



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Today's readings tell of God's gracious initiative towards us. Their focus is not on what we do for God but on what God does for us. In the Book of Samuel, David plans to do a great service for God, no less than to build a beautiful temple as a house of prayer. King David was an achiever who had accomplished a great deal. Yet Nathan says that God did not want the king to build the Temple. Rather, it was God who would do something for David; whereby David's descendants would lead God's people into the future. David had to let go of his great plans and learn to let God lead the course of his life.

Jesus' conception and birth point to a truth that anyone who watches a child come into the world knows as the truth: that love exists--as a separate, all-powerful being outside ourselves, and we are graced with its presence everyday of our lives. Hail Mary, for her role in bringing this truth to life. So, if you are like me saying yes but having conditions we must look to Mary! God's choice of Mary was not exclusive in that sense. In choosing Mary, he was choosing all of us. He chose Mary for all our sakes. God chose her to carry God's Son on behalf of us all, because her future child was God's gift to us all. That is why how Mary responded to God's choice of her was not just a matter that concerned herself. It concerned us all. We all had a vested interest in how she responded. Her response would also be our response.

The good news is that Mary did not let us down. Although initially disturbed and perplexed by the message, she eventually surrendered fully to that mysterious choice of God. Having been graced in this mysterious way, she responded wholeheartedly, "*Let it be to me according to your word.*" God's choice of Mary, and her choice of God in response had the most wonderful consequences for all of us. She went on to sing, "*the Almighty has done great things for me.*" And because of her response to God's choice, we can all sing, "*the Almighty has done great things for us.*" We have all been graced through Mary's response to God's choice of her.

For too many people, the call to religion has been interpreted as an invitation to come and sit here, on our side, in church. This passivity is reinforced by a concept of eternity that coincides with afterlife, as if all the important stuff occurs when this life is finally, mercifully over. Yet salvation history, so much longer and broader than our own, advances with the full participation of human beings willing to cooperate on the grand co-creation of the world with God. Eternity is happening right now. The good news for all of us today is that we could participate in eternal life, where there are no clocks and past regrets--only continually regenerative love. Without eternity every moment seals the fate of who we are. With God's endless embrace we always can renew ourselves and draw our lives into eternal life.

Thank you Mother Mary Star of the Sea

Father William



OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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

Effective Immediately: As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until January 8th. That means all weekend and weekday and Christmas Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

As most of us have heard by now the new Provincial Health orders stipulate that in person gatherings, including all religious gatherings, are suspended until January 8th. Therefore, there will not be any in-person Christmas Masses held at Holy Cross or St. Patrick's Parish during this season.

Christmas Mass will be live streamed on our usual YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Christmas Eve, Live Streamed Mass, 4pm—Holy Cross Parish

Christmas Day, Live Streamed Mass, 12noon—St. Patrick's Parish

Advent Reconciliation: Those who would like Confession before Christmas, please email Fr. William directly to book an appointment. Please make your appointments before December 24th.

Father continues to celebrate a daily Mass privately, and all Mass intentions have been honoured during this time. We will keep everyone informed via email and the website with any other updates or news in this regard. *This is an exceptionally difficult time for so many people. All of us are navigating our own unique situations during this time. We hold each other in prayer, and remember the many other ways we can reach out and support each other this Advent and Christmas season.*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—59TH ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL RAFFLE



15 cash prizes totaling \$177,000 including the Grand Prize of \$100,000! The Knights are now selling tickets. Starting this year all tickets are sold online—there are no more paper tickets. \$30 for 10 tickets, single tickets only \$3. Get your tickets at our KofC website: www.kofcdraw.net/C7934. Proceeds support our local charities. When you buy tickets we're working together to make our communities better. Thank you for your support! (Draw date: January 30, 2021—BC Gaming License #126541)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES—SUPERINTENDENT OF ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Diocese of Victoria is searching for a dynamic individual for the position of Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria (CISDV), with duties to commence August 1st, 2021. We are seeking a practicing Catholic who will lead with visionary impact, guide our schools with a strong Catholic identity, strive for academic excellence, and nurture a safe and caring environment. The successful candidate will have the ability to improve student achievement, provide leadership, manage employees for success, and communicate openly and clearly with all stakeholders. A full description of the role of the Superintendent is available at: https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/media/user/docs/Policy_Manual_Nov_2016_300s/301_Superintendent_Role_Mar_2012.pdf **Application deadline:** February 8, 2021

Diocese of Victoria – Superintendent Search Committee

Attention: Fr. William Hann, Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools

4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 **Email:** jobs@rcdvictoria.org

FROM ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

St. Patrick's Elementary school is having a Tree Chipping Fundraiser that will run **January 3rd from 10am to 2pm**. Bring your tree to the school parking lot, drop it in the bin and leave a donation! Help support the local Island Catholic Elementary School!

Check out the St. Patrick's Elementary School Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/3913880452008052>

The Christmas Concert can be viewed through this link: [2020 SP Advent Concert](#)



PRAYER REFLECTION

Consider what a dignity is ours, and what a likeness there is between us and Mary. Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him about in our hearts.
—Saint Peter Damian

I knew nothing. I was nothing. For this reason God picked me out.
—Saint Catherine Labouré

When I hear people talk about their partnership with God, I keep wondering which one they think ought to be the silent partner.
—heard at a pastoral council meeting

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.

SUNDAY 10 AM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM



Diocesan BLOG: Mindful that we continue to journey through Advent, we draw strength from the Antiphon for today “Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light” (Cf. Zec 14.5,7)

Please find below the link to the latest Diocesan Blog (Our Church of Many Faces) featuring Holy Family Parish in Ucluelet.
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/one-holy-family>

Also, please note that the **ADVENT MISSION with Bishop Gary** entitled “Light on the Horizon” reflecting on the Luminous Mysteries continues this week until December 18, 2020 following the live-streamed Masses at 7 pm from St. Andrew’s Cathedral. The live-stream may be accessed via the Diocesan website or the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

THANK YOU

Fr. William, Valentina, and Joanie would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all of you who have come through the office this week bearing gifts, cards and warm wishes. It has been a long haul this year and we are so appreciative of all of your love and support during this.

Thank you especially to Ann and Bob Francis who were responsible for decorating the church so beautifully this year.

OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick’s and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, December 19th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, December 19th

No Mass

SUNDAY, December 20th

No Mass

MONDAY, December 21st

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, December 22nd

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, December 23rd

No Mass

THURSDAY, December 24th

No Mass

FRIDAY, December 25th

No Mass

Please note that during December until January 8th all Masses will be temporarily suspended. Father William will continue to live-stream one Mass per week.

The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.

Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.

***There are still 2021 calendars from Catholic Missions in Canada available, and the collection envelopes are ready for pick up!*



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

COLLECTION for December 13, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 13,485.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,372.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,857.00