



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement

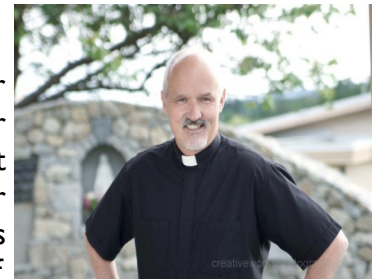
Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY December 24th, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Advent



From the desk of Father William

Mary is a remarkable Advent figure because she shows us in living color how the Christian world should wait for Christ. There is a form of waiting for Christ that is uniquely Mary's. It will forever remain Mary's unique privilege that the one for whom she was waiting was nestling within her. Not simply in her thoughts, in her dreams, her hopes, her yearnings, but in her flesh. But there is another kind of waiting which is beautifully displayed in Mary. It is a kind of waiting that may in the long run be more decisive for Mary than the first kind, and it is a kind of waiting that does not have to remain uniquely hers, but that can also be ours. It is the kind of waiting that made Mary 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 an 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: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

That, at its best, is Mary. She hears God's word and does it. The Scriptures don't mention Mary too often, but whenever the Scriptures speak of her, it is always connected with the theme of hearing and doing the will of God. Today's Gospel is a perfect example of that. Jesus was born because Mary said a free, unconditional and courageous 'Yes'. Jesus became our Savior because he said a free, unconditional and courageous 'Yes'. This Christmas, in union with Jesus and Mary, lets each of us say a free, unconditional and courageous 'Yes' to God. It is the safest investment in security, happiness and peace that we will ever make.

Did you know that the Hebrew word *amen* means "yes," and we say it every time we come forward for the Eucharist? We say yes, we'll be the house of God. We'll take the divine life into our bodies, in flesh and blood, and make it our flesh and blood. We say, "Let it be done to us, according to your word." God's last known address is you.

There is hope in our world. Are we prepared to give birth to a temple within the hearts of humanity? Are we as individuals, as church prepared to give birth to a Christ who will transform and renew our world; put it once more on the road that leads to God's kingdom of peace, justice, and love? Light shines in dark places. Yes Lord, YES!

Father William



OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor
Fr. Karam Alraban, Associate Pastor

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

PASTORAL CARE VISITS WHILE IN HOSPITAL

We remind the faithful that privacy legislation in BC prevents the release of information regarding hospital admissions. If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Ian Stuart** to make this request.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**Monday, December 25th:**

Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord mass—9:30am

Saturday December 30th, Sunday. December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph mass—

Saturday—5:00pm

Sunday—8:30am, 10:30am

Monday, January 1st:

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God mass—10:00am

There will be **weekday 9:00am masses** on Wednesday December 27th, Thursday December 28th and Friday December 29th.

Office Hours: The parish office will be *closed* From Monday December 25th—Thursday December 28th. The office will be open from 9am –12noon on Friday, December 29th. Office hours will return to normal on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018

**GIFTS FOR ANOTHER WAY**

Five congregations are hosting a five-week study in January 2018 that invites us to explore the possibility of “another way” during the season of Epiphany. This ecumenical journey will start on **January 10th** at Knox Presbyterian Church, and follows for four more consecutive Wednesdays at a new location. The study starts at 6:30pm with a soup supper, followed by worship at 7:30pm. Please register for these free sessions by signing up on the sheets provided in the foyer. For more information call 250-477-5321.

REDISCOVER THE ART OF DYING—A 5 WEEK SESSION

Fr. William will be hosting a five week book study on Sr. Nuala’s book starting **Saturday, January 27th from 1-3pm**. The program will run 5 weeks (Saturday Jan. 27th, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th), exploring 2 chapters per week. *Sign up sheets are in the foyer, please register for this program.*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

God sent the angel Gabriel to proclaim to Mary “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” We reflect upon the role of the Virgin Mary this Christmas as a mother and servant of Christ. We celebrate the presence of the women among us in our families and homes as we pray for global peace and inclusivity this season. Merry Christmas from your brothers and sisters at Development and Peace!

