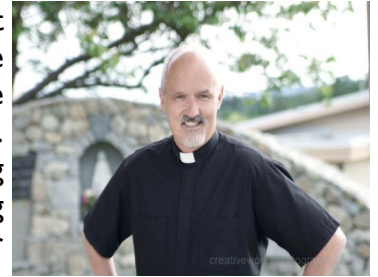
Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY December 17th, 2017
Third Sunday in Advent



From Fr. William's Desk

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. That is a comforting prayer! A very comforting prayer! Think about it!!!"



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

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! If as a pregnant Church, we have to 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 A world where forgiveness and trust become the common currency replacing the outdated currency of revenge and suspicion will indeed be a new world that we, as a pregnant community may be called to give birth to; it won't happen without difficulty and pain.

The Jesus that Mary gives birth to, the Christ that we, as a community of believers, are to give birth to, will have a hand in creating a society where prisoners are granted amnesty, where the homeless and refugees are given a place to live, where those who are in conflict with each other, whether it be individual persons or nations will find peace. There is very challenging and very disturbing side to Advent. Advent has nothing to do with preparing for the birth of an innocent baby, resplendent in inertia. Indeed, Advent means taking sides with a God who agitates for reforms and shatters the status quo. It can no longer be business as usual. If the real Christ is to be among us, then we are in for a change.

Come to think of it, I wonder what kind of birth Advent prepares us for? It can hardly be for the birth of Jesus; after all, that birth took place some 2017 plus years ago. Could it be that it prepares us for the birth of a new community in which the face of Christ becomes once again recognizable, but then not a Christ of our own making, that is sweet, innocent and harmless and who, leaves things as they are? Rather it could be a Christ of God's making who turns things in our world upside down. Are we as a pregnant community prepared to give birth to Christ who will transform and renew our world, put it once more on the road that leads to God's kingdom of peace, justice and love?

Rejoice always, *Father William*

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor
Fr. Karam Alraban, Associate Pastor

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

PASTORAL CARE VISITS WHILE IN HOSPITAL

We remind the faithful that privacy legislation in BC prevents the release of information regarding hospital admissions. If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Ian Stuart** to make this request.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th:

Fourth Sunday in Advent masses—8:30am, 10:30am
Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord masses—6:00pm, 8:30pm

Monday, December 25th:

Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord mass—9:30am

Sunday, December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph mass—8:30am, 10:30am

Monday, January 1st:

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God mass—10:00am



Christmas Office Hours

Monday, December 25th—Thursday December 28th : CLOSED
Friday December 29th : office open 9am-12noon.

REDISCOVER THE ART OF DYING—A 5 WEEK SESSION

Fr. William will be hosting a five week book study on Sr. Nuala’s book starting **Saturday, January 27th from 1-3pm**. The program will run 5 weeks (Saturday Jan. 27th, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th), exploring 2 chapters per week. *Sign up sheets are in the foyer, please register for this program.*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The spirit of the Lord enables us to overcome all challenges in His name: preaching to the meek, healing the contrite of heart and releasing the captives. In our souls, we rejoice and celebrate eternal mercy. Let us prepare our hearts, joining in Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Development and Peace wishes you all a blessed and fruitful Advent season.

SOCKS FOR ANAWIM

Children’s Religious education program is collecting socks for Anawim House. There is a box in the foyer of the church as well as in the Parish office. New, thick socks that will keep feet warm over the cold months ahead will be much appreciated by those who come to Anawim over the winter.



REMEMBERING 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 at the back of the church. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop in the collection basket.

PRAYER REFLECTION

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)

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Island Catholic Schools will be accepting applications for the following position: After School Care Worker, St. Joseph's School, Victoria, Monday – Friday; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Effective January 2018. Great part-time job for university students.
- **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Our Lady of the Rosary Parish is seeking a Secretary for 20hrs/week. Resumes can be submitted in person to the Parish Office (798 Goldstream Ave, Victoria, V9B 2X6, BC) or by e-mail to Fr. Paul Szczur SDS: olor@shaw.ca to January 5th, 2018.
- **FAITH FORMATION:** Consider coming out to our *Diocesan Foundations of the Faith Formation Program* to deepen and renew your faith. Part I of this free program begins Wednesday, January 17 and runs for 8 consecutive Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Pastoral Center 4044 Nelthorpe. Part II will be offered March 19 & 20—day sessions. Registration through Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com) or contact Glen Palahicky via email: gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org
- **ST. ANDREW'S HIGH SCHOOL ADVENT CONCERT:** Don't miss our Advent Carol Concert happening on **Wednesday, Dec 20th at 7pm in the gym.** There will be performances and readings by St Andrew's Singers, Concert and Jazz Bands to celebrate the reason for the season, as well as our annual Advent Raffle AT \$2 a ticket.
- **ST. ANDREW'S FUND RAISER:** "Celebration of Elvis' Birthday & Fundraiser for a new Sports Field for St. Andrew's Highschool. **Friday, January 12 at 7pm.** Come out for fun, live entertainment by Iconic Tributes, Elvis and DJ Marilyn Monroe. Auction, wine, beer, light refreshments and birthday cake. Our regional high school needs a new field and you can help by purchasing a ticket and coming out for the fun! \$50 a ticket, available at the parish office. Adults only, 19+.

WINTER WEATHER

On the frosty days ahead this season we will try to have the pavement salted, but please remember to take care when walking as it can get very slippery on the pathways to the church. *Thank you.*

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 17th

8:30 am Mass: **Mary Hann +**
10:30 am Mass: **Hugh Loughran +**
4:00 pm Mass—Last mass before Christmas break.

MONDAY, December 18th

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

TUESDAY, December 19th

9:00 am Mass: **Ian Fraser +**

WEDNESDAY, December 20th

9:00 am Mass: **Thelma Fagher + +**

THURSDAY, December 21st

9:00 am Mass: **Lorraine Vadebncœur +**
6:30 am Rosary Group

FRIDAY, December 22nd

9:00 am Mass: **Reid Kyfuik +**

SATURDAY, December 23rd

3:45—4:30 Reconciliation
5:00 pm Mass: **Jose De Jesus +**

SUNDAY, December 24th

8:30 am Mass: **Omar Jalbert +**
10:30 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
8:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

MONDAY, December 25th

9:30 pm Christmas Day Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to all the priests who came out for our Advent Reconciliation service. Your presence for our sacrament of Reconciliation was much appreciated.

Thank you to Trudy Holden for your wonderful article on ecumenism in our community. The article is published in the most recent Diocesan Messenger.

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321 after hours: 250-294-9615

Associate Pastor: Fr. Karam Alraban

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

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

Refugees: refugees@holycrossvictoria.org

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy Liturgical Ministers	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server Music	Fr. William Hann Various Choirs	250-477-5321 250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir. Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Ann Francis Darlene Southwell	250-477-8650 250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson Janita McHugh	250-477-6455 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 Annual Shed Clean	Loretta MacDonald Jack Ponsioen	250-477-6682 250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Cynthia Watson	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Mom's/Tots	Partnership with St. Patrick's	
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



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

COLLECTION December 10th, 2017

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 5, 770.00
Loose	\$ 395.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 140.00
TOTAL	\$ 6, 102.65
SVPD	\$3, 458.00

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891
Catholicism	Jona De Jesus	250-858-5924
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 RCIA	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky Phil / Sheila Wall	250-477-5321 250-479-1331 778-265-2134
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Sheila Wall	778-265-2134
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 Out- reach	John Oleson	250-477-6455