



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's 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 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today, Sunday, December 26th is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We have just celebrated Christmas, rejoicing in the baby Jesus being born, God entering the world to be with us, his beloved daughters and sons. And then these challenging readings – Hannah leaves Samuel, the child she prayed for and loves with all her heart, at the house of the Lord in Shiloh; and twelve-year-old Jesus is unaware of how desperately his parents are searching for him while he is in the temple sitting among the teachers! Isn't the Holy Family sweet baby Jesus, surrounded by caring protector Joseph and loving mother Mary, rocking him to sleep? The angels are singing, the wise men are bringing gifts, the shepherds are kneeling in awe. A peaceful, comforting, and holy image. How does Hannah's sacrifice, and Mary and Joseph's frantic fear fit into this image?

Unquestionably, the Holy Family had peaceful and quiet days, rejoicing in the gifts of each other. They had encounters in which they were appreciated by people of all stations in life. But the Holy Family experienced much more. They were a refugee family, a family that struggled with communication and confusion, a family that suffered loss, a family that celebrated Jewish feasts, shared the everyday intimacy of work, play, conversation, illness and recovery. They experienced rejection, fear, and disappointment. They were not exempt from the suffering in this world. They were a loving and joyful family and there were also sacrifices, sorrow and at times fear. Our own precious families are not the Holy Family, we continuously fall short of loving unconditionally. But we certainly can relate to the challenges of living as family in this world. There are sacrifices, sorrow and fear.

Jesus was born into a family that loved him and supported him. He grew in wisdom and love in his family. We all grow in wisdom and love in our families, as children and as adults. Our families are not Holy, but our families are refugee families, have troubles with communication, suffer great losses and experience fear and disappointments. Today, as we celebrate the Holy Family, it brings us peace and comfort to realize that our families are made in the image of the Holy Family.

And who is our family? Is it parents and child, grandparents? Is it a parish, a neighborhood, a country? Mother Teresa once said: "The problem with our world is that we draw the circle of family too small." As Jesus grew in wisdom and love, his understanding of family grew too. As we grow in wisdom and love, our understanding of family also grows, until we realize that all people are our family, all are our brothers and sisters, and once again we rejoice!

Tanya Taft



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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.

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LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from *Holy Cross Parish on Christmas Eve at 4pm*. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Reconciliation Service has been cancelled. In lieu of this Father William will be making himself available for **private reconciliation on December 18th from 10am to 12noon at St. Patrick's Parish and 1pm-3pm at Holy Cross Parish.**

Christmas Schedule 2021**FRIDAY December 24th - Christmas Eve*:**

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 4pm (livestreamed)

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 6pm

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 7:30pm

Holy Cross Parish Mass, Midnight

SATURDAY, December 25th, Christmas Day:

Holy Cross Parish Mass, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish Mass, 11am

*there will be no 4pm or 6pm Mass on this day.

SUNDAY, December 26th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Holy Cross Parish, 9:00am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

FRIDAY, December 31st - New Year's Eve*

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

SATURDAY, January 1st - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

St. Patrick's Parish, 10am

SATURDAY, January 1st - The Epiphany of the Lord (Anticipatory Mass)

Holy Cross Parish, 4pm

St. Patrick's Parish, 6pm

SUNDAY, January 2nd - The Epiphany of the Lord

Holy Cross Parish, 9am

St. Patrick's Parish, 11am

*There will be no 9am morning Mass on Friday December 24th or Friday December 31st.

** The parish office will be closed on December 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st and will re-open on January 4th with regular hours. There will be 9am morning Mass on those days.

**PASTORAL TRAINING OUTREACH PROGRAM**

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 29, 2022, and running until April 9** (with no sessions on March 19 & 26 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. This course is for anyone interested and will show why those who visit the sick are unique, and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Until pastoral access to homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities is fully available, Bishop Gary Gordon (of the Diocese of Victoria) feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, and a reliable Internet connection. Please register through your local parish by Jan. 24, 2022. For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca.

PRAYER REFLECTION

A child needs both to be hugged and unhugged. The hug lets her know she is valuable. The unhug lets her know that she is viable.

—Polly Berrien Berends

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

—Pope John Paul II

If we are to reach real peace in the world . . . we shall have to begin with the children . . . by going from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which the whole world hungers.

