



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 5th, 2023

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February is a month of transition. Light lengthens our days and brings warmth to the air. The earth begins to waken from its winter slumber and new life reaches out from the soil. Ordinary Time starts its shift into Lent. Today's readings call us to live God's justice, to proclaim God's glory, and to let God's light transform our hearts. Let us wake from our sleep and let our Christ light shine in greater and broader ways!

The first reading is a good precursor to understanding our Lenten fast. Isaiah calls for a fast from affluence, indifference, and privilege. God defines fasting by caring for one another, being just, nonjudgmental, merciful, affording food, shelter, and clothing to those in need. We are called to exercise works of justice and charity, to be compassionate at home and in the world through loving thoughts, words, and deeds. Fasting isn't about earning God's approval or losing weight by giving up chocolate; rather, it's about being spiritually renewed, letting go of our control, trusting in God, and surrendering to God's will.

Are we contributing to the heavy yoke of sin and oppression? Are we rigid in following the 'letter' of the law rather than the 'spirit' of the law? Are we stingy with our love and mercy? Do we spew gossip, slander, and hatred? We need to take the time to examine our conscience and see where we stand. God is here for us and offers us the light of salvation. How do we respond?

St. Paul comes before the people of Corinth as a witness, a servant to the gospel, relying fully on God's strength. He's made the transition. It isn't about us, our self-reliance, rhetoric or wisdom, it's about God, the mystery of God, and the power of God. The Spirit breathes through Paul, and God's word and presence pours forth. He is God's ambassador. This same Spirit breathes in us, gives us the right words, enables us to live more deeply God's justice and mercy, and fills us with courage to proclaim God's glory. Ask, pray, be open to receive, and surrender.

Jesus tells us that 'we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.' Both images propel us into the world in a prominent, distinctive, and intentional way. In Jesus' day, salt was a valued commodity. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid with salt, giving rise to the saying "worth his salt." Salt was also used for preserving and giving flavor to food. As followers of Christ, we are precious and valued by God, sent to *preserve* the gospel values and give *flavor* to life. Others can see the difference and are attracted to the faith filled joy within.

When we are traveling down the highway late at night, the brightness of the city lights draw us safely in. As people of God, we are called to live in the world as God's light by boldly shining our light and reflecting the beauty and goodness of God. People are drawn to us, to our steadfast, God-graced demeanor, like moths to the light.

We know that Jesus is the light of the world, yet here Jesus is saying '**we** are the light of the world!' What a great pronouncement AND a great responsibility. God's word is truth; God trusts us with this responsibility; God supports us; God waits for our response. Let the Son of God transform our hearts, so together, our light can dispel the darkness and bring warmth and new life to the world!

God's abundance, Mona

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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Catholic Schools' Week – Jan 29-Feb 4, 2023

Today marks the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week (CSW). The theme this year is Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation. Each and every year, Catholic schools join together to share a message about the importance and value of Catholic education to the Church and society as a whole. For those that are not aware, there are five Catholic Schools in the Diocese (4 elementary and 1 high school) educating approximately 1400 students in the communities of Port Alberni, Duncan and Victoria. On behalf of all the Catholic schools in the diocese, thank you for your ongoing support whether that be through prayer, time, talent or treasure. This week also marks the beginning of registration time for the 2023-24 school year. Please consider registering your child in a Catholic school. Catholic Education is a valuable ministry in the Church and diocese so we ask that you please continue to pray for their success.



Seeking Truth,
Healing, and
Reconciliation

An Open House will be held at **St. Patrick's School** on Thursday, February 9th from 10am - 2pm & 5pm - 7pm. Registration is required. Please call 250-592-6713 for details.

Holy Cross 40th Anniversary Celebration

The response to our Holy Cross 40th Celebration dinner has been overwhelming, to say the least. Interest and enthusiasm abound!

We can now take the names of those that would like to attend the dinner, those that have not yet been contacted.

If you would like to come to the dinner please phone the office next week, to let us know, 250-477-5321. Names will be taken Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week (February 6th – 8th) between the hours of 9:00am and noon only.

If the number is more than we can accommodate in the Church we will try to be as fair as possible.

Memories

Youth Ministry (ages 13 and older) was one of the first ministries in the early days of Gordon Head Mission. It all started in 1980 when a group of teens gathered in the basement of Father Jackson's old house on Edgelow St. The group of young people were brought together by Jackie MacIntyre and Pat Protti who continued as leaders for many years to come. "Youth Group" quickly became a very active group in our parish and was always very well-supported by the parishioners.

The youth enjoyed meetings with topics of concern for teens, were involved in fund-raising for our new church, liturgical plays at Christmas and Easter and volunteer work at the Queen Alexander Hospital. They gathered often with their families for camping weekends. These were fun-filled years for our parish!