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 (1007-1072)

She who is the mother of Christ is the mother of our wisdom, mother of our righteousness, mother of our sanctification, mother of our redemption.
—Saint Aelred of Rievaulx (1110?-1167)

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Our Lady of the Rosary Parish is seeking a Secretary for 20hrs/week. Resumes can be submitted in person to the Parish Office (798 Goldstream Ave, Victoria, V9B 2X6, BC) or by e-mail to Fr. Paul Szczur SDS: olor@shaw.ca to January 5th, 2018.
- **ST. ANDREW'S FUND RAISER:** "Celebration of Elvis' Birthday & Fundraiser for a new Sports Field for St. Andrew's Highschool. Friday, January 12 at 7pm. Come out for fun, live entertainment by Iconic Tributes, Elvis and DJ Marilyn Montroe. Auction, wine, beer, light refreshments and birthday cake. Our regional high school needs a new field for our local Catholic High School Students. You can help by purchasing a ticket and coming out for the fun! \$50 a ticket, available at the parish office. Adults only, 19+.
- **FAITH FORMATION:** All are welcome! Consider coming out to our *Diocesan Foundations of the Faith Formation Program* to deepen and renew your faith. Part I of this free program begins Wednesday evening on January 17 and runs for 8 consecutive Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Pastoral Center 4044 Nelthorpe. Part II will be offered March 19 & 20—day sessions. Registration through Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com) or contact Glen Palahicky via email: gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org
- **ST. FRANCIS XAVIER RELIC PILGRIMAGE:** Sat. January, 27, 2018 at 5pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the incorrupt first class relic of one of the greatest missionaries and evangelists since St. Paul the Apostle. Poster with more info in foyer.

SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

Joint wellness: Resumes Thursday January 4th, 2018 at 10am

Wednesday Afternoon Social Group: Resumes Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 at 1pm.

Men's Duplicate Bridge—Wednesday 7pm.

Social Bridge—First Sunday of every month.

HC Walking Group—Every Saturday morning at 10am for one hour. Resumes January 6th.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 24th

8:30 am Mass: **Omar Jalbert +**
10:30 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
8:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

MONDAY, December 25th

9:30 am Christmas Day Mass

TUESDAY, December 26th

NO MASS
OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, December 27th

9:00 am Mass: **Sid & Angelina Joss**
55th Wedding Anniversary
Office Closed

THURSDAY, December 28th

9:00 am Mass: **Elizabeth Mullan (int)**
6:30 am Rosary Group
Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 29th

9:00 am Mass: **Mary Campbell (int)**
Office open from 9-12 noon

SATURDAY, December 30th

3:45—4:30 Reconciliation
5:00 pm Mass: **Mary Thefaut +**

SUNDAY, December 31st

8:30 am Mass
10:30 am Mass

MONDAY, January 1st

10:00 am New Year's Day Mass: *The feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.*

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to everyone who supported the children from Sacramental Preparation Year A by purchasing the handmade ornaments they made. Together we raised **\$361.00** for Margaret Laurence House in Victoria! Your generosity was very much appreciated.

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321 after hours: 250-294-9615

Associate Pastor: Fr. Karam Alraban

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

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

Refugees: refugees@holycrossvictoria.org

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy Liturgical Ministers	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server Music	Fr. William Hann Various Choirs	250-477-5321 250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir. Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Ann Francis Darlene Southwell	250-477-8650 250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

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



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

COLLECTION December 10th, 2017

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 4,295.00
Loose	\$ 465.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,140.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,900.00

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891
Catholicism	Jona De Jesus	250-858-5924
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 RCIA	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky Phil / Sheila Wall	250-477-5321 250-479-1331 778-265-2134
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Alan Bailey	250-721-5339
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Sheila Wall	778-265-2134
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 Out- reach	John Oleson	250-477-6455