



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY December 30th, 2018 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, is celebrated at a time when we are busy with our own family, with our Church family, and our family of friends, old and new. As I write this reflection, four generations of my family are under my roof - my mother, myself, my daughter, my two and a half grandchildren. It's in our families that we experience our greatest joy, our greatest sorrow and our greatest love.

God is love, and to exist, love must be shared. God wants us to share that love with our brothers and sisters. He wants us to know that He is our Father and we are His children. Saint John Paul II said, "God in His deepest mystery is not a solitude, not a loner, He is a family, because He has in Himself fatherhood, sonship, and the essence of familial love, which is the Holy Spirit." We are called by name into this family of the Blessed Trinity at our Baptism.

In today's gospel, as parents, we easily understand Mary and Joseph's anxiety during the three days it took before they found Jesus in the temple. Jesus asked them, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph heard Jesus' words but they did not understand. How many times do we find ourselves in their position, shaking our heads, because our children's mission makes no sense to us? But, our mission of wanting to be at God's table with our church family may make no sense to them at this point in their lives. We share our journeys, but we have our own journey to live.

There is nothing easy about family. Keeping the peace is hard work when we know each other's buttons to push. We have to love and we have to forgive often. God forgives abundantly and He forgets our trespasses. We forgive but we file our hurts away so that we can bring them up again at a moment's notice; we don't forget. And, like the little Christmas train that can't get off its circular track, we go around and around bringing up past hurts and wounding the hearts of those we love the most. Let us be more like Mary. Let us step back, turn off the auto-response and treasure this family God has given us. Our mission is Jesus' mission. We are to be the best son or daughter to our Father in heaven and to be the very best we can be in the roles God has chosen for us here on earth.

Desmond Tutu said, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." Our families are far from perfect, but, they are the perfect family for us. No one knows us better than our families, yet, despite our faults and failings they love us anyway. Our families show us where we have come from and where we are going. I look at my daughters who have all the stresses of raising a young family and it seems like yesterday when I was in their place. Then I look at my mom whose world is becoming very small, who's outlived many of her friends, who spends most of her day with rosary in hand and speaks of her readiness to join my dad and the eternal family in heaven, and in her I can see where I am headed. This is God's gift. It's all the people in our lives who share our journey with us and because each was chosen by God they are our Holy Family.

Your sister in Christ,

Anna Mendonca

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. Karam Alraban, Parish Administrator

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CONTACTS

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

COLLECTION

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

December 23, 2018

Envelopes	\$ 8,890.10
Loose	\$ 520.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,095.00
TOTAL	\$ 10,505.00

Christmas Collection

Envelopes	\$ 8,010.00
Loose	\$ 1,865.00
Total	\$ 9,875.00

THE GOSPEL GALS THANK ALL OF YOU

This week starts the last rotation of our Gospel Reflections. When Fr. William asked us to write our individual reflections we were shaking in our boots, he had more faith in us than we ever did in ourselves. Thank you Fr. William, you have given each of us such a precious gift. To our Holy Cross family, so generous with your kind words, your feedback means a world to us. Thank you! Gospel Gals.

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, Gently Lead

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

—Pope John Paul II

UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONS DINNER AND CAROLERS

Come and enjoy a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner featuring 12 meatless dishes, caroling by the Luna Ensemble and a children's surprise. A moderator will explain the rich customs related to this festive event celebrated by Ukrainians world wide. Saturday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 3277 Douglas Street. Advance tickets only: adults \$45.00, students \$20.00, children 6 & under \$8.00. Call 250-475-2585, e-mail: ucc1@shaw.ca

A funeral mass for Debbie Underhill will be held on **Wednesday January 2nd at 11am**. A reception will follow in the parish hall. We keep their family in our prayers during this time.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 30th

8:30 am Mass: **In Thanksgiving**

10:30 am Mass: **Hugh Loughran +**

MONDAY, December 31st

No Mass

Office Closed

TUESDAY, January 1st

10:00am **New Year's Day Mass**

WEDNESDAY, January 2nd

11:00am **Funeral for Debbie**

Underhill

THURSDAY, January 3rd

9:00 am Mass: **Roko Nikolic +**

FRIDAY, January 4th

9:00 am Mass: Leo McIntyre (int)

SATURDAY, January 5th

5:00 pm Mass: **Martin Demederos +**

SUNDAY, January 6th

8:30 am Mass: **Angela Murphy +**

10:30 am Mass: **Joe & Theresa De Rosa +**

4:00 pm Mass

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

The ecumenical service for the week of Christian Unity is at 2pm on Sunday January 20th at Grace Lutheran Church on Fort Street., Please come and join our brothers and sisters. Sign up sheets will be in the foyer next week.