



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

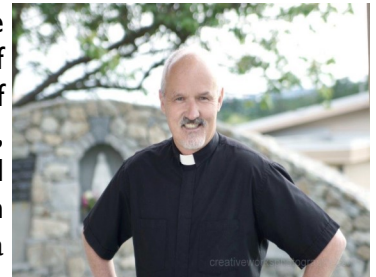
Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY December 3rd, 2017
First Sunday in Advent



From Fr. William's Desk

We wait in joyful hope. So begins the new church year, Cycle B, with the season of Advent. The Gospel of Mark will be our text for the next year of Sundays (along with liberal use of John next summer, since Mark is so brief). Of all the liturgical seasons that we go through as a church in the course of the year, the season of Advent may be the most difficult. It has to do with waiting and waiting in December is very difficult. What I would like to do is awaken an appreciation about the waiting of Advent? Why? Advent invites us to relive a pregnancy, that of Mary. We wait and watch with Mary, who consented freely to become the mother of God. Want a faith lift this advent? How do we do that?



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

We have to keep ourselves—heart and mind and soul and strength—focused on God's will. Our intentions have to be as polished as we go through Mary's pregnancy, and to wait our own pregnancy to give birth to a new way of being as we wait for Christ to come again. Think of how the Jewish community holds an empty chair at the Passover table for Elijah, who hasn't returned in 29 centuries and counting. This could be the year. You never know. But most of us, perhaps all of us, don't keep this kind of expectant vigilance. Maybe the truth is we don't believe an unscheduled guest will ever come, so what's the use? Even those of us who have dedicated guest rooms in our homes use them for storage because, deep down, we're not really open to the possibility of the unexpected. The unscheduled guest is frankly unwelcome. We don't like to have our plans disrupted by something off our radar. We are invited to make room for Christ.

As Advent begins, moments of inner preparation are important. Give ourselves enough undistracted time to focus on how these Advent readings speak to your heart. Light a candle (perhaps the Advent wreath). Close your eyes and breathe deeply, three breaths. Feel your feet on the floor. Be aware of your bodily presence. Now reflect on these questions. How are you distracted rather than alert? What's standing in your way? How have you wandered from God's ways? There is a sense of imminent change in the words of Isaiah and in the warnings of Jesus. Where do you feel the urgency to change in your own life right now? Do you feel that God's face is hidden from you lately? Are you willing to let God be the potter, shaping your life? What, spiritually, are you waiting for? Watching for? What practices help you be alert and watchful? What habits work against that? Keep watch and use our advent booklets to enter into the silence! Why? A lot happens in silence.. in truth, everything happens there! Sid Joss shared this with me after a recent visit about silence... *in my meditation, I have come to realize how important silent prayer is. Most of our prayers are requests of what we think we need. In silent prayer, God wants us to LISTEN, clear our mind of thought. This is vital. The psychological effect is there is realization from the tensions and its non-verbal only quiet communication. A spiritual rejuvenation...*

Welcome Advent and like Sid welcome silence!

Father William

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.

AN ADVENT GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS

Advent Song: Finding God in Darkness—More than just a concert, it's a meditation in song, word and image that revives the Christmas Spirit. *Friday, December 8th at 7:00pm*. Cookies and coffee will be provided. This is a thank you to each and every one of you for your witness, your generosity as we journey to Emmanuel (God with us). Bring a friend and let your heart be moved. (a free concert)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS PARISH

- **Rediscover the Art of Dying:** 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, exploring 2 chapters per week. *The extra copies have arrived in the office! If you have placed your name down for a copy of the book please call Valentina at the office or come by during office hours to pick it up. Cost is \$18.95.*
- **Meeting new people can start with a "SINGLE" step:** Join the walking social group for single Catholics, 45+. The first walk will take place in January from Holy Cross Parking lot. Coffee to follow. More info to come in the near future. For information please contact Michelle milofox@shaw.ca
- **Penitential Service:** Wednesday, December 13th, at 7:00pm. All are invited to attend.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Psalm 80 asks "Why, Yaweh, do you let us wander from your ways and let our hearts grow too hard to hear you?" On earth as it is in heaven, we recognize the urgent need for Christ as we work in collaboration to create peaceful systems and structures that hold justice and respect for life above economic gain. Thank you to everyone for their support of Development and Peace's Fall Action campaign to put Women at the Heart of Peace. May you all have a blessed Advent season!

