



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 31, 2023

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This Sunday, December 31st, is the feast day of the Holy Family. We celebrate the gift of all families but especially the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. God gave Mary and Joseph the sacred task of loving, nurturing, and raising the Christ child, the child Jesus who was destined to be healer and savior of the world. A very exceptional family! Yet for many years their lives were quiet and ordinary. The Gospel describes how Mary and Joseph followed the law as every family did and brought Jesus to the temple when it was time for the purification. When they returned to Nazareth, their hometown, they lived unobtrusively in their community. Where else could baby Jesus grow and become *strong, filled with wisdom*? It had to be in the loving embrace of his family, learning to walk and talk and think and love. He was nurtured and cared for, he was comforted, encouraged, and treasured. We do not know when Jesus understood that he was *the way, the truth, and the life*. But we know that he came to the world as a baby, powerless and completely dependent on his parents. Without this holy family, Jesus would not have grown in strength, wisdom, and faithfulness.

Every parent is given this sacred task of raising a child created by God. Every child will grow in strength and wisdom and learn faithfulness as it is loved and treasured. It is with this support of love and caring that young people grow in confidence and faith so that they have the courage to leave their family and find their path in the world. Then they will carry Christ within themselves and in their own way heal and save a piece of the world.

We all learn to be faithful from experiencing faithfulness in the circle of our families and then larger communities of friends, parishes, schools, and work. The source of all faithfulness is God. Today's readings emphasize God's fidelity. In Genesis, God's faithfulness to Abraham and Sarah gives them courage to trust that they will have a child in their old age. The Psalm celebrates the everlasting covenant made by God with Abraham. The letter to the Hebrews praises Abraham's and Sarah's great faith in God. And in the Gospel Simeon and Anna express their confidence in God's constancy. They see the baby Jesus and recognize the Messiah in the vulnerable tiny child. They do not question how a small newborn can redeem the world; they trust. Like Simeon and Anna, we can have faith in God. Even in this world of war and destruction we can trust. Our God is faithful until the end of time. *We remember the wonderful works he has done and know that he is mindful of his covenant forever.*

Tanya Taft



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC

V8N 3X7

Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844

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! Mass is livestreamed this week from Holy Cross Parish at 11am Monday, January 1, 2024. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

New Year's Message from Father William

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 2024. Where does time go? Time past, time present and time future are all God's time and I assure you of my prayers, and my hope that we shall all grow in faith, hope and love throughout 2024. 2023 has been a full year. I would have to say, though, that the best part of the year has been building Christian community with every one of you. You 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) I need you to know that being a part of both Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's parishes with a missionary heart is something that gives me boundless joy. 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!

Happy New Year!

Father William Hann



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE
2023 / 2024
Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

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 Family

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



Prayer Reflection

If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.

—*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

One light feeds another. One strong family lends strength to more. One engaged community can ignite those around it. This is the power of the light we carry.

—*Michelle Obama, The Light We Carry*

The family is indeed sacred: It is the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed and protected.

—*Pope John Paul II in Centesimus Annus*

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

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.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ENVELOPES

Collection envelopes have all been **renumbered** for 2024 and will be ready for pickup imminently. 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!

Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. Please note that the next sessions to choose from for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, Jan 13 (10:00 am – 12 noon) and Saturday, Feb 10 (10:00 am – 12 noon) Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

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 30, 2023

4PM Mass: Teresa Mazza+

SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

6PM New Year's Eve

Vigil Mary Mother of God

MONDAY, January 1, 2024

At St. Patrick's Parish 11AM

TUESDAY, January 2, 2024

9AM Mass: Patrick and Mary Hann+

WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, January 4, 2024

9AM Mass: Ethan Stone+

FRIDAY, January 5, 2024

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon via the side door.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

9AM Friday, January, 5 in the Chapel

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.



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

COLLECTIONS, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 10,350.00
Loose	\$ 2,222.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 100.00
Flowers Donations	\$ 155.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,390.00
TOTAL	\$14,217.00



*January 1, 2024
Solemnity of Mary
Holy Mother of God*

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

Mass Times

Mass times at Holy Cross Parish are 4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday, 9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday.

Mass times at St. Patrick's Church are 11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday, 12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday.

Confessions are at 3:15 on Saturdays at Holy Cross Parish and at 11:30am on Fridays at St. Patrick's Parish.

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.