



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 26th, 2023
The First Sunday of Lent

Today, February 26th, is the First Sunday of Lent. The reading of Genesis describes the beautiful and bountiful garden in Eden and that Eve and Adam did not resist the temptation to eat fruit from the forbidden tree. It is the well-known story that reveals how in ancient times our Jewish brothers and sisters tried to understand the selfish ways of people. Paul's letter to the Romans, in the second reading, emphasizes that every man and woman sins. *So death spread to all people, because all have sinned.* In our day and age, this has not changed. Every one of us struggles with temptation and sin. One of the first things Pope Francis said after he was elected Pope was, "I am a sinner." This is the human condition; we are tempted, and we sin. Wouldn't it be better if there were no temptations?

One of the crucial features of creation is that God gave humanity free will. Without free will, we would not be able to care, to experience compassion, to cry with our suffering brothers and sisters. Without free will, we would not be able to choose love, to choose to do the right thing, to choose God. Yes, we mess up continuously. But in those moments of grace when we freely choose to love, we grow closer to God, and we bond more deeply to our brothers and sisters. Because of humanity's struggles with sin and temptation, God had mercy on us and sent us Jesus, *so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.* Paul assured us that though we were sinners, we were loved and forgiven.

If Jesus makes us righteous why does the Gospel of Matthew describe the devil tempting Jesus three times. Obviously, the devil is not all that clever. This is Jesus! He will reject any temptation. What is going on here?

The Gospel reminds us of God's incredible choice to become incarnate. He chose to be with us in the most intimate way. He became human. And as the devil placed temptations in front of Jesus, Jesus chose God. Jesus had an answer for each of the temptations. He was clear and definite in his responses. And in choosing God, Jesus chose us. Jesus chose to love us, to forgive us and ultimately to die for us, that we might know how to live and how much we are loved. It is easy to miss the first line of the Gospel. *Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* Matthew tells us clearly, as a human, Jesus was tempted! And Jesus chose God, Jesus chose love. And that - is our mission. We are going to stumble, but we were created to choose love. We were created to choose life, and every time we do, we deepen our connection to the divine.

Tanya Taft



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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.

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LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

St. Joseph the Worker Council would like to invite you to a three evening **Lenten Workshop on Centering Prayer**. The dates are Wednesday March 1st, 8th and 15th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in St. Joseph the Worker church hall. **John of the Cross taught that interior silence is the place where the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds.**

Centering Prayer can help us slow down and recognize God in our lives and hopefully strengthen our relationship with Him. Please reply to this opportunity (kofc13356@gmail.com) and let us know if you are interested in getting more information or wish to sign up.

Did you know – Development and Peace-Caritas Canada responds immediately to disasters with humanitarian aid sent through our Caritas partners. By Feb. 14 we had collected \$162,116 and the Catholic Bishops of Canada have sent out an urgent appeal to help the victims in **Turkey and Syria** of the devastating earthquake Feb. 6.

Thank you from Fr. William

I want to thank the appeal teams and parishioners of both Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's. We met our appeal target in both communities in what was a challenging time for many. As your pastor I am grateful for your support as we continue to support the vulnerable at home and abroad.

REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL AT EASTER

The Arts and Environment Ministry Team welcome your donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one or a special occasion, please pick up a marked envelope in the foyer. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside, please drop it into the collection basket or drop it by the office. Thank you for your help in making this a beautiful celebration.



Memories

Early in 1985 Pope John Paul II conferred the Papal Medal "Ecclesia et Pontifice" on Father. The Award is "For the Church" in recognition of service to the Church Universal.

Father Jackson was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese in 1968 and served as Vicar General from 1975 until January 1985. He was appointed Pastor Emeritus of Holy Cross at that time followed by retirement in September when he was recognized as Founding Pastor Emeritus.

Enter the arrival of Fr. Leo Robert as Pastor of Holy Cross. The period which followed is the start of the "PRESENT" portion of our history. The ensuing bond between these two men was the basis of mutual trust and support. Fr. Leo was very kind to Fr. Joe and relied on him for wise counsel in the years that followed.



We welcome **Mary-Anne Tinney as the new Coordinator of the Outreach Ministry** – thank you Mary-Anne for taking on the leadership of this important ministry.

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

St. Andrew's Grad 2023 Bottle Drive ~ GRATITUDE!

Our hearts are warmed with the support given by the Island Catholic community to our St. Andrew's Graduation Class of 2023. From the families who pre-booked trucks to pick up bottles/cans, to the constant flow of vehicles dropping off their empties, to the wonderful Grad 2023 students and parents who volunteered their time on a VERY rainy Saturday, we are eternally grateful and humbled. Collectively we raised over \$850! Thank you!

