



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

**Mission Statement:** 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 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Advent

The eve of our salvation is near! That is why we gather on this day, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. What brings us to church today is that we believe something wonderful is happening to us. We believe that God has chosen to be with us, to live as one of us, to take up residence in us as bearers of the life of Christ for the sake of the world! We come together, as a matter of theological necessity, to celebrate that reality, and to share our joy with others who have had the same experience. Like Mary of Nazareth, we may have traveled a long way, an impossible way, to get to this place to share this hour. But the news is so good, we cannot contain it ourselves. We have to share the blessing, declare God's goodness to us, and sing the song of praise.

It is unfortunate that the figure of Mary appears on the scene only today. One would have wished that she had been presented to us on the first Sunday of advent because Mary is a remarkable Advent figure. Mary shows us in living color how the Christian should wait for Christ. It is the kind of waiting that made Mary be a true disciple of Jesus, in fact it made Mary be the very embodiment of what discipleship is all about. It is in discipleship that Mary excelled, and it is in this that she will remain for us a constant challenge and example. It has everything to do with tuning into God's speaking to us and acting upon it. Jesus himself has articulated Mary's way and has enshrined it as the hallmark of true discipleship: "whoever does the will of God, whoever listens to the word of God and acts on it, is my mother, my brother and my sister."

Scriptures do not mention Mary too often, but whenever the Scriptures speak of her, it is always connected with the theme of hearing and doing the word of God. Today's Gospel passage is a perfect example of that. Saying "Yes" to God's word and acting on it is underlined in today's beautiful story. "Mary set out and went quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah". Why? To be with a relative, Elizabeth, for Elizabeth was with child, and Elizabeth was old. Mary was carrying Christ not for herself, but for the world in need. That is Mary, all right. Mary is "blessed" not primarily because she is the physical mother of Jesus, but because she is a prime example of those who listen to the word of God and keep it, observe it, follow it and act on it.

It is this kind of disposition that makes Mary the perfect Advent figure. This kind of waiting for Christ is also within our reach. To wait for Christ's coming we do not have to go back some two thousand plus years ago; we do not have to act as if Christ had not come. Today Christ comes to us in the hungry and the thirsty, in the stranger and the naked, in the sick and the shackled. To be attentive to this kind of coming of Christ, to respond to it and to act on it, that is advent stuff. That is preparing for Christ's coming.

We are grateful for the advent figure, Mary. We let ourselves be inspired anew by her, so that Christ will also say to us, as he said to his own mother, "because you listen to God speaking, and because you act on it, you are my mother, my brother and my sister." With Mary, you and I and the whole church have been on a pilgrimage to the hour of the savior's birth. The one who from the time of old has been waiting to be born is about to take flesh. Hebrews says that when Christ came into the world, he prayed, "I come to do your will, O God." At this time, recommit yourself to seeking and doing the will of God.

Hail Mary,  
Father William



### OFFICE HOURS

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

**Live Mass broadcast this weekend!** Mass is livestreamed this week from *St. Patrick's Parish* on Saturday at 6pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Reconciliation Service has been cancelled. In lieu of this Father William will be making himself available for **private reconciliation on December 18th from 10am to 12noon at St. Patrick's Parish and 1pm-3pm at Holy Cross Parish.**

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**Christmas Schedule 2021****FRIDAY December 24th - Christmas Eve\*:**

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 4pm (livestreamed)

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 6pm

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 7:30pm

Holy Cross Parish Mass, Midnight

**SATURDAY, December 25th, Christmas Day:**

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 11am

\*there will be no 4pm or 6pm Mass on this day.

**SUNDAY, December 26th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Holy Cross Parish, 9:00am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

**FRIDAY, December 31st - New Year's Eve\***

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

**SATURDAY, January 1st - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

St. Patrick's Parish, 10am

**SATURDAY, January 1st - The Epiphany of the Lord (Anticipatory Mass)**

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

St. Patrick's Parish, 6pm

**SUNDAY, January 2nd - The Epiphany of the Lord**

Holy Cross Parish, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

\*There will be no 9am morning Mass on Friday December 24th or Friday December 31st.

\*\* The parish office will be closed on December 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st and will re-open on January 4th with regular hours. There will be 9am morning Mass on those days.**Liturgical Ministries – Christmas Mass Schedule / new COVID 19 Directives**

- Sign up Sheets, as well as the Christmas Mass Schedule, are now posted in the church foyer. Please consider signing up for a Ministry spot if you are able to.
- Also posted, for information only - Regular Schedules for: Sun. Dec. 26 - 9am; Sat. Jan 1 - 4pm; and Sun. Jan 2 - 9am
- Attn Ushers: Due to the newest COVID 19 Directives, one Usher at each Mass will need to use a counter (provided) to ensure we do not exceed our 50% capacity at each Mass (140 attendees max.). Masks continue to be required by all those 5 years of age and older, other than those with a specific reason why they cannot (described in the Directives).

If you have any questions, pls. contact the Office ([office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org))

Thank you all for your continued support! Wishing you warm Advent blessings - Joanie Bidlake

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

I will look after you and I will look after anybody you say needs to be looked after, any way you say. I am here. I brought my whole self to you. I am your mother. —*Maya Angelou*  
The Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace, which the world sees not, like some well in a retired and shady place. —*John Henry Newman*  
The food of real love is sacrifice. —*Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

**A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE**

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream). Celebrate Mass on-line with Bishop Gary.

