

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Day of the Sick

Pope Francis writes (World Day of the Sick)... *the sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! We do not like to feel isolated or cut off from family, friends, or the wider community. One of the most challenging aspects of sickness or disability can be the isolation that it brings. When we are ill, or our body grows weak we cannot take the same initiative we used to take to connect with others. People can become housebound because of their physical condition; the things they used to do to meet up with others are no longer possible.*

Certain forms of illness can be more isolating than others. The most isolating form of illness in the time of Jesus was leprosy. In the case of the person with leprosy in today's Gospel, Jesus knows too well that what people with leprosy suffer from is not so much their leprosy, but their isolation. They are thrown out of society. As a physical disease, leprosy is not much of a problem any longer. Modern science has practically eliminated it but at the time of Jesus, leprosy was an awful disease, and it was the worst form of sickness that could strike anyone. The person who had leprosy was called in some circles the "son of death". What was even more destructive was the notion entertained by religious people that those who had leprosy were being punished by God and lived under a curse from him?

And then Jesus comes to town, and you remember hearing amazing things about him, and so you decide to take the chance and force an audience when he comes close to the edge of the community. "You can make me clean," you insist. "If you want to," you add. And he does. By touching the person with leprosy, and by recklessly ignoring the danger of being contaminated, Jesus flatly contradicts the religious people who believed in the fallacy that a person with leprosy lived under the curse of God. With that gesture, Jesus underlines his will to heal and God's will to bring life and salvation. By sending the cured man to the priests who were defenders of true faith, Jesus puts an end to the religious fallacy that the temple, God's abode among people, would have no room for hurting and wounded people.

Today's Gospel is a beautiful story, but it is also an uncomfortable one. It is an unfinished story; in as much as it challenges us as Christians to declare our position and to continue, in the power of Jesus to proclaim the liberating power of his Gospel. Our society has its own lepers. What today's Gospel passage leaves us with is an uncomfortable question: "Do the lepers of our time find a welcome among us who may pride ourselves on being disciples of Jesus?" *Maya Angelou* writes, as soon as healing takes place, go out and heal somebody else.

Be that healing agent.

Father William

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

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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 St. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday, February 11, 2024. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

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 for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, March 9 (10:00 am - 12 noon) and Saturday, April 13 (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.

Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

SHARE LENT

Join us for the launch of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's 2024 Share Lent campaign, **Create Hope: Reaping our Rights.**

This year, we will meet peasant communities who are feeding the world while caring for the Earth, our common home. Join us for the [campaign launch webinar](#) on **Sat. February 17 at 10:30 am** One of our solidarity visitors, Karno Batiran, will be in the Victoria Diocese Feb. 25 to 29. More details to follow. - Thank you, Barb McKrow



ANNOINTING AT THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES

As this Sunday is *World Day of the Sick*, Fr. William will be anointing those who wish to have this blessing before each of the Masses this weekend, as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 10th - Holy Cross Parish

3:40pm, before the 4pm Saturday Mass

Sunday, Feb. 11th - Holy Cross Parish

8:40am, before the 9am Sunday Mass

Sunday, Feb. 11th - St. Patrick's Parish

10:40am, before the 11am Sunday Mass

3:40pm, before the 4pm Sunday Mass



Knights of Columbus Silver Rose

The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the US and Mexico through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring our Lady. **The pilgrimage of the Silver Rose makes a stop at St Joseph the Worker Church** in Victoria and provides a rosary-centred occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The event will take place after the **5:00 pm Mass on Saturday Feb. 24th at St. Joseph the Worker Parish.** Please join us!



Office Hours this coming week

Please note that the office will close at noon on Tuesday, February 13th and on Thursday, February 15th. In addition, the office will be **closed on Wednesday, February 14th.** Regular office hours resume Fri. February 16th.

Thank you!