Prayer Reflection

Adam was but human—this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple’s sake, he wanted it only because it was forbidden.

—Mark Twain

I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

First Sunday of Lent - February 26, 2023

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcdvictoria.org

Extra Lenten Prayer

Are you interested in extra prayer time through lent? Please join us in the Mercy chapel after the morning masses for 10 minutes of intercessory prayers.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church on Fridays at 9am during Lent. An invitation is extended to all to attend, and for the following groups to lead throughout the Season of Lent: March 3rd—Lectors; March 10th—Ushers; March 17th—Refugee Committee; March 24th—Development and Peace; March 31st—office staff. Stations of the Cross resources will be available on Fridays in the Church for both leaders and attendees.

God’s love for us is Boundless

Holy Cross/St. Patrick’s Parish Lenten Mission

Mona Goodman facilitating

Monday, March 13 @ 7:00 pm Holy Cross Parish

Turn from Sin

Tuesday, March 14 @ 7:00 pm St. Patrick’s Parish

Surrender to Love

Wednesday, March 15 @ 7:00 pm Holy Cross Parish

followed by Penitential Service

Be the Light of Salvation

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, February 25th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Joseph Szikora+

SUNDAY, February 26th

9am Mass: Carmen Rose+

MONDAY, February 27th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 28th

9am Mass: Thomas Neary+

WEDNESDAY, March 1st

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 2nd

9am Mass: Maura Lee+

Pilgrimage Int. Harriet Qualley

7pm: Vigil - Mary Catherine Doyle

FRIDAY, March 3rd

9am: Stations of the Cross

1pm: Funeral Mass

Mary Catherine Doyle

The Church will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon

Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - will be held immediately after the Stations of the Cross on Mar. 3

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.



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

COLLECTION for Feb. 19th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,481.00
Loose	\$ 390.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,345.00
TOTAL	\$4,216.00

A Note from your Catholic Students' Association

The academic year is wrapping up and things on campus are winding down over the next few weeks, but the light of God in students' lives need not be dimmed with the end of the final semester. There are still a few things to put on the calendar:

Final Bored? Games Night at Multifaith, 6:30-8:30pm. Date: March 2nd. Shared snacks are always provided, bring a friend(s) for some fun and laughter.

Ladies and men's prayer evening, 'The Way of the Heart', a Lenten reflection. Friday March 3 at Leos' residence, 6:30 – 9 pm. Final prayer evening is on March 28th. Please email: dra.paolaleos@gmail.com.

Kairos Blanket Exercise, March 11th at Multifaith. Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/501407973747>. Limited seating is available.

On March 12th, our final Sandwich Patrol (feeding the homeless initiative) will take place with a small group of students. Contact Lydia for further details.

Final Movie Night at Multifaith, 6:30-9pm. Based on the true story about Desmond Doss, who served as an unarmed medic during the brutal battle of Okinawa in World War II.

Our next mass and meal are at Holy Cross, March 18th, mass is celebrated at 4pm, dinner at 5pm. All are welcome for a lovely lasagna spread and entertainment.

Salt Spring Retreat with Father Scott Whittemore on March 25-26 is fully booked!

Final student campus confessions and mass will be held on March 28th at 11:30 am at Multifaith. *Everyone is welcome. Fellowship with snacks follow each mass.*

In collaboration with CCO and CSA our final banquet will take place at Holy Cross on April 1 – further details TBA

Please continue to follow us on csa_vic for updates and current postings.

CSA wishes you a most sacred, 'wilderness journey into the depths of our hearts', this Lenten Season.

News from the Diocese - please go to the Diocesan webpage to get the latest news: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news>

Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Tony Southwell at (250) 477-5738 to register.

Mass Times: Holy Cross Parish - Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9am, Weekday Mass Tuesday and Thursday, 9am. St. Patrick's Parish - Sunday 11am and 4pm. Weekday Mass Wednesday and Friday at 12:10pm.

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: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

spchsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

The **Social Concerns Office (SCO)** at [833 View Street](https://www.rcdvictoria.org) in Victoria will be starting their **Income Tax Program** in March, and are in need of volunteers.

This will require 6 volunteers a day, Monday to Friday from 8:45 am to 12:00 noon, for the months of March, April and May. These are the volunteer roles: **Greeter, Tax Screener, Tax Filer** Contact Helen Ong Office: 250.727.0007, ext. 3222 Email: hong@svdpvictoria.com

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil will be held February 22 to April 2nd. Visit [40daysforlife.com/Victoria, BC](http://40daysforlife.com/Victoria_BC) for more information.

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.