



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

## Mission Statement

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 February 18, 2018**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

## From the desk of Father William

Wherever we stand with our response to God's choice of us, Lent is the time to measure it. We are summoned to reconsider our baptismal beginnings, to rededicate ourselves to a continuing conversion. For what is conversion but our progressive acceptance of God's choice for us? Our ever increasing acceptance of that choice will make us into new men and women, into Easter people. This is the Easter hope and the Lenten possibility. The God who is mighty and faithful has done great things for us in Jesus Christ, and he will continue to do great things for us to the extent that we submit ourselves to the death- resurrection process.

So, with courage and hope, we enter into the journey from ashes to Easter, confident that we will come out of the journey as new people, because the God who makes all things new is a faithful God. Deserts can be places of beauty!

After Jesus' dramatic baptism account in Mark's gospel, Mark hurls us, ready or not, into a lonely and barren wilderness - a desert, where everything either bites or burns or stings. For many of us, the desert is probably not something that we would consider visiting for a longer time, or spend the rest of our lives in. Why go into the wilderness where life can get so miserable - where plants shrivel, every venomous snake thrives, and every blistering ray and every irritating little grain of sand is in abundance? Mark in his account wants us to know that there is something else true about deserts; something comforting that Mark wants us to hear. *Jesus has been there.* That's the Good News of Mark's opening scenes. No desert on earth is so remote, so barren, and so seemingly inhospitable to life that Jesus has not walked there first. Maybe that's why God so often uses the desert as a place for transformation. Maybe that's why Jesus emerged from the waters of baptism only to be thrust into the wilderness.

How do we reconcile our beginning of this season of Lent—what is supposed to be an austere time of introspection, repentance, penance, and forgiveness—with the bright image of the rainbow? It is most unlikely for Jesus to see a rainbow as he prays in the desert. Like Jesus, our 40 days in the Lenten desert will be filled with temptations and wild beasts bent on drawing us away from the task of reconnecting ourselves with God. God promises that God's loving presence will always be with us. God makes a covenant with us, and the rainbow is a sign of that promise. But when we go searching for rainbows we seldom find them. They seem, rather, to find us, to appear when we least expect them to. This Lent, perhaps it would be better not to spend our time in the desert scanning the horizon. We might be looking in vain for what is already present in our own hearts.

Remember the rainbow,

Father William



Fatherwilliam@shaw.ca

## 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.

**ST. PATIRCK'S GREEN DAY DINNER**

The Social & Eco Justice Committee invites all to a **St. Patrick's Day "Green" Dinner** on **Sat. March 17** (6 pm, Holy Cross Parish Hall). Come enjoy a simple, healthy, and eco-friendly meal, sing along to Irish music, and be inspired by Pope Francis's call to protect our common home. Tickets (only \$5!) will go on sale before and after the 5 pm, 8:30 am and 10:30 am masses beginning on Feb. 24. Proceeds go towards sponsoring a breakfast at Our Place.

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Fr. Karam will be hosting a bible study on Mondays from 10-11am. There are limited spots available so registration is required. For more information please feel free to email Fr. Karam at: [rev.karam@gmail.com](mailto:rev.karam@gmail.com)

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

For this year's Share Lent, Development and Peace is encouraging us to come together for peace! You will find inspiring testimonials in the mini-magazine distributed in church today. During this first week, our search for peace takes us to Cambodia to meet ICSSO, a D&P partner that works with minority indigenous communities to help them have their rights recognized by the government, defend their land against corporate interests and develop sustainable economic activities that enable them to live with dignity.

**ATTENTION BAKERS AND CHEFS!**

Do you like to bake or cook? We are looking for people who would be willing to Bake or Cook on an intermittent basis for parish events. If this sounds like something you would be interested in please contact Valentina in the office, Thank you!

**WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT**

All the women of our parish are invited to attend a Lenten retreat for women by facilitator Mona Goodman. *Our Paschal Reflections: Life's Ebb & Flow* will be on **Saturday, March 24th** at Holy Cross Parish Centre from 9:00 to 4pm. This is meant to be a day away to Be with God, so dress comfortably and be scent-free. Participants can bring their own mugs, bagged lunch, pencil/pen, journal/notebook, and hand towel. Registration is required, sign up sheets are at the back of the church.

**SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS**

**Joint wellness:** Mondays and Thursdays at 10am  
**Wednesday Afternoon Social Group:** Wednesdays at 1pm.  
**Men's Duplicate Bridge**—Wednesday 7pm.  
**Social Bridge**—First Sunday of every month.  
**HC Walking Group**—Every Saturday morning at 10am for one hour.

