



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY January 13, 2019

Baptism of the Lord

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

We celebrate the Baptism of Jesus on the first Sunday following the Epiphany and all of the readings today reflect Jesus' Baptism. The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist is a theological event, which modern theologians also view as an historical event based on certain facts in the life of the adult Jesus. He is 30 years old and with His life intertwined with that of John the Baptist, he is baptized by John in the Jordan River. We wonder why, Jesus, who is without sin, is being baptized. Baptism, a ritual of the times, was an act of repentance. Jesus, born in the likeness of man, known as the son of Mary, went into the waters of baptism representing the closing of his private life and the beginning, and acceptance by Jesus, of His public ministry of redemption.

We are celebrating a New Year, a new beginning, and this enormously significant mystery of John baptizing and affirming Jesus as the Messiah of the whole world is exciting. Through many readings, commentaries and discussions with the Gospel Gals, I am humbled by the depth of thought on this wonderful gospel. I would like to show some of the parallels between Jesus' baptism and our very own baptism. Our Baptism reflects Christ's baptism. Firstly, at Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and at our baptism the Holy Trinity entered our soul. Secondly, at Christ's Baptism He was proclaimed, 'Beloved Son of God' and at our baptism we became adopted sons/daughters of God. Thirdly, at Christ's baptism the heavens were opened, and at our baptism heaven was opened to us. Fourthly, at His baptism Jesus prayed, and at our baptism we are prayed for that we might avoid actual sin. Thus, both baptisms have the presence of cleansing water, God proclaiming His unending love for all His children, the presence of the Holy Trinity and the faith filled community gathering to bear witness.

With His baptism, Jesus was revealed as the Son of God, in the likeness of man in all things except sin. The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus not just for teaching, but for redeeming. Jesus connected with man and identified with human experiences. Baptism was the start of the public spiritual journey for Jesus and our baptism began our spiritual journey.

The purpose of the gospel is Truth ... and the voice of God came from heaven saying, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'. Central to this gospel message is what we all need to know. Asking ourselves the question, "Who am I?" reveals exactly what we need to know. We need to know ... **we are a beloved child of God for all eternity**. We need to know ... we are inherently good. We need to know ... we are inherently important.

God our Saviour, according to his mercy, through water and rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit, has poured on us richly, through Jesus Christ, many graces on our journey to eternal life. The Baptism of Jesus displayed a beautiful picture of the Triune God amongst the earliest followers of Jesus and it does for us today.

God Bless you on this blessed spiritual journey.

Marian Duke

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

Fr. Karam Alraban, Parish Administrator

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: Please note that Fr. Ian Stuart, Hospital Chaplain, is currently on medical leave from his responsibilities. At the moment, eight different pastors in Victoria, in addition to their regular duties, will carry the hospital phone for **emergency calls only** (250-889-3761) on a weekly rotation basis.

JOIN FR. KARAM

There will be a local ecumenical prayer service for the week of Christian Unity is at **2pm on Sunday, January 20th at Grace Lutheran Church on 1273 Fort Street**. Please come and join our brothers and sisters. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ECUMENICAL SERVICE 2019

Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 1:30pm St. Peter's Parish, 301 Machleary Street, Nanaimo

Bishop Gary Gordon will join with the leaders of other Christian faiths to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We invite Christians from all denominations to attend the service and reception that will follow in the parish hall.

This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was founded by the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity (the Holy See) and the World Council of Churches. As Christians from separated communities, we gather to pray for unity.

This year, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity chosen by the churches in Indonesia is "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue." This theme is imperative due to the recurring situations that bring divisions and conflicts.

As we pray together, we are reminded that our calling as members of the body of Christ is to pursue and embody justice. Our unity in Christ empowers us to take part in the wider struggle for justice, and to promote the dignity of life.

WHY LITURGY MATTERS

This Liturgical Workshop is designed to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharistic Liturgy. If you serve in a liturgical ministry or simply want to understand the Mass more deeply, this workshop is for you!! Join us on **Saturday, February 23rd Catholic 8:30am - 2 pm Church of the Ascension, Parksville**. Please register on the diocesan website www.rcdvictoria.org

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Calling all Holy Cross Walkers! Here's our opportunity to help our Brothers and Sisters by walking and fundraising for **Mustard Seed** once again this year. The walk will take place on the evening of **February 23rd**. You can register under our Holy Cross Team, led by Fr. William, by following this link: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/FundraisingPage.aspx?registrationID=4337785&langPref=en-CA>. Please note that Victoria has two teams walking, Our Place and the Mustard Seed. Holy Cross team is supporting the **Mustard Seed on Queens**. Please call the parish office if you have any questions 250-477-5321.