REFUGEE HOUSING NEEDED

The Holy Cross/SJTW Refugee Committee is looking for a two bedroom apartment for our refugee family. They are looking for accommodations that are \$1,500 a month. If you have any such accommodations, or know someone who does please contact Holy Cross office at 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

AT THE LIBRARY

(in the Parish Centre –Tue- Fri: 9am-2:00pm)
Daily Readings for the Advent of Christmas --- making New Year's promises more likely!

- *Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations, by Sr. Wendy Beckett*
- *Through the Year with Francis of Assisi, by M. Bodo*
- *Daily Light by S. Bagster*
- *Lord, Teach Me to Pray (in 28 days) by K. Arthur*

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TIP

Join the Letter Writing Group which defends prisoners of conscience and other victims of human rights violations all year long. They meet at the Diocesan Centre (4044 Nelthorpe St.) on the first Monday of each month (9:30–11:30 am). For more information, contact Holy Cross parishioner Yvonne Pigott (250-658-8654).

PRAYER REFLECTION

Love him who loved you when he was a child and who suffered cold for you and wept in the manger for you. . . . And as he grew older, his love grew too and was sown in the works which he did among us. As his body grew, his trials grew, his pains and tortures and crosses. Love, then, him who first loved you and loves you now in heaven.

—Saint John of Avila (1500-1569)

Psychology says, “Let go.” Spirituality says, “Wake up.” In both cases there is a withdrawal from the busyness of daily life (our dream state) and a waking up to the subconscious and spiritual depths of ourselves.

—Alfred McBride, O. Praem., The Priest

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT:** Saturday, **December 9** from 6-9pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Ethnic foods and entertainment for everyone. Free event, but donations will be accepted for the CWL Refugee Relief Fund.
- **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+.
- **ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL SURVEY:** St. Andrew’s High School is requesting all Catholic parents and grandparents of school-age children to fill out this brief anonymous survey by December 8th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCKL633>

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

The Holy Cross Social and Eco. Justice Committee is inviting all parishioners and friends to join the **annual Amnesty International letter-writing campaign** at our Parish Hall on **Sun. Dec. 10 (2–3:45 pm)**. These letters can have a real impact! Visit www.writeathon.ca/reference to read about previous success stories. Writing materials and postage will be provided at the session, and instructions given to first-time participants.

BIRTHRIGHT FUDGE SALE

Birthright will be selling home-made Fudge in the foyer after all Masses on Dec 9/10. (The packets make great stocking stuffers and freeze well!) Birthright assists women in difficult or crisis pregnancies, offering hope and encouraging Mothers to give the precious gift of Life to their babies. Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 3rd

African Aids Angles for sale after masses

8:30 am Mass: **Pierce Farragher +**

10:30 am Mass: **Mary & Cliff
Anderson +**

4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, December 4th

9:00 am Mass: **Steve Feher +**

TUESDAY, December 5th

9:00 am Mass: **Bernadine Lister +**

WEDNESDAY, December 6th

9:00 am Mass: **Jose Pacheco +**

THURSDAY, December 7th

9:00 am Mass: **Lorence & Josephine
Formosa +**

6:30 am Rosary Group

FRIDAY, December 8th

9:00 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**

SATURDAY, December 9th

3:45—4:30 Reconciliation

5:00 pm Mass: **Leonard Ferre +**

SUNDAY, December 10th

Birthright Fudge for sale after masses

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

10:30 am Mass: **Augustin &
Augustin Jr. Medina +**

4:00 pm Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

St. Vincent de Paul and Holy Cross Parish would like to express their sincere gratitude to the people of this parish for their continued support of our projects, which are 70% local and 30% global. God’s abundant blessings to you all!

Anawim House is looking for small sized jeans for men. Donations will be accepted in the parish office.

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.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Darlene Southwell	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	Loretta MacDonald	250-477-6682
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	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 November 26th, 2017

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2,706.00
Loose	\$ 483.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,140.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,329.00
Development and Peace	\$2,731.35

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

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