

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sunday, December 29, 2024

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, December 28,
4PM MASS:**

**SUNDAY, December 29,
9AM MASS:**

**MONDAY, December 30,
NO MASS**

**TUESDAY, December 31,
4 PM MASS:**

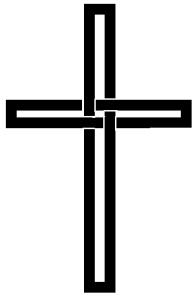
**WEDNESDAY, January 1
9AM MASS:**

**THURSDAY, January 2
NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, January 3
NO MASS**

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**CHAPEL
Open Thursday & Friday
9am-12pm**

**RECONCILIATION
Saturday, December 28 at
3:30PM**



LIVESTREAMING

**SATURDAY December 28
4PM LIVESTREAMING**

Find the link here:

[http://www.youtube.com/c/
StPatricksHolyCrossChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch)



WORD OF THE WEEK: Jubilee Year

What is a Jubilee Year and a Holy Year?

The Jubilee is a product of Jewish biblical law. Every 50th year, the land was to "rest," or lie unused for planting. Debts were forgiven and slaves were set free. These practices had a theological agenda: to acknowledge that land, property, and life belong ultimately to God, not to the human user. The spirit of Jubilee was adopted by Catholics when the first Holy Year was inaugurated in 1300. It too is a time of liberation. The pope offers spiritual indulgences for pilgrims to Rome. Other religious activities are assigned similar benefits for those unable to travel. The Holy Year 2025 begins on Christmas Eve with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Other Roman basilicas have doors opened to encourage pilgrimage. Bishops worldwide are invited to designate similar doors through which pilgrims can walk. All of us should eagerly seek the occasion to walk through such a door and to become ourselves pilgrims of hope. As we move into the New Year, how will we, like the shepherds and Mary, be bearers of the Good News? The Jubilee begins on December 24, 2024, with the official Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, and runs to January 6, 2026, the Feast Day of Epiphany, with the Closing of the Holy Door. Jubilee years are opportunities for conversion to a deeper journey in faith. The six themes of Jubilee 2025—care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, managing debt, forgiveness, and rest—provide critical avenues for our participation as "Pilgrims of Hope" for our world, which can use our compassionate care. "The Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone. The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need." Jubilee years are opportunities for conversion to a deeper journey in faith. The six themes of Jubilee 2025—care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, managing debt, forgiveness, and rest—provide critical avenues for our participation as "Pilgrims of Hope" for our world, which can use our compassionate care. "The Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone. The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need." Pope Francis writes that a pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. As we move into the New Year, how will we, like the shepherds and Mary, be bearers of the Good News?

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family, and what an unruly lot of children we can be! Gorge Carlin's one liner rings true...*the other night I ate at a rea@rice fami@restaurant; Every tab@had an argu@ment going;* One's own experience of family is extremely important in one's faith development. God calls us to a larger understanding of family than just our family of origin. Both these statements are true. All families are broken and whole and no family is perfect: you get that there are no perfect families, right? Families—and all disciples, no matter what their state of life—need the guidance of God for how to live well. Take great consolation in today's Gospel. Here we hear of a family trying to do the right thing yet falling into anxiety and confusion. The child Jesus - remarkable and devout - becomes separated from his distraught and uncomprehending parents. The Holy Family knew confusion and anxiety. It encounters loneliness and separation. It will also soon know suffering and death. And so do our own families. And the Holy Family will make them whole - not because we stumble, but because God will lift us up.

Families need not fail - but they must always struggle. No family is perfect - every family is loved by God. A family that never has an argument is a family that never communicates; a family that never grapples with problems is a family that never engages with life. But a family that confronts its challenges is a family that welcomes God's grace. This is identical to that of the Church's call: to give tangible witness to the vision of Christ for the world. How do we do that? There are many ways we can do this in our daily life: "Believe in God," "Love and have a deep conviction of the value of every other person," "Give witness to the Gospel by living lives of integrity," "Pray together," "Service," "Readiness to forgive and seek reconciliation," & "Celebrate Life." These are ideals. There is no perfect family. Some can give help; others need help.

The Holy Family lived through tensions and survived, so can we. Some advice I learned is to always stay connected, engage in dialogue, hold the tensions, and love even when it hurts. Civility is a Christian value that we too could cultivate. What made the Holy Family holy wasn't perfection or that everything ran smoothly. The Holy Family was holy simply because they found God in all things. Holiness is not about following rules or being perfect or pious. "Holiness is loving unity with God. It's an ever-expanding openness to the divine Center...In holiness; we become the persons we were created to be." (Richard Foster) With God as their center, each member of the Holy Family was free to become the person God created them to be. Let us, in our families and communities, give that same gift to one another. Let us be a holy family. To learn what it means to be a member of the one family of God and do what our scriptural brothers and sisters we hear of today do: believe, love, and give thanks. My Mom had a signature song, it's not the house that makes a home but the love that dwells inside!

Love and prayers,
Father William

Report Sexual Abuse

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.

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146. To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

Christmas Seasons Notices

Please note: The office will be closed over the Christmas Holidays from December 21- January 1. The office will open on January 2nd.

9 am masses on the following days are cancelled: Tuesday, December 31, 2024/ Thursday, January 2, 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR HOLY CROSS PARISH!