OUTREACH

If you know someone who is homebound and would like a regular visit and communion from our outreach committee please contact the office with the information.

Please note that Fr. Karam has a change of email address. His new email address, effective immediately is: kalraban@rcdvictoria.org

PRAYER REFLECTION

When Israel crossed the Red Sea, the angels were about to break forth in song, but the Holy One rebuked them, "My children are drowning, and you would sing?"
—*The Talmud*

People of every nation, come and receive the immortality given in Baptism. . . . Do you wish to know how to do this? By water and the Holy Spirit. This is to say, by the water through which we are born again and given life, and by the Spirit who is the Comforter sent for your sake to make you a child of God.
—*Third-century homily*

Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.
—*Rabindranath Tagore*

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **JOB POSTING:** Diocese of Victoria/Island Catholic Schools Job Posting: Senior Accountant – See the bulletin board and Diocesan website for a full description <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Deadline for applications is February 5, 2019.
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP:** Are you a young adult looking for fellowship? We invite you to join the Young Adult Group at St. Andrew's Cathedral! We meet Sundays from 6-9pm in Seghers Hall, in the basement of the Cathedral. We start with a potluck meal, followed by a practical presentation focusing on various aspects of our faith and conclude with prayer together in the Church. For further information contact Anastasia Pearse and Natalia Zapotoczny at yagvictoria@gmail.com
- **WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** We are having a Non-Residential **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend March 30-31 at St Joseph's School, Victoria, BC.** **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together whether they have been married a short time or many years. Married couples learn how to rekindle the passion in their relationship and how to keep their love growing year after year. The communication skills learned on this weekend of discovery can enrich your marriage in ways you never thought possible. **Register online at www.rcdvictoria.org For questions: wwmevancouverbc@gmail.com or Sharon & Glen 778 386 2908**
- **CREDIBLE CHRISTIAN: Countering the New Atheism "Out there and Within"** Did you know that the percentage of those claiming 'none' as their religion has grown from 5% in 1970 to 24% in 2015? Join us for a Wednesday evening series to explore and learn how to intellectually counter some of the cultural myths that are negatively influencing religious belief in our culture. All courses will be held at the Pastoral Centre at 4044 Nelthorpe Street, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Please register on the diocesan website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, January 13th

8:30 am Mass: **Brian Wall +**
10:30 am Mass: **Terry Davis +**
4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, January 14th

No Mass

TUESDAY, January 15th

9:00 am Mass: **Gregory Morrison +**

WEDNESDAY, January 16th

9:00 am Mass: **Mary Goodacre +**

THURSDAY, January 17th

9:00 am Mass: **Dan Taft +**

FRIDAY, January 18th

9:00 am Mass: **Settimio Colistro +**

SATURDAY, January 19th

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass: **Noel Kahahoa +**

SUNDAY, January 20th

8:30 am Mass: **Walter Slugoski +**
10:30 am Mass: **Francisco Hilario +**
4:00 pm Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

Anawim companions society would like to say thank you for your generous donations of goods and financial support. We were able to offer special gifts and meals to all those that came to the house over the Christmas season. Those that come to Anawim are looking for love and acceptance and a sense of belonging to a "family focused" community. Your generous act of charity at this time has given God's precious poor this feeling and also hope as they make life changes.

SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

Joint Wellness—Monday and Thursday 10am

Wednesday Social group—Starts up again January 9th at 1pm.

Duplicate Bridge—Wednesday 7pm.

Social Bridge—First Sunday of every month.

CONTACTS

Administrator: Fr. Karam Alraban

250-477-5321 kalraban@rcdvictoria.org

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Ian Stuart

250-889-3761

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

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Liturgical Ministries:		
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Music	Various Choirs	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	John Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson	250-477-6455
	Janita McHugh	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.	Anna Mendonca	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



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

COLLECTION January 6, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 5,726.00
Loose	\$ 557.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,095.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,378.00

New Year's Day January 1st \$1,202.00

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar/ Valentina Boyd	250-995-1891 250-813-0230
Catholicism	Fr. Karam Alraban	250-477-5321
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	250-477-5321
RCIA	Glenn Palahicky	250-479-1331
	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	Parish Office	250-477-5321
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent		
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