

# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

**SUNDAY - December 18th 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

For the past four Sundays we've heard the visions and dreams of God proclaimed from this pulpit. We've been told to "keep awake" for we do not know what day your Lord is coming. We've heard Isaiah proclaim in the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest mountain, and all nations shall stream to it. We've dreamt about the peaceable kingdom where God has ordered every high mountain and valley to be made low... and we heard John invite us to repent and share what we have even in moments of doubt. And this week, we finally meet Mary and Joseph!

Today's Gospel reads like a fairy tale! Joseph loves Mary, and Mary loves Joseph, and they're planning their wedding. When Mary appears with the news that she is pregnant we can't possibly begin to know the thoughts that went through both Joseph's and Mary's mind. On the one hand, Mary is pregnant by a spirit that is holy and Joseph, based on the honor code of his world he is entitled to return Mary to her father. How close was Joseph to abandoning his choice and putting Mary aside? How did Mary feel about all the possible labels and judgments that would be directed at her? How was she to explain that she was pregnant by the power of God? Who would believe a story like that? The gospels never talk about village gossip or scandal surrounding Mary and Joseph. The gospels do not fill in all the juicy details so beloved by today's readers. But let us picture for a moment what the gospels do say: God has a plan for the salvation of all humankind, and the instruments God is going to use are an ordinary young woman and her beloved.

Joseph was a stand-up guy, a regular Joe, a by-the-book rule follower, a good Jew. But like any faithful person, he let his conscience be his final guide. By feeling compassion for Mary and taking her into his home despite her unlawful condition, he was being obedient, not to the laws of his religion but to the spirit of his faith in a loving and merciful God. It takes special courage for rule followers to bend and stretch as Joseph did. The Josephs of this world, with their simple empathies for others, keep us open to life-giving possibilities and alert to the presence of God among us as we work and play and go about our daily tasks.

On the verge of Christmas and the end of Advent, now is a suitable time to reflect seriously on the meaning of the Son of God's coming into the world and your life. We work so hard at Christmas. We spend time and money to make it beautiful, enjoyable, tasty and memorable, so it's easy to think of it as something we do rather than something **God does for us**. Why not bend the cultural rules a little and show compassion towards someone? Ignore the messages to buy more and spend less time shopping. Enjoy the company of your family, and, like Joseph, take others into your home with no other expectation than to share the good tidings of God's love. Strange things at this time of year: like random acts of kindness; like gentle surprises; like a keener appreciation of generosity and an increased ability to let ourselves be surprised by joy. Allow ourselves to be surprised by God's graciousness, love, and unpredictable mystery in our lives. Strange things are supposed to happen, just ask Mary and Joseph!

To say "they shall call him Emmanuel" means nothing else than they shall see God among us. Admittedly God has always been among us, but never before so openly. —*Saint John Chrysostom*

*Ponder such a wonderful mystery*

*Father William*



#### OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm  
**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

**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.**

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office@holycrossvictoria.org  
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**LIVESTREAM MASSES**

**Live Mass broadcast this weekend!** Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE  
2022 / 2023  
Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes**

			<u>Choir/Music</u>
<b>SATURDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve</b>			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	VOX
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Rose & Brian
St. Patrick's Parish	Midnight	Fr. William Hann	Susan
<b>SUNDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day</b>			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Tafts
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	CFC
<b>SATURDAY, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 2022 New Year's Eve - Vigil of Mary, Mother of God</b>			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Tafts
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	CFC
<b>SUNDAY, January 1<sup>st</sup> – 2023 New Year's Day – The Solemnity of Mary</b>			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Janet
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	Bartle-Clars

**CHRISTMAS 2022 AT ANAWIM HOUSE !!**

Your continued generosity in support of Anawim Companions Society for so many years is very much appreciated. You have always answered the "cry of the poor" and helped us provide a safe environment for those seeking to make positive changes in their lives.

As you are all aware the need for this support is becoming greater with more challenges.

We are asking for your help with donations of NEW warm winter clothing. There will be a decorated donation box in the entrance to your Church until December 18<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to make a donation and are unable to attend your Church you can contact Anawim House at [info@anawimhouse.com](mailto:info@anawimhouse.com) You can also call 250 382-0283. If you would prefer to make a financial donation you can donate through <https://www.anawimhouse.com/donations/?preview=true> or by mail to Anawim House, 973 Caledonia Ave. Victoria, B.C. V8T 1E7.



The very popular Island grown, fresh cut Christmas trees will be on sale at the house from **NOVEMBER 30TH** Mon.-Fri.: 10am to 8pm, Saturday: 9am to 7pm, Sunday: 11am to 6pm.



There are a limited number of missals available again. These may be purchased from the office. \$5.00 each



**2023 Envelopes** are available for pickup in the foyer. If you have not already done so, please have a look for yours.

The **office will be closed from December 23rd until January 2nd inclusive.** Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 27th, and Thursday, December 29th at 9am as usual.

**Prayer Reflection**

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

—*Maya Angelou*

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

—*Charles Dickens*

To say "they shall call him Emmanuel" means nothing else than they shall see God among us. Admittedly God has always been among us, but never before so openly.