Prayer Reflection

Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving. —*Saint Augustine*

There's something about it that makes sense, Lent. You give something up, and everything's more joyful. —*Elaine Stritch*

When my stomach hungers from fasting, it is a reminder of the spiritual hunger my soul experiences at every moment of my existence. —*Bishop Robert Baron*

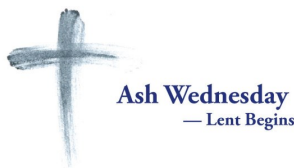
Word of the Week:

Fasting - refraining from food and drink for religious purposes

Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are ancient spiritual practices that foster humility and charity. In the words of fifth-century Doctor of the Church Peter Chrysologus: "When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give." Biblically, fasting implies not eating or drinking from morning till evening. The Catholic Church defines fasting as one full meal a day, with two additional breaks. Catholics observe a eucharistic fast and abstain from food and drink one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. They also **fast** annually on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday if in good health and between the ages of 21 and 59. When we're self-sufficient, it's easy to forget that God is our ultimate source of life and hope. From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Fasting and abstinence . . . help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart" (2043). Why fast? Fasting as a spiritual practice falls into the category of sacrifice. As in other acts of religious sacrifice, fasting takes something away from us. Fasting stirs us to contemplate justice—many in this world go without food—and motivates us to pray in a deeper, richer way. Because we don't want to do it, fasting is regarded as a penitential practice: We do it in reparation for sin, ours, and the world's. When you think of everything fasting can do—encourage fidelity and humility, awaken the spirit of justice, enhance prayer, assist those who are tempted—the question becomes: Why not fast?

Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday Masses will be held at St. Patrick's Parish at 12:10pm and at Holy Cross Parish at 7pm on Wednesday, February 14.



Collection Envelopes for 2024

The remaining unclaimed collection envelope boxes have been moved from the foyer to the office and may be picked up during office hours. As a reminder, please **discard all old envelopes** as new numbers have been assigned for income tax receipt purposes.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, February 10, 2024

4PM Mass: David Gaffney+
Salvatore Ciccone+

SUNDAY, February 11, 2024

9AM Mass: Joan Sheedy+

MONDAY, February 12, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 13, 2024

9AM Mass: Ethan Stone+

ASH WEDNESDAY,

February 14, 2024

7pm Mass

THURSDAY, February 15, 2024

9AM Mass: Patrick and Mary Hann+

FRIDAY, February 16, 2024

NO MASS

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

Adoration is held the first Friday of each month at 9am in the Chapel, preceded by the Rosary at 8:30am. Please enter by the Chapel door.

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.

COLLECTIONS , February 4, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS!

Envelopes	\$4,261.00
Loose	\$ 250.00
Social Eco. Justice	\$ 20.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 225.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,310.00
TOTAL	\$6,066.00

Thank you!To Phil & Sheila for all you do for us. Enjoy your holiday!!



News from the Chancery

1) Sunday, February 11 is the World Day of the Sick. Pope Francis' message for the Day may be read online at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20240110-giornata-malato.html>.

2) On Sunday, February 18, the Diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election during the 11 am Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral. In this liturgical rite, catechumens (unbaptized people who wish to join the Church) are presented to the Bishop and ask to be allowed to participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at Easter. All are invited to participate in the Mass, either in person or via the livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

3) A number of parishes would like to extend an invitation to all who are interested to join them for their Lenten Missions:

- All Saints Parish's mission will be led by Fr. Doug MacDonald and will run from February 19 – 21 at St. Mary's Church in Ladysmith.
- St. Andrew's Cathedral's mission will be led by Fr. Mark Cherry and will run from February 26 – 28.
- Holy Family Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni's mission will also be led by Fr. Mark Cherry and will run from March 1 – 3. Billeting is available for those travelling from out of town; please contact Marnie Wynans at marniewynans@hotmail.com for more information.

All three missions are free to attend, and offer both daytime and evening sessions. For the detailed schedule of each mission and further information, please visit the Diocesan Events Calendar at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events-calendar>.

4) *Faith Through Film*, hosted by Holy Family Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni, continues with screenings every Wednesday afternoon from 1-3 pm. With funding made available through the Bishop's Appeal, all screenings are free of charge, and complimentary popcorn and other snacks will also be offered. Pre-registration is encouraged but not mandatory; please phone 250-723-8912 or email hfnf@rcdvictoria.org. For a complete schedule of screenings, please visit the Diocesan Events Calendar at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events-calendar>.

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
hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Regular Mass Times

Holy Cross and St. Patrick's Parishes

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday

9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday

12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

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.