

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name..." The Summons

Following the news of John's arrest, Jesus leaves his home in Nazareth and travels to Capernaum. In today's Gospel we find Jesus calling on Peter and Andrew, James and John, all fishermen, to become his disciples, to follow him. We are told that they leave what they are doing immediately and follow Jesus. Jesus' choice of fishermen as his disciples has been described as 'surprising' and 'unlikely'; responding *immediately* – an echo of the actions of Mary and Joseph in very recent Gospel readings.

Why fishermen? Thinking about the list of qualities required to be successful fishermen, a better question would be 'why not fishermen?'. To be successful as fishermen on the expansive and often turbulent Sea of Galilee, they must have had to be patient, persistent, determined, courageous, optimistic, observant, adventuresome and team players! They would have had to accept that there would be good days and bad. It did not matter to Jesus that these men were not well educated. He chose those he knew who had the fortitude to take a task on and be able to focus on getting it done. But what these new recruits needed most was to spend time with Jesus, to experience his wisdom, actions and teaching. They may have already heard of Jesus but to truly *know* him they had to understand his *heart* and walk in his ways. They had to be willing to follow. And they did. They learned that relationship, mercy and understanding were more important than the rules imposed by the religious leaders of the time.

Jesus calls us to be his disciples too, and he is still counting on us to be successful in carrying out his mission. We each have our own unique talents that contribute in one way or another to God's hope for the world here and now. As important as these characteristics are, we, like the disciples of the New Testament, need to spend time with Jesus, experience his life and be willing to follow. We need to understand his heart. We need to 'do' with heart.

I recently watched the Netflix movie "The Two Popes". The contrast between the direction taken by each Pope was portrayed as being quite stark. Pope Benedict, a scholar, pursued a very academic and legalistic approach to his Papacy; Pope Francis takes a demonstrably heart-filled pragmatic one. There is a parallel with pre and post Vatican II values and teachings. My life experience has straddled both. I was raised in a pre-Vatican II mindset household, with a set of Catholic values that were much more 'rule based' than current day teachings. Post-Vatican II teaching goes back to Scripture and to a way of understanding the heart of Jesus' teachings. I have come to understand the need for 'heart' in the process of my 'doing', even as I fall far short.

How is that we come to know the heart of Jesus, let alone act with the heart of Jesus? The answer lies in spending time – through prayer, contemplation and study of Scripture. Are we ready to follow? What will our response time be?

Sheila Wall, a Gospel Gal

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: 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. Thomas Chinnappa** to make this request.



WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

"They Showed Us Unusual Kindness." - Acts 28:2

Please join us, in collaboration with our ecumenical partners: St. Aidan's United Church, Holy Cross Catholic Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's Anglican Church, and Lutheran Church of the Cross, for **Songs and Prayers of Unity**. **Sunday, January 26th from 2:00-3:00pm** at Holy Cross Parish. This event is free; coffee and tea will be served.

LENTEN MISSION 2020 WITH BISHOP HENRY

Join Bishop Henry from the Diocese of Calgary as he presents **The Way of Truth and Life Mission 2020** at Holy Cross and St. Joseph the Worker Parish March 23– March 25th. There will be a morning and evening session (the morning and evening sessions are the same so you only have to attend one per day).

Monday, March 23rd: Theme: WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE ONLY TRAGEDY IN LIFE IS NOT TO BECOME A SAINT. "Whether, then, you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31. <u>9am at Holy Cross Parish</u>, 7pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

<u>Tuesday, March 24th:</u> Theme: KNOWING WHO I AM IN CHRIST (MY ID, TRUE VALUE AND WORTH) "God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him." I John 4:16. <u>9am at St. Patrick's Parish</u>, 7pm at St. Joseph the Worker parish.

