

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Some joy creeps into the readings this week. We are closer to the moment of Incarnation when God takes on a human identity, becomes flesh, and dwells among us. God becoming human casts new light on our own identity. We see both Isaiah and John the Baptist wrestling with questions of identity this week. Today's readings are brimful of joy and hope. To help us grasp that we reflect on that joy we hear those beautiful words from the Thessalonians a letter written by Paul and is the earliest of Paul's surviving letters. 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.

We are halfway through Advent. Presents have been bought. Preparations for the big Christmas celebrations have begun in earnest, yet our liturgies remained subdued even if they are hopeful. The Good News Isaiah reminds us to proclaim is the same that John announced more than 2,000 years ago. We lose sight of that message if we are not praying constantly--yes, constantly says Paul. We must not hold down the Spirit.

How much of all that we are so busy doing reflects the awesome reality of Christ being born again in our lives? How much joy do we carry with us and share with others? Does the cashier who waited on us in a crowded line feel better for having been in contact with us? Did we respond to the drivers ahead of us in a way that makes them feel better about themselves? Or did we ignore the Salvation Army worker at the kettle or the stranger looking for a cup of coffee? Are our smiles roses that we hand to those who need them? There is still time this Advent to pray and prepare ourselves to bring the greatest gift we can to others--the unconditionally loving gift of our God and Savior born again into our world and our hearts. When God is allowed to be God for us, we find a reason to rejoice. Remember this season of joy is all about a spirit of joyful service.

That is why 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. When in doubt we need to remember that biblical message is an optimistic one. It is the story of a God who cares about us and whose care is such that God is willing to enter our world. Our Christian vocation during this season of Advent is to prepare for Jesus' coming into our hearts so that we may experience the joy of salvation, that healing, that wholeness and holiness we long for and which alone gives meaning to our lives. Jesus gave that kind of answer. Can the same be said of us?

Happy Gaudete Sunday to all

Father William



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC

V8N 3X7

Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844

office@holycrossvictoria.org

***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.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

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 at the office or into the collection plate.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE
2023 / 2024
Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

SATURDAY, December 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann

SUNDAY, December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William

**Sunday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:**

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann
- Holy Cross Parish Midnight Fr. William Hann

Choir/Music

VOX
Paul Rosetti
Bartle-Clar Fam.

**MONDAY, December 25th – Christmas Day**

- Holy Cross Parish 9:00am Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann

Tafts
CFC

SATURDAY, December 30th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Family

SUNDAY, December 31st Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann

**SUNDAY, December 31st – 2023 New Year's Eve, Vigil of Mary - Mother of God**

- Holy Cross Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Fam.

MONDAY, January 1st – 2024 New Year's Day, The Solemnity of Mary - Mother of God

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann CFC

**Anawim**

There is a box in the foyer to accept donations of new clothing items for residents and guests to the drop-in program at both Anawim houses. Christmas tree sales continue at 973 Caledonia Avenue.

**Simbang Gabi - Filipino Tradition of Advent Preparation**

All are invited to join in the Filipino tradition of celebrating the devotional Masses in preparation for the coming of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Special Masses will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View Street on December 15, 7:30pm; December 16 and 17, 5:00pm; December 18 to 22, 7:30pm; December 23, 5:00pm. For more information email katesismongpilipino@yahoo.com.

Prayer Reflection

Every great movement needs an agitator. Every leader of spiritual ideals needs a John the Baptist.

—William Allen White, 19th-century newspaper editor

If you don't get out there and define yourself, you'll be quickly and inaccurately defined by others.

—Michelle Obama, Becoming

John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

—Saint Augustine

The true secret of love consists in this: we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus.

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Pastoral Care Outreach Training Series

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 20 and running until March 23, 2024** (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. **Please register through your parish by January 12.** For more information email moiraking@shaw.ca

Childrens Liturgy

All school-aged children are welcome to join Childrens Liturgy on the first Sunday of every month starting January 7 at the 9am Mass.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ENVELOPES

Collection envelopes have all been **renumbered** for 2024 and will be ready for pickup imminently. Please begin to use these on January 1, 2024. Please **discard all old envelopes**. Please write your name on your new envelopes for the first month of use. Thank you!

Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250 -477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

South Island Harmony - A Cappella Chorus

South Island Harmony A Cappella Chorus presents "The Season Is 'Round Again", directed by David Christmas and featuring Trounce Alley Quartet, on **Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2pm at Holy Cross Parish.**

Admission is by donation, with proceeds to the refugee family in Lebanon being helped financially by Holy Cross Parish to come to Canada.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, December 16, 2023

4PM Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+
Maria Del Branco+

SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

9AM Mass: Mary Hann+

MONDAY, December 18, 2023

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 19, 2023

9AM Mass: Anne Schwitzgebel+

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 21, 2023

9AM Mass: Alice, Thomas and William
O'Reilly+

FRIDAY, December 22, 2023

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon via the side door.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

9AM First Friday of the month

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

COLLECTIONS December 9, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 5,580.00
Loose	\$ 265.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,390.00

TOTAL \$7,235.00

Thank you

Thanks goes out to Trish Westwood who organized and coordinated an 'Advent coffee and goodies time' for parishioners this past week. Trish would also like to thank all those who helped by donating goodies and cleaning up.

Thanks also to Joe Mendonca and Phil Wall for picking up and delivering our new tables to the parish hall.

News from the Chancery

1) The Bishop's Appeal, *Tapestry of Faith*, has reached 75% of its goal. Congratulations to the four parishes that have already met their parish goal! Four additional parishes are also close, having each raised over 70% of their goal - well done! More donations are still needed. Funds from this Appeal support faith-based relationships, our parishes and parishioners, and church leaders. There is still time to donate to the Appeal and receive a tax receipt for 2023 - donations will be accepted until December 31st. You can donate by mail, at your parish, and online at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/donate-tapestry-of-faith-2023>

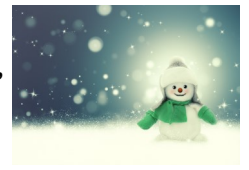
2) Holy Cross Parish in Victoria (4049 Gordon Head Rd) will be hosting the popular South Island Harmony A Cappella Chorus on Sunday, December 17th at 2pm. Admission is by donation and proceeds will go towards the financial support of a refugee family currently in Lebanon that's being sponsored by the parish. For more information, please contact the parish at 250-477-5321 or office@holycrossvictoria.org

3) On January 5 & 6 2024, the Diocesan liturgical conference "The Epiphany of the Liturgy: Welcoming the Closeness of God" will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Victoria. This free conference is an opportunity to enter into a richer experience of the Trinity in our Eucharistic Celebrations, and will be valuable both for those who serve in liturgical ministries and those who participate in the assembly. The presenters will be Dr. Glenn Byer and Dr. David Pitt, liturgical and musical educators at Catholic colleges in the U.S. The workshop will run Friday, January 5 from 7 - 9:30 pm and Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more information and to register please visit <https://EpiphanyLiturgyConference.eventbrite.com>; for assistance in registering, please email mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1331 ext 227.

4) From December 8, 2023 to December 8, 2024, the Catholic Church in Quebec City is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Quebec. The oldest diocese north of Mexico, the Archdiocese has lived, celebrated, and shared the faith, met social needs, founded organizations that are still vibrant, and helped give life to the culture we inherit today. The fundamental importance of this legacy will be celebrated in a program that also takes a look at the life of today's community. Numerous events are planned, and opportunities include passing through America's only Holy Door, walking in the footsteps of the founding saints of the Church in Canada, and participating in a Camino-style pilgrimage on the new Kapoah Trail. For more information, please visit <https://diocesequebec350.ca/>.

Christmas Office Hours

Please note that the office and church will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years, reopening on January 2, 2024. There will be no daily Mass held on December 26th or 28th.



Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 (after hours)

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistants: Phil & Sheila Wall
250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake
250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain:

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Mass Times

Mass times at Holy Cross Parish are 4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday, 9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday.

Mass times at St. Patrick's Church are 11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday, 12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday.

Confessions are at 3:15 on Saturdays at Holy Cross Parish and at 11:30am on Fridays at St. Patrick's Parish.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS:

If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJH hospital chaplain, please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.