—Mahatma Gandhi

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. Celebrate Mass on-line with Bishop Gary.

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

A DECEMBER SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND HERE.

Please find attached [Bishop Gary Gordon's 2021 Christmas Message](#). It has also been posted on the Diocesan website at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-2021-christmas-message>. Please share with your communities.

Father William's Christmas Message

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 in 2022. 2021 has been a full year, and continued pandemic woes for our weary wonderful world. I would have to say, though, that the best part of the year has been building Christian community with every one of you and by God's grace we are a resilient People of God. You truly understand your baptismal call to *be church* and you give of your time, talent and treasure to build up our community of faith rooted in Christ who said: **"I give my body and blood for the life of the world."** (John 6) We are incredibly blessed at both Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's because of a gracious God who loves life into us, even when the vision is daunting. Each of you is a source of strength and love to me. Each in your own way, continue to inspire me to be a better pastor and a better human being.

So, it is time to wrap it up and carry forth the Good News of Jesus Christ. A whole New Year beckons! 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, to be loved into this tough, but beautiful world. May this God of Love be with you always! In gratitude to God for your friendship and care, I wish you all a Joyous Christmas and New Year in the dawn that comes to us out of the tender compassion of our God!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Father William

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, December 25th

9am Mass: Christmas Day

SUNDAY, December 26th

9am Mass: Jose Pacheco &

Hilary Ribeiro

MONDAY, December 27th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, December 28th

9am Mass:

WEDNESDAY, December 29th

9am Mass:

THURSDAY, December 30th

9am Mass: Fran Witzel +

FRIDAY, December 31st

4pm Mass: New Year's Eve

SATURDAY, January 1st

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: New Year's Day

SUNDAY, January 2nd

9am Mass: Catherine Doyle (int)

MONDAY, January 3rd

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, January 4th

9am: Lay Liturgy of the Word

WEDNESDAY, January 5th

9am Mass: Peter Twohig +

THURSDAY, January 6th

9am Mass: Martin Demederios +

FRIDAY, January 7th

9am Mass: Vittorio & Angela

Antoniazzi +

Update: There will be only half capacity allowed in the church, which is 140 people at Holy Cross. Ushers will be counting people as they enter and will lock the doors when capacity is reached.

Masks are now mandatory everywhere at all times.



CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann
250-477-5321
250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd
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Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake
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University Chaplain: Lydia Foch
lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Debra Prior
250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton
bshenton@rcdvictoria.org



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

COLLECTION for Dec. 19, 2021	
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:	
Envelopes	\$ 9,760.00
Loose	\$ 215.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$11,652.00

**NOTE FROM THE UVIC/CAMOSUN
CHAPLAIN LYDIA FOCH**

Campus' are closed for the semester! Stay tuned in January for the latest news from Lydia!

RECONCILIATION CORNER

Over the past 26 weeks, you have been invited to read an article or a book, watch a video, a film or a TV series, enroll in a course, go see an exhibit . . . – all in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. The Reconciliation Corner will appear periodically in 2022, but not on a weekly basis. We hope that you will **revisit** the past notices, **posted** under “Reconciliation Corner” on the [webpage of the Social and Eco Justice Committee](#). Many of the articles deserve a second reading; and the videos and films, a second viewing.

Tree chipping at St. Patrick's Elementary School!
Bring your tree and help support the Grade 7 students fundraising efforts for their year-end retreat!
Christmas Tree Drop Off Times:
Jan. 2, 8th & 9th from 2-3 pm
Jan. 3-7th 8:40 - 9 am & 3:20 - 3:40 pm



GREEN FUNERAL BINDERS

This is a gentle reminder that if you have a **green funeral planning binder** from the library please return it and any accompanying hymnals to the office.
Thank you!

SCAM ALERT

There is a scam going around the Diocese of Victoria. If you get a text message or an email from “Fr. William” asking for a “favor” which usually leads to gift cards and/or cash please **IGNORE** this message. If you get an email, look carefully at the email address, and report all suspicious emails and texts to the office.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria is looking for a Spiritual Care and Volunteer Services Leader. For more information, including a full job description, please visit <https://mountstmary.ca/opportunities/>. Applications can be sent by email to hr@mountstmary.ca or faxed to 250-480-3106.

On behalf of Fr. William and all the staff at Holy Cross Parish we wish you the most joyful, blessed and healthy Christmas!