Coldest Night of the Year Walk. Fr. William and Nancy Stuart have started a Holy Cross/St. Patrick's - walking together Team for this year's walk on Feb. 25. Please consider either walking with us or donating to this worthy cause. Click here to join or donate <http://walk.w-ith.us/twinparishes> Proceeds go to Our Place and your support will help the homeless and hungry in our community.

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.

Prayer Reflection

The one who does a pure and whole work from God merits a whole kingdom.

—John of the Cross

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

—Psalm 119

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 5, 2023

“You are the light of the world.” Are you willing to let your light shine as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, 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

Collection Envelopes for 2023

It has been brought to our attention that some of the boxes of collection envelopes contain envelopes with different numbers at the front than are contained in the rest of the box. PLEASE be sure and put your name on the envelopes as you use them and as we work out a solution to this problem.



God's love for us is Boundless

Holy Cross/St. Patrick's Parish Lenten Mission

Mona Goodman facilitating

Coming March 13th - 15th

Keep the dates! More information to follow.

Six-week Adult Faith Formation Program

Beginning Tuesday, February 21st, from 7 – 9pm, Sacred Heart Parish will be offering a six-week program entitled: "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk-Through Christ's Passion." This program can be attended either in-person or by zoom. Participants will need to purchase a workbook for \$20. These can be obtained from Sacred Heart Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday during office hours, or on the first night of the course. Cash or cheque is accepted. Please note: cheques are to be made payable to "Sacred Heart Parish". For more information, or to register, please email Catherine Minvielle at cmaminvielle@gmail.com.

The Catholic Women's League Bursary in Memory of Freda Smith

The CWL is now accepting applications for this \$750 bursary. It is awarded to a graduating Catholic student within the Diocese of Victoria who is pursuing higher education. More information and the application form can be found in the foyer of the Church.

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, February 4th**

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Paul MacKian+

SUNDAY, February 5th

9am Mass: Claire Arduini+
Elmo Beruño+

MONDAY, February 6th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 7th

9am Mass: Jess Narciso+

WEDNESDAY, February 8th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 9th

9am Mass: Colista Leone+

FRIDAY, February 10th

NO MASS

The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon

Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - 9am First Friday of the Month

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.

COLLECTION for Jan 30th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS	
Envelopes	\$ 2,090.00
Loose	\$ 310.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,345.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,745.00

Thank you Corner

Thanks to all those that are working so hard on the preparations for the 40th Anniversary Celebration! There is a lot to be done and we are making good progress! Thanks also to those that have submitted memories of the early years!

News from the Diocese

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an annual observation started by Pope John Paul II in 1993. The World Day of the Sick is an occasion to pray for individuals who are suffering, and to find concrete ways to draw nearer to them. Pope Francis' message for this 31st World Day of the Sick is entitled "'Take care of him' – Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing". In light of the Church's synodal journey, Pope Francis invites "all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness." To read Pope Francis' message, please visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20230110-giornata-malato.html>

Young men aged 18-40 who are in a period of discerning their vocation are invited to come and experience Franciscan life at St. Francis Friary in Edmonton, AB from February 23-26. The experience will include Masses, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, Lectio Divina, personal prayer time, walks in the river valley, visits to Newman Theological College, inner city experiences, and interaction with the Franciscans. There is no cost for this experience and all meals are included. For more information or to register, please email Fr. Dan Gurnick OFM at friardan47@gmail.com. A poster is also attached which may be used to promote this experience.

The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences has recently released "Mensuram Bonam: Faith-Based Measures for Catholic Investors: A Starting Point and Call to Action." This document is intended to assist Catholic individuals and institutions in the management of financial assets or investing through measures consistent with the Catholic faith and Catholic social teachings. To read the document, please visit <https://www.pass.va/en/publications/other-publications/>

Anti-Sex Trafficking Workshop - DATE CHANGED

The fastest growing crime in Canada is sex trafficking! The most important first step anyone can take towards helping combat normalizing the horrors of sex trafficking is to know the facts! Sex trafficking can happen to anyone – children, youth, and young adults. Keeping our children/youth safe from sex trafficking begins with Awareness, Education and Action. End Demand, End Exploitation, Defend Dignity. Sex trafficking is modern slavery and is quickly being normalized! Respect Life Ministry and St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish Council will be offering an anti-sex trafficking workshop on **Saturday, March 4th** from 10:30 am – 3:30 pm in the Seghers' Hall at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. Doors open at 10:00 am.

Please contact ST. Andrew's parish office to register. standrewscathedral@gmail.com or 250-388-5571. Please contact Annette Turgeon at tcrmil@telus.net if you have any questions. Working Towards Freedom, For Christ Has Set Us Free.

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

sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

2023 Envelopes are now being held in the office for pickup if you have not yet done so.

Interested in becoming part of the Knights of Columbus? We are seeking Catholic men age 18 to join our Saint Patrick's chapter. The Knights of Columbus is a family orientated organization, striving to unite, and strengthen family bonds through faith, fun and community service. For more information contact Mike O'Neill at mikepmoinvest@gmail.com

Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10 pm in the Parish Hall.

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.