**SUNDAY** ..... **9:30 AM**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** ..... **7 PM**

**A DECEMBER SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).**

A new article has just been posted on the Diocesan website about the additional resources now available for CCCB's "Journey through Advent 2021 – Towards Healing & Reconciliation" program. you can find the article online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/more-resources-to-support-our-journey-through-advent>.

**PASTORAL TRAINING OUTREACH PROGRAM**

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 29, 2022, and running until April 9** (with no sessions on March 19 & 26 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. This course is for anyone interested and will show why those who visit the sick are unique, and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Until pastoral access to homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities is fully available, Bishop Gary Gordon (of the Diocese of Victoria) feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, and a reliable Internet connection. Please register through your local parish by Jan. 24, 2022. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, December 18th**

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession  
4pm Mass: Ron Tinney +

**SUNDAY, December 19th**

9am Mass: Clive Loader +

**MONDAY, December 20th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, December 21st**

9am Mass: tony Hann +.

**WEDNESDAY, December 22nd**

9am Mass: Bill Vanderstappen +

**THURSDAY, December 23rd**

9am Mass: Frank Leone +

**FRIDAY, December 24th**

4pm Mass: Christmas Eve  
12 am Mass: Midnight Mass

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*Update: There will be only half capacity allowed in the church, which is 140 people at Holy Cross. Ushers will be counting people as they enter and will lock the doors when capacity is reached.*

*Masks are now mandatory everywhere at all times.*



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

**COLLECTION for Dec. 12, 2021**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 9,485.00
Loose	\$ 250.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,412.00</b>

**Tree chipping at St. Patrick's Elementary School!**

Bring your tree and help support the Grade 7 students fundraising efforts for their year-end retreat!

**Christmas Tree Drop Off Times:**

Jan. 2, 8th & 9th from 2-3 pm  
Jan. 3-7th 8:40 - 9 am & 3:20 - 3:40 pm



A D V E N T



○ come • ○ come • Emmanuel

## **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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake  
250-477-5321 [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**University Chaplain:** Lydia Foch  
[lfoch@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:lfoch@rcdvictoria.org)

**Parish Council Chair:** Debra Prior  
250-661-0250 [debroussel@hotmail.com](mailto:debroussel@hotmail.com)

**Children's Religious Education:** Barbara Shenton  
[bshenton@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:bshenton@rcdvictoria.org)

## **NOTE FROM THE UVIC/CAMOSUN CHAPLAIN LYDIA FOCH**

Campus' are closed for the semester! Stay tuned in January for the latest news from Lydia!



## **St. Patrick's Elementary School Updates!**

The children at St. Patrick's are tracking the Wisemen's journey to Bethlehem, which is proving to be very interesting given all of the Covid restrictions. Follow the journey on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/>



## **RECONCILIATION CORNER**

A recent article in the *Times Colonist* offers another example of reconciliation. St. Paul's Indian Church at Squamish Nation's Eslha7an (Mission Reserve), erected in 1868 on the north shore of the Burrard Inlet, is the oldest Catholic mission church in the Lower Mainland. It is now integrating Skwxwu7mesh Snichim (Squamish language) into its Sunday masses. Squamish Elder and Catholic Deacon Rennie Nahanee, who is himself learning the language, "is confident that the church can be a vessel for cultural revitalization, and ongoing education about Squamish language and teachings." He is looking to other cultures (both internationally and locally) – to see how they have integrated their traditional languages and cultures into Catholic celebrations.

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria is looking for a Spiritual Care and Volunteer Services Leader. The person in this role will plan, deliver and evaluate spiritual care services, and develop, coordinate and maintain volunteer programs to support the needs of residents. For more information, including a full job description, please visit <https://mountstmary.ca/opportunities/>. Applications can be sent by email to [hr@mountstmary.ca](mailto:hr@mountstmary.ca) or faxed to 250-480-3106.

## **HOLY CROSS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS UPDATE**

Christmas is a time for us to reflect and share the abundance we have now and throughout the year. The Parishioner's thoughtfulness has enabled our Society to continue to support marginalized people and families. Assistance is given to an inner city school breakfast/lunch project and provides weekend meals to these young students. You were supporting two families, who had children with health issues. At Rosalie's Village, another single mother, who is taking courses to improve her education, will enable her to be available for employment. A monthly donation to our Society's food bank is an ongoing need for families and the homeless. One of our members raised a large donation toward St. Andrew's breakfast programme. You've supported two overseas missions: One in Zambia, which enables the students to enter nursing schools, teacher's college and a young blind girl to complete her education and a day care centre in Colombia that provides pre-school training to 97 students from very poor families. These young people are so grateful and know without your contributions, they wouldn't have been able to fulfill their dreams.

We appreciate the Parishioner's prayers and continually sharing their generosity, which gives hope and joy to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. A blessed Christmas and to everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you very much, Martin, Don and Myron





# Care for our Common HOME



## Franciscan Youth Group

Sacred Heart Franciscan Youth Group gathers biweekly to build a community that cares for God's creation and one another by learning, having fun and deepening our faith.

Sundays at 1pm on Zoom

Register by email: [religioused@sacredheartvictoria.com](mailto:religioused@sacredheartvictoria.com)

