



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 23rd, 2018
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

Blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

The fourth Advent candle is lit today and it represents ‘Love’. How appropriate is that when we ponder the words of Elizabeth as she greets Mary and, filled with the Holy Spirit recognizes and announces the Messiah, present in the womb of Mary.

What about us? Do we recognize, like Elizabeth, the true *blessedness* of this child? Jesus: Second person of the Trinity, omnipotent, omnipresent, who always was and always will be – *that is* who was present in the womb of his mother, Mary. Sent by his Father, placed into time and space, he became man in the form of an infant child. Dependant, vulnerable, he began his human journey, a journey of love, a journey of sacrifice and reconciliation. Advent is the sacred time of year laid aside for us to ponder and embrace this wondrous mystery: all-powerful God become helpless infant, sent to save us.

Even as Elizabeth’s words are recorded in today’s Gospel, John the Baptist present in his mother’s womb makes his first announcement of the presence of Jesus as he leaps for joy! The Saviour is among us! In fact, all of the proclamations and readings we find throughout the Mass today announce the Good News of Jesus’ coming and are linked with his saving mission. There is such joy and hope! “Let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.” “He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be peace.” “Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” “See God, I have come to do your will, O God.... and it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” “His name will be called Emmanuel.”

We rejoice today in the faithfulness of our loving Father to fulfill his promise to send a Saviour. The cast of characters in the genealogical line from Abraham to Jesus is not composed of Saints - rather, a myriad of sinners. Jesus is conceived by an unwed mother, born in a manger, dependant on the mercy of strangers and quickly becomes a refugee. We would expect none of this of a God and Saviour. But we have a Creator of surprises whose thoughts are not our thoughts and whose ways are not our ways.

Rejoice in the mercy He pours out. Rejoice that you, too, are His child. Rejoice in Mary’s fiat.

We have come full circle with our Advent wreath. Have we truly experienced the hope, peace, joy and love we have been invited to this Season? Yes, or no, there is still time to ponder and embrace the Light, Jesus, the Saviour *sent by the Father*. Two more sleeps until we will light the fifth, centre candle. Make Christ the centre of our life.

Blessings on your Christmas,
Sheila Wall



OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. Karam Alraban, Parish Administrator

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

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

This year's Christmas mass schedule is as follows:

Christmas Masses

Monday, December 24th: 6:00pm, 8:30pm

Tuesday, December 25th: 10:00am

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1st: 10:00am

* There will not be any 9am morning masses until Thursday, January 3rd.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

The 2019 collection envelopes are ready for pick up in the foyer of the church. *Please pick them up as they will only be in the foyer for a limited time.* For those of you who do not have a pre-numbered envelope but would like one please call the office: 250-477-5321. These envelopes help us track your donation for tax receipt purposes. **Please also remember our pre-authorized debit option.**

ANAWIM HOUSE

Anawim House welcomes your financial donations and Christmas gifts of new clothing for the poor. Place your gifts in the Christmas box at the entrance of the church during the Advent season. Christmas trees will be available at Anawim House during the Advent season. Thank you for being partners with us in caring for God's precious poor, the anawim.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL MESSAGE

Holy Cross Conference has been blessed by our parishioner's generosity, which has enabled us to continue supporting those in need.

At Rosalie's village, there are single parents upgrading their education and skills, this will enable them to re-enter the work field. Mothers, who are struggling and only require a little help, a breakfast/lunch programme at a local inner city school, assistance given to St. Vincent's food bank outlet at our Social Concern office and two international projects: one in Colombia for a single parents daycare and the other is in Zambia, where the donations are used toward their schooling and nursing tuition.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019.

SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

Joint Wellness—Starts up again January 3rd.

Wednesday Social group—Starts up again January 9th at 1pm.

Duplicate Bridge—Wednesday 7pm.

Social Bridge—First Sunday of every month.

On behalf of Father Karam and the staff we wish you all the joy, hope and love that this season represents. We are so grateful and blessed to work with you throughout the year, and to be able to share so many special moments with you. We look forward to sharing many more in the new year.