—*Saint John Chrysostom*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2022**

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

**Fr. David Hogman:** [dhogman@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:dhogman@rcdvictoria.org) **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** [hayre@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hayre@rcdvictoria.org)

Thank you to all who have contributed to the **Diocesan Appeal**. Contributions to date are \$52,489.29. 115 families have participated. Our goal is \$80,000. Contributions continue to be accepted either online or by using the Bishop's Appeal envelopes found in the Church.

Event: Saturday, February 4, 2023-**Called and Gifted live workshop** with Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge: Location: Holy Cross Parish: 9am to 3:30pm. An opportunity to discover God's call for your life God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you! **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Call of the Laity, Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, Explained Role of the Holy Spirit, Charisms Discernment Process, Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World. Please register by emailing Holy Cross [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org); or St. Patrick's Parish [stpat190@telus.net](mailto:stpat190@telus.net).

**Christmas Season Mass Ministries**

There is still the need for a Sacristan for the December 24th 4pm Mass, and lectors, gift bearers, Eucharistic Ministers and ushers at December 25th, 31st and January 1st Masses. Sign up sheets are in the foyer or let us know by email or phone. [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org) or 250-477-5321.

**Arbutus Singers Concert**

The Arbutus singers will be putting on a concert at St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday, December 21st from 7:30 - 8:30pm. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to support the 9-10 Club at St. Andrew's

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE**  
**SATURDAY, December 17th**

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: David Gaffney+

**SUNDAY, December 18th**

9am Mass: Deceased members of

Pacheco Family+

Felipe Espineli+

**MONDAY, December 19th**

NO MASS

**TUESDAY, December 20th**

9am Mass: Irene Artibise+

**WEDNESDAY, December 21st**

NO MASS

**THURSDAY, December 22nd**

9am: Maureen Mullin+

**FRIDAY, December 23rd**

NO MASS

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**The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon**

**Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - 9am First Friday of the Month**

**Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.**

**COLLECTION for Dec. 11th**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS**

Envelopes	\$ 3,485.00
Loose	\$ 310.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,382.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,177.50</b>

**Thank you Corner**

Thanks to Yvonne Hsieh and her team for organizing the Write for Rights event held last Sunday morning. One participant sent this message: "The letter writing was so well organized and super fun. 16 people wrote 54 letters."

### **NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE**

Mass times for the Christmas Season for all Parishes will be posted on the Diocesan website at the following link:  
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/christmas-and-new-years-masses>

**A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR & a new SACRAMENTAL PREP COORDINATOR!** Fr. William welcomes Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey to lead our Sacramental Prep Program at St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Parishes. Simona comes with an abundance of enthusiasm and a strong faith. She looks forward to working with staff, volunteers, parents, and their children who will prepare for Confession and/or Confirmation & Holy Communion.

**Preparing your child for Confession, Confirmation & Holy Communion?** Please download a registration form from <https://bit.ly/3hegxSM> and send a copy to [sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org) by January 3<sup>rd</sup> as we hope to begin classes in the second week of January, starting with a meeting for parents of children for First Confession and First Communion/Confirmation on Sunday January 8, 2023 at 10am at Holy Cross Parish. Interested parents are very welcome to volunteer in helping with the sacramental preparation.

### **ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Are you looking for a work environment that makes for a great day? Look no further ~ Island Catholic Schools is recruiting! We are in search of enthusiastic people who are certified, talented, love what they do and wish to work in vibrant school environments!

If **YOU** are interested in joining one of our teams, please use this link:

<https://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities/>

**"SAVE YOUR EMPTIES!** The graduating class of 2023 is having a bottle drive to fundraiser for their After Grad celebrations! Please support our grads by dropping off your empties at St. Andrew's Regional High School on Saturday, January 7th between 10 and 4pm. *If you can't make it we will send someone to pick up from your location.* Contact: [yining.jen@gmail.com](mailto:yining.jen@gmail.com)"

**Camp Homewood** - Application forms and information is available by calling the office 250-477-5321.

This event is open to ALL Diocesan Youth in grades 7 through 12.

**Dishes:** There are many dishes in the kitchen, left over from the UVic supper. Please collect these if they are yours

#### **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:** Lydia Foch

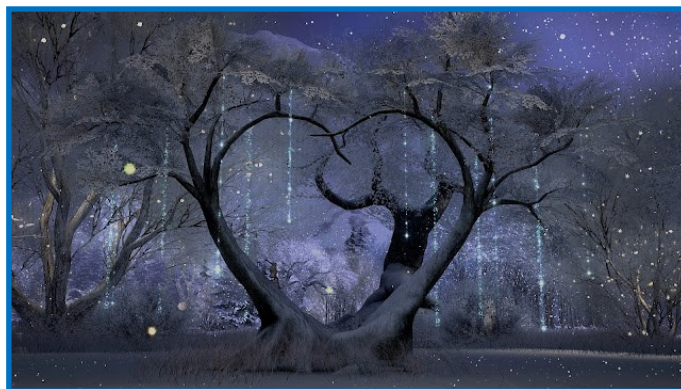
[lfoch@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:lfoch@rcdvictoria.org)

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

#### **Sacramental Preparation:**

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

[sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org)



**Sunday Social Bridge** is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10pm in the Parish Hall.

#### **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.