



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

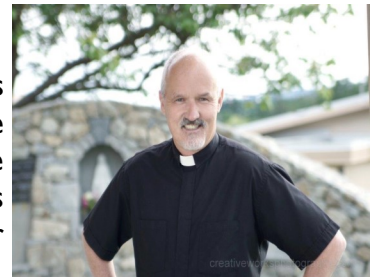
Mission Statement

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 25th, 2017 Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord

From the desk of Father William

Merry Christmas!!!! Today we celebrate the day God entered God's own creation by becoming human. How can we authentically honor this day? One way is to notice and truly relish our own experience of being human. So often we hurry through the hours, heedless of the many sensations to be enjoyed. This Christmas may we wake up appreciating the delicious warmth of our beds; our hot shower; our holiday meals; and give our undivided attention to the words and music of Christmas. In other words, may we be childlike. At the end of the day we will know something of what Emily Dickinson meant when she wrote, "To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else."



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

We come to the end of another year, a time to look back in wonder at God's presence and blessings and to look forward in hope to the gifts of life, love, faith, and friendship. 2017 can seem like a litany of bad news. Floods, famine, and earthquakes. Conflicts, threats, and shootings. Headlines fixed our gaze on horror, relentless as it was real. Our personal lives may be just as anxious, logging illnesses, financial upsets, imperiled relationships. While it's natural to recall difficult events in blazing detail, it takes more effort to compose a litany of good news that's just as true. Give yourself a present that will last all year. Begin a grace box, jotting down something wonderful you hear, see, or receive every day. You'll have 365 reasons to be merry next year!

To my wonderful parish family at Holy Cross and friends, I assure you of my prayers, my gratitude for your goodness and friendship, and my hope that we shall all grow in faith, hope and love through the New Year. Being a part of a parish and implementing a vision with highly motivated people who love being Church is a joy beyond all telling. I am incredibly blessed and happy and it is because of a gracious God who loves life into me, even when I doubt and am afraid. Most importantly, each of you who receive this letter are sources of strength and love to me. I love because people love me and you, each in your own way, continue to inspire me to be a better human being. Thank you!

A whole New Year beckons (and my eight month sabbatical)! But first, 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.

With my Prayers, a Blessing, and Much Love,

Fr. William Hann



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**Saturday December 30th, Sunday, December 3 1st:**

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!



Bishop Gary Gordon's 2017 Christmas Message is now online at www.holycrossvictoria.org as well as on the Diocesan website: www.rcdvictoria.org.

PRAYER REFLECTION

The prodigious expanses of time that preceded the first Christmas were not empty of Christ; they were imbued with the influx of his power.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.

—A. J. Muste (1885-1967)

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:** Saturday, 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:

MONDAY, December 25th
OFFICE CLOSED

9:30 am Christmas Day Mass

TUESDAY, December 26th
OFFICE CLOSED
NO MASS

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 the Wednesday Afternoon Social group, that generously donated the Christmas tree this year.

The office staff and Fr. William and Fr. Karam, thank you for the many gifts given to us this year.

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 |

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 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

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|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 | 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 Outreach | John Oleson | 250-477-6455 |