<u>Wednesday, March 25th:</u> THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE "We can be sure that we are in God only when the one who claims to be living in him is living the same kind of life as Christ lived." (I John 2:5-6.) <u>At **7**pm within our Lenten Reconciliation Service at Sacred Heart Parish.</u>

SCREENAGER: THE NEXT CHAPTER

St. Andrew's Regional High School Parent Support Group is sponsoring an educational night for parents concerning how screens are affecting children's mental health? "Screenagers Next Chapter", the newest film by award-winning film-maker Dr. Delaney Ruston, as she explores how families and communities can support improved well-being in a digital age. As an added bonus, representatives from FamilySmart and BC Gambling will be onsite to answer questions from families and provide information about community services. **When:** Monday February 10, 6:30-8:30pm (Movie runtime: 70 min)

Where: St. Andrew's Regional High School Gym.

For Whom: Families are welcome to bring children 11 years+

Tickets are FREE but limited.

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR \$0 (FREE) TICKETS!! https://nextchapterbysarhs.eventcombo.com

PARISH LIBRARY (Tues—Fri. 9am-2pm)

A small book from Bishop Robert Barron --- <u>Letter to a Suffering Church</u> reveals and acknowledges the sexual abuse crisis within the church. The Bishop's knowledge, intelligence and wisdom are inspiring. <u>We</u> <u>have three copies</u> of this recent 100 page book --- a two hour read.

- Letter to a Suffering Church (2019) by Bishop Robert Barrron
- Brave New Church (2001) by William Bausch
- The Coming Catholic Church (2004) by David Gibson
- Toward a New Catholic Church (2002) by James Carroll

PRAYER REFLECTION

You will know your vocation by the joy that it brings you.

—Dorothy Day

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge . . . is itself a frightful despotism. —George Washington

In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity. —Augustine of Hippo

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Every year between January 18 – 25, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a Week of Prayer for the unity of all Christians and to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services. This year, you are invited to the closing service that will be held at <u>Trinity</u> Catholic Church in Nanaimo on Sunday, January 26 at 2 pm. A reception will follow. In attendance will be the Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of BC, Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria, Reverend Terry Richardson of Hope Lutheran in Nanaimo, and Reverend Foster Freed of Trinity United Church, Nanaimo. Please visit our Diocesan website for more information.
- INVITATION TO MEN OF THE FAMILY: Come join other men of faith for breakfast and a special Father / Son presentation-"Sharing the Successes and Challenges of creating and nurturing a loving family for generations". Come join us as they share their inside stories of real family life. WHEN: Saturday Feb 01 @ 8:00AM - WHERE: Victoria Horseshoe Club HOW: Register by emailing to: info@mfaff.org advising names and number attending-Cost \$13.00 each including full breakfast!
- OUR COMMON HOME WORKSHOP: Development and Peace will hold a workshop "For Our Common Home" on Sat. Feb. 8, 9:30-12:30 at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. Jeremy Laurie will lead the session which will focus on how important the Amazon rainforest is for our planet. Everyone is welcome for this workshop. A Development and Peace meeting will be held in the afternoon. Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for the afternoon session 1:15-2:45. For more info: 250-477-6952
- **CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Saturday, February 15, 9am-noon at the Comfort Inn (3020 Blanshard St.). Come for food, fellowship and prayer! The guest speaker will be Fr. William Hann. Tickets are \$17 and available from St. Andrew's prayer group members. Please call Lynn or Richard at 250-477-4700 to reserve. Seating is limited so please call to book ahead.
- **OPEN HOUSE:** St. Andrews Regional High School Open house is on Thursday February 6th. The school has gone through a grand renovation and is excited to share their new look, academic program and community with all. More info: www.standrewshigh.ca

SUNDAY, January 26th 9:00am Mass: Angela Speller + MONDAY, January 27th Office Closed **TUESDAY, January 28th** 9:00am Mass: Ignacio Gonsalves + WEDNESDAY, January 29th 9:00am Mass: Joao & Armenia Medeiros + THURSDAY, January 30th 9:00am Mass: Manuel & Ernesto **Resendes +** FRIDAY, January 31st 9:00am Mass: Gladys Smith + SATURDAY, February 1st 4:00pm Mass: Ferdinand Fernando + SUNDAY, February 2nd

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

9:00am Mass: Lucille Danes +

THANKYOU

St. Augustine said if you sing, you pray twice. To all the musicians and choirs that invite us to fully participate in the Eucharistic celebration, we thank you for the gift of your voices and time!!

