



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 27, 2019
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

We are left at the end of today’s Gospel with these words, Jesus announcing to those in the synagogue in Nazareth that he is the Messiah, the anointed one sent to set the captives free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. Imagine yourself sitting there attentively, being told that the very person in front of you is the long-awaited Saviour! We do not hear the response of those present in the synagogue in today’s Gospel and that invites us to ponder the possibilities.

In the first reading from Nehemiah, the Israelites have just been set free from captivity in Babylon. They have returned to Jerusalem to start over, to rebuild the temple and return to the Lord. They are seeking a rediscovery of their faith, and are gathered to listen to the Priest who does not just read the Law to them, but ensures their understanding. There is an imperative – for in this account, men, *women and all who are able to understand* (i.e. children) have gathered. This is striking as it imparts an inclusivity not usually seen. The people are completely engaged, reverent, responding with their whole bodies, bowing and weeping. They are told to be joyful, to celebrate with food and wine and share these also with those who have nothing, for the day was holy to the Lord.

In the Gospel, hundreds of years later, Jesus acknowledges that he is the one sent to set the captives free. This time, we are the captives. What is our response? In 2010 I traveled with a group to the Holy Land. I was privileged to experience the sights, sounds and wonders of the places where Jesus and the Ancestors of our faith lived and moved. There is a vivid image that comes to mind, especially in light of the first reading. In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, having experienced the awe of being in the place where Jesus was crucified, I waited quietly for those from our group to reassemble. At the back of that Sacred space there stood a young man dressed in what I thought must be his most formal native attire. He was alone and he stood transfixed with the sacredness of this space, lips moving, praying silently, and repetitively bowing his entire being toward the ground, then standing, inching forward ever so slightly, then bowing again, repeating the process. He understood *completely* and was immersed in humble dialogue with his Saviour. Was I no better than just a tourist in this place in comparison?

What would it imply in practical terms in today’s world to be as joyful or committed to God as the Israelites freed from Babylon or the young man in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, for these people were one with God. That is for each of us to answer, but we must answer it mindfully, reminding ourselves daily of the journey our Lord took for us. We are called to respond as individuals and we are called to remember that we are all vital parts of a community, the Body of Christ.

Try not to be a tourist. Be engaged. In every action respond with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind.

Let the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart be acceptable to you O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Blessings, Sheila Wall

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.

COME ONE! COME ALL!! We are having a PARTY!!!

Why: We want to celebrate Fr. Karam and thank him for being such a wonderful and loved part of our Holy Cross Family.

When: This Monday, January 28th from 7:00pm—9:00pm

Where: In the church.

PS: we will have baskets for your cards and well wishes.



CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. William Hann, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish will return from his sabbatical on February 1, 2019, which will then allow an opportunity for Fr. Karam Alraban to assist Bishop Gary Gordon at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo, and Our Lady of Victory on Gabriola Island for a period of time. Given the Bishop's responsibility for the pastoral needs of the whole of the Diocese, we are grateful for the assistance offered during this time of need. Your prayers for the ongoing pastoral needs of the Diocese are greatly appreciated.

ECUMENCIAL LENTEN SERIES

Save the Date! We will be starting our annual Ecumenical Lenten series starting on March 13 and continuing for five consecutive Wednesdays until April 10th from 6-8pm. The evening starts with a shared soup meal and moves into a video portion followed by a group discussion. The theme this year is: Wholly Human, Holy Divine. Sign up sheets are in the foyer. More details will follow in coming weeks.

2019 PASTORAL CARE TRAINING SESSIONS

All sessions are 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. No charge. The workshops are open to anyone who wants to understand the practical aspects of pastoral care; present hospital and homebound parish visitors who have yet to take this training; parishioners who look after their own family members or those considering these sessions as professional development. Like the Good Samaritan, may we walk by the side of the road of our own lives – to be good and *caring neighbours to one another and, especially, to the sick, the elderly and the dying.*

St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Saturday, Feb. 9 – **Session 1: The Healing Ministry of Christ** - Fr. William Hann is the morning presenter.

