

# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

## Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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.

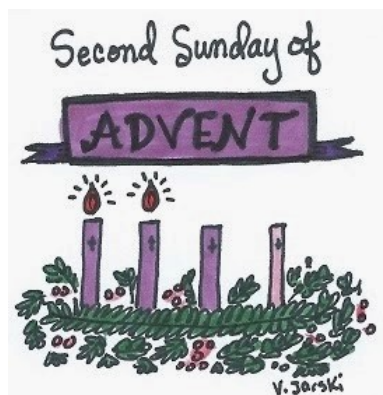
**SUNDAY December 8, 2019**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

Today's gospel speaks of wilderness; into this wilderness a prophet speaks his message of Good News. But there is a way out of this wilderness. Knock, knock who's there? John the Baptist, with some bad news- you have got to change and some pretty good news too—God is coming to help with those changes. Yes, an alternative is possible in this wide landscape called home. A new humanity can be built. There is hope in our world. In Jesus, to whom John points, God's hope entered this world. If we go after this Jesus, if we go his path, then it is God's pledge that we do not find ourselves in a dead-end garden cold and alone, but on the wide-open road to a new world where the view and landscape is full of promise.



John, the advent prophet, counsels us to prepare for a coming that will utterly displace the way things are. "Someone is following me, one who is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals." Advent, he tells us, is the season for the new rhythms; it is the season to yearn for a better world and to act as though the New World has already begun. Advent is the season of where we can allow ourselves to be radically transformed by the seed, the mere seed of life within us. If a shoot can sprout from Jesse's aged stump, then hope sure does spring eternal even in circumstances we've given up for dead. Something has to die in order for something else to live, the botanists tell us. Scripture has the same message. We must let go of the past, the old ways, the old self, in order to usher in the new life, we long for. We can't serve two masters, and we can't have it both ways. You want new life? First you have to die to the old one. Saint John the Baptist was sure that the coming of the Messiah meant harsh and just punishment. Yet Jesus arrived, offering opportunities to love and serve and use our talents for the good of the world, even if we might deserve a good kick in the pants. Love beyond all telling!

Advent must give rise to Christian communities who truly believe Christ will transform and renew our world. Light shines in dark places. Let us have the courage to build something new and be a light to the wider landscape called the world? Let our advent journey be a time of clarifying, healing and rebuilding? Who has acted most like John the Baptist in your lifetime? When have you been the one wielding the prophetic ax? Let us finish, then, with the words of Paul in today's second reading: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God." Long is our winter...dark is our night...oh come set us free saving light!



Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Father William

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7  
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844  
office@holycrossvictoria.org  
www.holycrossvictoria.org

**HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS**

**HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS:** If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your office or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Thomas Chinnappa** to make this request.

**ADVENT WOMEN’S RETREAT 2019**

This year’s women’s advent retreat is on Saturday, December 14th from 9am to 4pm at Holy Cross Parish. At this time, there are no more spots available for the retreat. To those who have signed up and are attending please note that this retreat is free of charge but *participants should bring their own bagged lunch, as well as a journal and pen.*

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**MAGAZINE DONATIONS NEEDED FOR WOMEN’S RETREAT!**

Donations of magazines are needed for the upcoming Advent Women’s retreat. Preferably feel good magazines, with heart warming pictures and words to live by. Some examples of appropriate magazines include: Oprah’s Magazine, Good Housekeeping, Chatelaine, Spirituality Today, Gardening, nature magazines, etc. If you have anything to donate please drop them off in the office next week. Many thanks!

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S MASSES**

We’re are in need of Liturgical Ministers for the Christmas and New Year’s Masses. If you know which Mass you will be attending and are able to help out, please put your name on the sign-up sheets in the foyer. Please note that we are especially in need of eucharistic ministers at the Midnight mass. Thank you!

**REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS**

We welcome donations for the Christmas floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Christmas flowers and remember a loved one, please pick up an envelope in the foyer. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop in the collection basket.



**ANAWIM HOUSE DONATIONS**

Socks, underwear, gloves and toques are great gifts for Anawim House! There is a box in the foyer to collect these items. Please consider donating. Thank you.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION AROUND THE DIOCESE**

Tuesday, December 10th: 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish (with St. Joseph’s)

Thursday, December 12th: 7pm at Our Lady of the Rosary

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Christmas Eve, Tues. Dec. 24th:**

Holy Cross: 4pm and Midnight mass

St. Patrick’s: 6pm (family mass with pageant), and 9pm

**Christmas Day, Wed. Dec. 25th**

Holy Cross: 9am

St. Patrick’s: 11am

**Holiday Office Hours:**

Tuesday, December 24th: 9am-12noon

Wednesday, December 25th: Closed

Thursday, December 26th: Closed

Friday, December 27th: Closed

Tuesday, December 31st: 9am-12noon

Wednesday, January 1, 2020: Closed



### **PRAYER REFLECTION**

Grace fills empty spaces, but it can only enter where there is a void to receive it. —Simone Weil