Merry Christmas

PRAYER REFLECTION

Elizabeth was the first to hear the voice but her son John was the first to feel the effects of grace. —Saint Ambrose of Milan (340-39)

The food of real love is sacrifice. —Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **LIVE-STREAM CHRISTMAS MASS:** Come celebrate Christmas with Bishop Gary Gordon through LIVE online streaming of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from St. Andrew's Cathedral. Access will be through the link - <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream>. Please feel free to share this link with any homebound members of our parish community who may not be able to come to mass this Christmas.
- **ST. PAT'S ELEMENTARY BOTTLE DRIVE:** Christmas tree recycling and bottle drive at St. Patrick's Elementary school, 2368 Trent Street; **January 6th from 10am-2pm**. Donations go to help the children raise money for their classrooms!
- **MEN'S SUPPER:** New event coming to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford! Join us for our first annual "Men's Supper" on **Saturday, January 26, 2019**. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The evening will consist of dinner, drinks (Your favorite beer!). Guest Speakers Fr. Dean Henderson and Danny Brock, prizes! and car show! Call or email Tyson Babcock for tickets (\$20 each, dinner included) 250 818 1503 or tyson.babcock@gmail.com. You don't want to miss it!
- **WHY LITURGY MATTERS:** Save the date for a **Liturgy Matters Workshop** on Saturday, February 23 at Ascension Parish in Parksville and a **Credible Christian Course** starting **January 23** for 6 evenings at the Pastoral Center. More information and registration on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/> Contact gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org
- **CAMP HOMEWOOD RETREAT:** This annual retreat for Gr. 7-12 students will take place this year on Quadra Island from **February 1-3, 2019**. Cost is \$160 per participant (incl. all food, accommodation and activities). Registration package available in the office.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: Please note that Fr. Ian Stuart, Hospital Chaplain, is currently on medical leave from his responsibilities. At the moment, eight different pastors in Victoria, in addition to their regular duties, will carry the hospital phone for **emergency calls only** (250-889-3761) on a weekly rotation basis.

A funeral for Debbie Underhill will be held on **Wednesday January 2nd at 11am**. We keep their family in our prayers during this time.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 23rd

8:30 am Mass: **Danny Fedrigo+**
10:30 am Mass: **Michael Leland +**

MONDAY, December 24th

6:00pm **Christmas Eve Mass**
8:30pm **Christmas Eve Mass**

TUESDAY, December 25th

10:00am **Christmas Day Mass**

WEDNESDAY, December 26th

No Mass
Office Closed

THURSDAY, December 27th

No Mass
Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 28th

No Mass
Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 29th

5:00 pm Mass: **David Gaffery +**

SUNDAY, December 30th

8:30 am Mass: **In Thanksgiving**
10:30 am Mass: **Hugh Loughran +**

MONDAY, December 31st

No Mass
Office Closed

TUESDAY, January 1st

10:00am **New Year's Day Mass**

WEDNESDAY, January 2nd

11:00am **Funeral for Debbie Underhill**

THANK YOU CORNER!

Many thanks to Bob Francis, Ed Boomars, Wilf Woychuck, Joe Mendonca, and David Duke. They are the Christmas Elves who organized, connected, set and hung all the Christmas lights that we are enjoying this season.

African AIDS Angels wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Holy Cross parish for your continued support of our projects for children affected by HIV/aids. Your generosity goes a long way. Donations \$430.

CONTACTS

Administrator: Fr. Karam Alraban

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

250-294-9615 after hours

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Ian Stuart

250-889-3761

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

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Liturgical Ministries:		
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Music	Various Choirs	250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	John Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

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



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

COLLECTION December 16, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,797.00
Loose	\$ 435.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,095.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,327.00



Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar/ Valentina Boyd	250-995-1891 250-813-0230
Catholicism	Fr. Karam Alraban	250-477-5321
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	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky	250-477-5321 250-479-1331
RCIA	Phil / Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Parish Office	250-477-5321
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent		
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 Outreach	John Oleson	250-477-6455