Father William

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Are you new to Holy Cross?

Welcome to Holy Cross Parish! You can find registration packages in the foyer of the church, or you can call the office to register: 250-477-5321. Better yet pop in and introduce yourself during office hours. Coffee is always hot in the office!

PARISH SOCIAL LIFE

Wednesday Social group— Ipm on Wednesdays.

Duplicate Bridge—Wednesdays at 7pm.

Social Bridge—First Sunday of the month at 7pm.

Joint Wellness— Monday and Thursday 10-11am

CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann 250-477-5321

250-294-9615 after hours Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761 Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd 250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake 250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org Parish Council: Debra Prior 250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com **Children's Religious Education:** Barbara Shenton bjeens958@gmail.com



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

Uvic/Camosun Out-

reach

COLLECTION for January 19th WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

| Envelopes | \$ I, 839.00 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Loose | \$ 280.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | <u>\$ 1,095.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 3, 214.00 |

Donation of Gift in Kind (stock): \$1, 231.16

250-477-6455

John Oleson

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

Baptism Prep.

Marriage Prep.

Children's Rel. Ed.

| MINISTRY | COORDINATOR | PHONE | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Liturgy | Debby Pietraszek | 250-477-7375 | | | |
| Liturgical Ministries: | | | Children's Liturgy of | Valentina Boyd | 250-813-0230 |
| Usher / Greeter | Maria Arruda | 250-477-5526 | the Word Catholicism | | |
| Altar Server Music | Fr. William Hann Various Choirs | 250-477-5321 250-477-5321 | Library Outreach/Visiting | George Murphy Sheridan Cooper | 250-658-6061 250-598-0248 |
| Altar Linens | Marg McDonnell | 250-477-6332 | Bereavement / | | 100 070 01 10 |
| Flowers/Art Envir. | Ann Francis | 250-477-8650 | Funeral / Follow-Up | Fr. William Hann | 250-477-5321 |
| Sun. Coffee, 9:00 | Darlene Southwell | 250-477-5738 | Funeral Reception | Barb McKrow | 250-477-8322 |
| Bulletin Folders | Vicki Ponsioen | 250-383-0654 | SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS | | |
| Sacramental Wine | John Bartle-Clar 250-995-1891 | Diocesan Appeal | John Bartle Clar | 250-995-1891 | |
| | | | Could You Ever Come | | 250-477-5321 |
| SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY | | Back To The Church RCIA | Glenn Palahicky Phil / Sheila Wall | 250-479-1331 250-385-7007 | |
| Responsible Min. | Martha Oleson Muna Haddad | 250-477-6455 -778-88 - | RCIC | Barb Shenton | 250-592-7391 |
| | | 5843 | Ecumenism | Terry Marner | 250-380-0157 |
| Parish Council | Debra Prior | 250-661-0252 | Social & Eco. Justice | Yvonne Hsieh | 250-385-8322 |
| Finance | David Begg | 250-658-0870 | Anawim | Parish Office | 250-477-5321 |
| Maintenance/Bldg. | Ed Boomars | 250-881-8124 | Christmas Project | Coordinated by the | e Parish Office |
| Annual Shed Clean | Jack Ponsioen | 250-383-0654 | D&P/Share Lent | Barb McKrow | 250-477-8322 |
| Parish Grounds | Joe Mendonca | 250-888-8930 | St. Vincent De Paul | Martin Fletcher | 250-592-9297 |
| Social/Comm. Life | | | Univ/Camosun | Tony Southwell | 250-477-5738 |
| Baptism Prep. | Call office | 250-477-5321 | Bursaries | | |

Call office 250-477-5321 Fr. William Hann 250-477-5321 **Barb Shenton** 250-592-7391