**AT THE LIBRARY**

**(in the Parish Centre –Tue- Fri: 9am-2:00pm)**

*Some Lenten Readings from our Suggestion Shelf*  
 -Bread and Wine: Reflections for Lent and Easter  
 -Revelation of Love by Julian of Norwich  
 -The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A Kempis  
 -Where Earth Meets Heaven by Ken Rolheiser

### PRAYER REFLECTION

When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that 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. —Saint Peter Chrysologus (406-450)

Baptism is related not only to momentary experience, but to lifelong growth into Christ. The life of the Christian is necessarily one of continuing struggle yet also of continuing experience of grace. In this new relationship, the baptized live for the sake of Christ, of his church, and of the world which he loves. . . . As they grow in the Christian life of faith, baptized believers demonstrate that humanity can be regenerated and liberated.

—Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document  
from the World Council of Churches

### AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **ST. ANDREW'S LENTEN MISSION: Monday-Wednesday February 26-28.** Deacon Paul Murphy, from the BC Okanagan will preach a Mission on the God's Unconditional Love and Mercy through Reconciliation and Forgiveness. Morning Talks (10:30 am) at the Cathedral followed by 12:10 pm Mass and evening talks (7 pm) at Our Lady of the Rosary parish. Evening Talk preceded by Mass or devotion at 6:30 pm.
- **PASTORAL CARE SESSIONS: Saturday, February 24 – Session 1: The Healing Ministry of Christ.** Fr. William Hann is the morning presenter. **Saturday, March 10 – Session 2: Listening & Communication and Mental Health.** Sessions 1 & 2 will be held at St. Patrick's Parish. **Bring a bag lunch. To register: call at the parish office at 250-592-7391 or [stpat190@telus.net](mailto:stpat190@telus.net)**

### MUSTARD SEED WALK

*Join Father William as he walk's with the Mustard Seed!* The Mustard Seed Street Church is participating in Canada's National Walk-a-thon, the 2018 Coldest Night of the Year to raise \$30,000 to continue serving the hurting, hungry and homeless throughout greater Victoria!

The WALK will be held on **Saturday, February 24th** (Registration at 4 pm) and provides great opportunity for your congregation to:

- Walk 2km, 5km or 10km
- Fundraise for The Mustard Seed
- Raise awareness for what it's like for those battling the cold this winter season! Registration is simple; join the Mustard Seed team or start a team of your own! This is a great family-friendly event—with a LIVE blues band, hot beverages and community meal served to participants following the walk! Join us at 625 Queens Avenue and help raise funds! We believe that no one has to choose between heating and eating this winter season.

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

#### SUNDAY, February 18th

8:30 am Mass: **Diane Colford (int.)**  
10:30 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**  
4:00 pm Mass

#### MONDAY, February 19th

9:00am Mass: **Patricia McCarthy +**  
9:30 am **Stations of the Cross**  
10:00am Bible Study (parish hall)

#### TUESDAY, February 20th

9:00am Mass: **Patricia McCarthy +**

#### WEDNESDAY, February 21st

9:00am Mass: **Carmen Rose +**

#### THURSDAY, February 22nd

9:00 am Mass: **Mercy & Nicholas +**  
6:30 am Rosary Group

#### FRIDAY, February 23rd

9:00 am Mass: **Patricia McCarthy +**

#### SATURDAY, February 24th

3:45—4:30 Reconciliation  
5:00 pm Mass: **Bernice Sheehan +**

#### SUNDAY, February 25th

8:30 am Mass: **Geno Secco +**  
10:30 am Mass: **Sr. Philomena Sinnott +**  
4:00 pm Mass

## **THANK YOU CORNER!**

Thank you to Brendan and Trudy Holden, Marian Duke and Ann Francis for the beautiful and fitting Lenten desert display in front of the altar. May we enter the desert with prayer, fasting and alms.

### IMPORTANT DATES

The **Lenten penitential service** will be held at Holy Cross on Thursday, March 8th at 7pm.

**Stations of the Cross** will be at 9:30am on Monday February 19, Friday March 2, Monday March 5, and Friday March 16.

## **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**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>COORDINATOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
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 February 4, 2018**

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

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$ 2,710.00
<b>Loose</b>	\$ 507.12
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	\$ 1,107.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,324.12</b>
<b>SVPD</b>	\$1,103.00

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	250-385-7007
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	250-385-7007
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