Saturday, March 23 – **Session 2: Listening & Communications and Mental Health**

Bring a bag lunch. Coffee/Tea will be available.

Contact the parish office to register: (250) 592-7391 or stpat190@telus.net

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

PRAYER REFLECTION

God's word is so rich that it is a treasury of every good. From it flow faith, hope, love, and all the virtues, the many gifts of the Spirit.
—Saint Lawrence of Brindisi (1559-1619)

Whenever you go to Mass, you run the risk of falling into grace.
—Bishop Richard J. Sklba

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH:** Looking for something to refresh your knowledge and enliven your faith? Do you know someone who wants to learn more about the Catholic faith? Join us for one or both of the Foundations of the Catholic Faith Workshops offered by the Diocesan Faith Formation and Evangelization Office. Part I and Part II do not have to be completed in order. Registration is free at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org>. Please bring a bagged lunch. More info regarding Part I and Part II on bulletin board.
- **HEALING THE CHURCH:** Opportunities to dialogue with Bishop Gary Gordon and members of the Diocesan Leadership Team regarding the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Church, and to learn about the Diocesan Responsible Ministry & Safe Environment policies and protocols that were established to address these concerns in our Diocese. Tues. Feb. 12, 2019 Christ the King Church Hall, Comox 7 pm to 9 pm; Thurs. Feb. 21, 2019 St. Joseph the Worker Church, Victoria 7 pm to 9 pm
- **FUNDRAISING DINNER:** The St. Andrews Cathedral and Our Lady of The Rosary Knights of Columbus are hosting a fundraiser dinner at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. February 23rd, 2019. Doors open at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00. Fr. Dean Henderson will be our speaker for the evening. All proceeds from the dinner and a silent Auction will go towards helping a family or families attend the 2019 Annual Family Conference in Nanoose Bay. To make a donation or purchase tickets and RSVP please contact Dave de bree at elmodave@yahoo.com or 250-590-7004.
- **FORCED TO FLEE:** There will be an opportunity to walk in the steps of migrants forced to flee their homes on Wed. Feb. 20, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 10:00 - noon. Forced to Flee is a simulation experience on decision making during conflict and forced migration. This year Development and Peace - Caritas Canada is asking us to "Share the Journey" with the 68.5 million forced migrants around the world. Mark the date, more details to follow.
- **MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Saturday Feb 2nd at the Victoria Horseshoe club starting at 8 am. \$12.00 PRESENTATION: "A Conversion Story - My Path to Catholicism and Other Anecdotes" by Brian Dennison Please RSVP Chris Burke info@mcaff.org

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, January 27th

8:30 am Mass: **Suzy Konrath +**
10:30 am Mass: **Pat and Mike Munro+**
4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, January 28th

No Mass

TUESDAY, January 29th

9:00 am Mass: **John Garcia & Family**

WEDNESDAY, January 30th

9:00 am Mass: **Frank Murphy +**

THURSDAY, January 31st

9:00 am Mass: **Angelo Rampon +**

FRIDAY, February 1st

9:00 am Mass: **Carmen Rose +**

SATURDAY, February 2nd

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass: **Deceased members
of the Bruni Family +**

SUNDAY, February 3rd

8:30 am Mass: **Caterina Scandale +**
10:30 am Mass: **Patricia Munro +**
4:00 pm Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to Fr. Karam for the months of joy, fellowship, entertainment and so much more that he has shared with this parish since he arrived. We wish him all the very best on his latest exciting venture in Nanaimo! We will miss you Father!!

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
	Muna Haddad	778-881-5843
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 13, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2, 673.00
Loose	\$ 480.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$ 1, 095.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 4, 248.00



Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar/ Valentina Boyd	250-995-1891 250-813-0230
Catholicism		
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	
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