Truly, when the day of judgment comes, we shall not be examined as to what we have read, but what we have done, not how well we have spoken, but how we have lived. —Thomas à Kempis

### **AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE**

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY ADVENT CONCERT:** Please join the children of St. Patrick's elementary for their Advent Carol Service to be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral downtown.
- **UKRANIAN FOOD FAIR:** on December 14 from 11 am to 2 pm. Sale of Baba's best hand made perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, Christmas baking, sauerkraut, and Ukrainian sausage rings. St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall.
- **PASTORAL CARE OUTREACH TRAINING:** The 2020 dates for the annual Diocesan Pastoral Care Outreach training are posted on the bulletin boards in the church foyer. First session will be held at St. Patrick's Parish on February 22nd. For more info on the sessions please contact the parish office: 250-477-5321. Registration is required.
- **CAMP HOMEWOOD:** It is Camp Homewood Time!! **All Youth (Gr 7-12) are invited to attend "Great Things" from Jan 31- Feb 2, 2020.** This is a 'can't miss' weekend of faith and fun. Bring a friend! Face to Face Ministries will lead meaningful talks, games, praise and worship AND there is all the fun of Camp Homewood- archery, sailing, riding and more! Register before January 15<sup>th</sup> at the cost of \$160.00 (This is a great Christmas gift for children and grandchildren!). See your youth coordinator or parish office for more info or for a registration package.
- **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** St. Andrew's Cathedral is seeking a part-time janitor with a positive and proactive attitude to clean the parish hall on Sunday evenings after 5:00 pm. The main duties include cleaning functions such as sweeping, mopping and scrubbing floors and cleaning and disinfecting washrooms. A detailed job description is available by emailing [saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com).

### **LIBRARY (Tues. to Fri. 9am-2pm)**

**Advent Readings: the Divine becoming Human --- 2,019 years ago**  
*Advent and Christmas by A Chiffolo.*

*Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen by G Uhlein*

*Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations*

*Walking with James Martin SJ (a recent private audience with Pope Francis)*

\*More advent resources can be found at:

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/about-advent>

### **OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SUNDAY, December 8th**

*Second Sunday in Advent*

9:00am Mass: **Dr. Peter Reardon +**

**MONDAY, December 9th**

Office Closed

**TUESDAY, December 10th**

9:00am Mass: **Helen De Carr +**

**WEDNESDAY, December 11th**

9:00am Mass: **Robert Tabaka +**

**THURSDAY, December 12th**

9:00am Mass: **Anne Clancy +**

**FRIDAY, December 13th**

9:00am Mass: **Carol Anne Foley +**

**SATURDAY, December 14th**

4:00pm Mass: **Breidge Conolly (int)**

**SUNDAY, December 15th**

*Third Sunday in Advent*

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

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the Wednesday Afternoon Social Group for their generation donation of \$500 to be put towards our Christmas trees and flowers in the church this year.

A funeral for Ron Tinney will be held on Wednesday, **December 18th** at 1:00pm at Holy Cross Parish. Our prayers are with his wife and family during this time of grief.



### **PARISH SOCIAL LIFE**

**Wednesday Social group**— 1pm on Wednesdays.

**Duplicate Bridge**—Start up October 16th at 7pm.

**Social Bridge**—First Sunday of the month at 7pm.

**Joint Wellness**— Monday and Thursday 10-11am

## CONTACTS

**Pastor: Fr. William Hann**

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

**Hospital Chaplain:** 250-889-3761

**Administrative Assistant:** Valentina Boyd

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

**Parish Council:** Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

**Children's Religious Education:** Barbara Shenton

bjeens958@gmail.com



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

## COLLECTION for December 1, 2019

### **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$ 5, 332.75
<b>Loose</b>	\$ 454.00
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	\$ 1, 095.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6, 881.75</b>

## HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>COORDINATOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Liturgy	Debby Pietraszek	250-477-7375
Liturgical Ministries:		
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Music	Various Choirs	250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 9:00	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	John Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891

## SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson	250-477-6455
	Muna Haddad	1-778-881-5843
Parish Council	Debra Prior	250-661-0252
Finance	David Begg	250-658-0870
Maintenance/Bldg.	Ed Boomars	250-881-8124
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Call office	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Children's Rel. Ed.	Barb Shenton	250-592-7391

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Valentina Boyd	250-813-0230
Catholicism		
Library	George Murphy	250-658-6061
Outreach/Visiting	Sheridan Cooper	250-598-0248
Bereavement / Funeral / Follow-Up	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Funeral Reception	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322

## SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

Diocesan Appeal	John Bartle Clar	250-995-1891
Could You Ever Come Back To The Church	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
RCIA	Glenn Palahicky	250-479-1331
	Phil / Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
RCIC	Barb Shenton	250-592-7391
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Parish Office	250-477-5321
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322
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