



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Our Scriptures for today draw attention to God's gracious initiative towards us. The focus is not what we must do for God but rather what God wants to do for us. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of his Son? Why this woman in this small village at this time of human history? 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. Today's readings invite us to look at where God chooses to dwell. David, in his palace, feels remiss that he has not provided a suitable palace for God, rather than the tattered and worn tent covering the Ark of the Covenant. While his intentions were good, God had some lessons for David about who would establish a house for whom. Mary, too, learns that God chooses unlikely vessels to bring forth God's life.

Imagine Mary's bewilderment when the angel Gabriel greeted her with the familiar words, "Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you." But despite her confusion she responded openly with a resounding yes to God. The Lord is with each one of us, too. How do we respond to God? If God lived in us, we would know it, and so would everyone around us. We would be the embodiment of peace. We would be shelter for the poor. We would be joy, compassion, and love. We would be like Mary, the willing servant of her Lord, who opened her life to God so intimately that God shared her heartbeat and passed into this world through her. May there be willing volunteers among us, too, so that God's will may be done some more. It is we who have not followed Jesus with enough joy and trust. Mary needs to be our model of joyful trust this Christmas. Saint Peter Damian said, *Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him in our hearts.*

In a few short hours, we get to celebrate the wonders of a God who loves us so much; he took our form, beginning as an infant, like all of us, in order to be loved into this tough, but beautiful adult world. May this God of Love be with you always! A warm welcome to one and all and I wish you all a Joyous Christmas as we celebrate the wonder of God becoming one of us!

Happy Christmas,

Father William



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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office@holycrossvictoria.org

***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.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit [RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreportingsystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Sunday Mass (Fourth Sunday of Advent) is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 11am Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Christmas Mass will be livestreamed from St. Patrick's Parish on Sunday evening at 6pm. To watch this Mass and Nativity Pageant, click the link here: <https://youtube.com/live/RatFnIVPO88?feature=share>

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

2023 / 2024

Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

SATURDAY, December 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann

SUNDAY, December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William



Sunday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann
- Holy Cross Parish Midnight Fr. William Hann

Choir/Music

VOX
Paul Rosetti
Bartle-Clar Fam.



MONDAY, December 25th – Christmas Day

- Holy Cross Parish 9:00am Fr. William Hann
- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann

Tafts
CFC

SATURDAY, December 30th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Holy Cross Parish 4:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Family

SUNDAY, December 31st Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann



SUNDAY, December 31st – 2023 New Year's Eve, Vigil of Mary - Mother of God

- Holy Cross Parish 6:00pm Fr. William Hann Bartle-Clar Fam.

MONDAY, January 1st – 2024 New Year's Day, The Solemnity of Mary - Mother of God

- St. Patrick's Parish 11:00am Fr. William Hann CFC



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ENVELOPES

Collection envelopes have all been **renumbered** for 2024 and are ready for pickup. Please begin to use these on January 1, 2024. Please **discard all old envelopes**. Please write your name on your new envelopes for the first month of use. Thank you!

THE LIBRARY CORNER

Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from The Life of St. Francis of Assisi by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death.



Prayer Reflection

A God who became so small could only be mercy and love.
—*Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear him in our hearts.
—*Saint Peter Damian*

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a child himself.
—*Charles Dickens*

A Sincere Thank You

A sincere thank you to the many Holy Cross parishioners who so generously donated to the Christmas display. You helped to celebrate the Spirit of Christmas and remember our loved ones as well. Wishing you a healthy and Happy New Year. Ann Francis



Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

Pastoral Care Outreach Training Series

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 20 and running until March 23, 2024** (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. **Please register through your parish by January 12.** For more information email moiraking@shaw.ca

Christmas Office Hours

Please note that the office and church will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years, reopening on January 2, 2024. There will be no daily Mass held on December 26th or 28th

Childrens Liturgy

All school-aged children are welcome to join Childrens Liturgy on the first Sunday of every month starting January 7 at the 9am Mass.



St. Andrew's High School Bottle Drive!

Save your refundable bottles and cans and support students going to Spain in 2024. Drop them off Sat. Jan. 13 at St. Andrew's (on McKenzie Ave.) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thank you for your support.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, December 23, 2023

4PM Mass: David Gaffney+

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

4PM Christmas Vigil Mass

Midnight: Midnight Mass

MONDAY, December 25, 2023

9AM Christmas Day Mass

TUESDAY, December 26, 2023

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2023

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 28, 2023

NO MASS

FRIDAY, December 29, 2023

NO MASS

The Chapel will not be open for private prayers this week from

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

9AM First Friday of the month

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

COLLECTIONS December 16, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,030.00
Loose	\$ 460.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 290.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,390.00
TOTAL	\$4,170.00

Thank you

Thank you to all for your well wishes and for the many thoughtful gifts that have come to Father William and to office staff. Blessings and a very Merry Christmas to all!



News from the Chancery

1) There are less than two weeks left to donate to the Bishop's Appeal, *Tapestry of Faith*. Please give generously to the Appeal this Christmas season and support faith-based relationships, our parishes and parishioners, and church leaders. Only a few parishes have reached their goal, but there is still time to make your donation count and receive a tax receipt for 2023. You can donate by mail, at your parish, and online at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/donate-tapestry-of-faith-2023>

2) For those who participate in the Diocesan livestream Masses, please note the following holiday schedule:

Sunday, December 24: Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10 am

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Mass at 6 pm

Sunday, December 31: Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family at 9 am

Sunday, December 31: Anticipation Mass for the Solemnity of Mary at 5 pm

These Masses will be livestreamed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>.

3) As a reminder, the Pastoral Centre will be closed for the Christmas holidays on:

Monday, December 25th ~ Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th ~ Boxing Day

Wednesday, December 27th - 29th ~ Although some staff may be working on these dates, the Pastoral Centre building will be closed to the public

Monday, January 1st ~ New Year's Day

During the Christmas season, and especially on the days between Christmas and the New Year, we will have limited staff available in office and/or remotely, as many will take this opportunity to spend holiday time with family and friends.

4) On January 5 & 6 2024, the Diocesan liturgical conference "The Epiphany of the Liturgy: Welcoming the Closeness of God" will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Victoria. This free conference is an opportunity to enter into a richer experience of the Trinity in our Eucharistic Celebrations, and will be valuable both for those who serve in liturgical ministries and those who participate in the assembly. The presenters will be Dr. Glenn Byer and Dr. David Pitt, liturgical and musical educators at Catholic colleges in the U.S. The workshop will run Friday, January 5 from 7 - 9:30 pm and Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more information and to register please visit <https://EpiphanyLiturgyConference.eventbrite.com>; for assistance in registering, please email mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1331 ext 227.

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:

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow

mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk

hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org



Social Bridge Night!

Is held the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Tony Southwell to register. 250-477-5738 or Email: tony_southwell@hotmail.com

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.