



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to Lent There is a reason for this season, too, and it is not to make Catholics feel bad for 40 days. The focus of this season is not the size of our sacrifice in fasting, prayer, and alms, nor frankly is it the agony of Jesus' own ordeal in the final week. A clue to the reason for our observance of this season can be found in the overlooked second reading from 1 Peter. Lent is the time when we remember God's benevolent patience. Jesus invites us to an exciting journey. "The kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe the Good News." We are invited to change to go into the desert of our lives and ask some very important questions. Questions like, am I living a life worthy of my calling? Am I an ambassador for Christ? Do I love like I should love? Well, if you find yourself stuck, at a dead-end street and wondering where to go may I suggest you take a chance on God? Jesus was driven into the desert to seek, clarify and gain focus. Lent is our time to seek, clarify and as Jean Allen writes... *the place for us to recognize and be able to let go of everything that we have mistaken for the face of God.* It is our opportunity to leave behind the things, behaviors and habits that hold us captive. It is now or never!!

The Lenten period is a time in which we allow ourselves to be hit again, as it were, with God's choice of us. How far have we allowed God's choice of us to take hold of us? Are we indeed responsive Covenant partners? Or do we allow God's choice of us to be frustrated or compromised, not intentionally, of course, but because our response weakens or peters out? 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. Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They are going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive their First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it is a journey of the heart. For all, it is what they have seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let us help keep the inspiration going! Henri Nouwen writes... *every time I make a little leap, I catch a glimpse of the One who runs out to me and invites me into his joy, the joy in which I can find not only myself, but also my brothers and sisters.*

Repent and take a leap of faith this lent.

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 or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit 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 4pm Saturday, February 17, 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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island is seeking a Treasurer to join their Board.

"Jesus spoke with authority and his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee." As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into action. If you are a CPA and are ready to answer the call, please send your expression of interest to Brian Mann, Board Chair at brian.mann7@gmail.com

SHARE LENT

This year, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada's **Create Hope: Reaping our Rights** campaign calls us to stand with small-scale farmer and peasant communities who feed the world while caring for the Earth. Read about our partners and projects in Nigeria, Indonesia and Bolivia in the Mini-magazine available at the entrances to the church and online at: devp.org/lent/resources



- Thank you, Barb McKrow

Development and Peace

On February 27 at 2 pm, all are invited to Holy Cross Parish in Victoria (4049 Gordon Head Rd) to meet Karno Bati-ran, Executive Director of PAYOPAYO in Indonesia. *Development and Peace – Caritas Canada* is hosting Karno as a Lenten solidarity visitor as part of the Share Lent 2024 campaign. Karno and his team are enabling the next generation of farmers by training young villagers in Indonesia who want to work the land in healthy, sustainable ways.

Lenten Missions

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

- Sacred Heart 's Mission on Forgiveness and Reconciliation will be held by Reverend David Reilander March 23-27. Please see the link for more details. <http://sacredheartvictoria.com/assets/media/home/Lenten%20Retreat%20SH%2023%20to%2027%20Mar%202024%20v2.jpg>
- St. Andrew's Cathedral's mission will be led by Fr. Mark Cherry and will run from February 26 – 28.

Both 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>.

Also, please join us at Holy Cross at 9am on Monday's during Lent for Liturgy of the Word with Communion.. This is a special service to mark our Lenten Journey as a Parish. Liturgies will be led by several of our Laypeople

Prayer Reflection

One of the main challenges of the **papacy** is to judge all tasks in the light of the gospel to avoid transforming ecclesiastical jurisdiction into political power.

—*Father Jean-Marie Tillard, O.P.*

We cannot dispute that the **papacy** itself, purely as a human institution, is unique.

—*Paul Johnson in The Papacy*

This is the reason for our hope: that God never tires of waiting for us. When we turn away, he comes looking for us; when we fall, he lifts us to our feet; when we return to him after losing our way, he waits for us with open arms.

—*Pope Francis*

Word of the Week:

Papacy

The office of the bishop of Rome, familiarly known as the pope; the term of a pope's reign; a succession of popes; the church's system of government with the pope as first among equals with authority over all other bishops. Since the first century, the bishop of the local church in Rome has been understood to possess the "Chair of Peter," which endows great authority and carries the role of special keeper of the church's mission. The power of the papacy stems from Jesus' choice to set Peter in authority over the rest: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18). Papal primacy and the role of the pope as Vicar of Christ and pastor of the whole Church, with "full, supreme and universal power over the Church" was confirmed at numerous ecumenical councils, including Vatican II (*Lumen gentium*, 22). The feast of the Chair of Peter (Feb. 22nd) honors the unity of the worldwide church and its teaching authority. This authority has given popes the ability to speak out for human rights and against injustice, which they have done with increasing frequency in the past century. Dip into the social teachings of recent Popes and be amazed by their thinking on labor, preferential option for the poor, human dignity, economic justice, and care of creation.

Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service

Please note that our Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish on Wednesday March 20th at 7pm.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held following our Tuesday Morning 9am Mass.



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, February 17, 2024

4PM Mass: Joseph Shreve +

SUNDAY, February 18, 2024

9AM Mass: Pro Populo

MONDAY, February 19, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

TUESDAY, February 20, 2024

9AM Mass: Aaron Hibbard +

WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 22, 2024

9AM Mass: Mary and Herb Wall ++

FRIDAY, February 23, 2024

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week Tuesday 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

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 11, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$6,680.00
Loose	\$ 495.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 5.00
Social Eco. Justice	\$ 195.00
Benefactor Donation	\$ 850.00

TOTAL \$8,215.00



Thank you!

To Marion Duke for creating our beautiful, contemplative desert scene in front of the altar. You're a gem!!

News from the Chancery

Feb. 18, 2024

- 1) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched its 2024 *Journey Through Lent* video series. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, and for each Sunday in Lent, a video will be shared the CCCB website featuring pastoral reflections based on the Readings for the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. This series is meant to offer spiritual inspiration and guidance on how to prepare well for the Easter season. To view the videos, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>.
- 2) On February 21 at 4 pm PT, the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute will host an online presentation on "Reclaiming Redemptive Suffering: A Spiritual Approach to the Meaning of Suffering". Many of us have lost any sense of 'meaning' in suffering. Some want to avoid it at all costs, even choosing early death. Our Catholic faith talks about 'redemptive' suffering, but what does that mean? Presenter Erin Kinsella will discuss this through the lens of her experience of chronic illness and developing spirituality of suffering. For more information and to register, please email bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca.
- 3) Would you like to be part of an ecologically conscious crew dedicated to restoring the properties of St. Andrew's High School, the Pastoral Centre, and Sacred Heart Parish? Every Saturday morning starting on March 2, all are invited to come and help remove English Ivy, Scotch Broom, and Himalayan Blackberry and plant native plants. The work party will meet in the Sacred Heart parking lot (4040 Nelthorpe Street) and run from 10 am – 12 pm, rain or shine. Pruners and shovels are provided; please bring your own gloves, safety glasses, and water. For more information and to sign up, please email jseale1234@gmail.com
- 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 hfd@rcdvictoria.org. For a complete schedule of screenings, please visit the Diocesan Events Calendar at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events-calendar>.

Hearing Loop System Holy Cross Parish is equipped with a hearing loop system. If you wear hearing aids, switch your hearing aid to T-Coil and you will be connected to the hearing loop system. See: www.advancedlistening.ca

Social Bridge Night! Is held the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Tony Southwell to register. 250-477-5738 or Email: tony_southwell@hotmail.com

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

hcsbpapismalprep@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.