



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, January 28th, is the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Gospel according to Mark tells of an amazing happening on the Sabbath in the synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus, no longer a child but an adult, *entered the synagogue and taught*. His listeners were captivated. *They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority*. The Gospel went on to describe the presence of a man overcome by an unclean spirit. To everyone's surprise, this spirit also recognized the authority of Jesus and *came out of the man*. What was the source of this compelling authority that emanated from Jesus?

Chapter one of Mark's Gospel suggests a possible answer. *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.* (1:35) Jesus spent time with his Father. He heard and listened to God's voice. He became one with truth, with love and with mercy. This was the source of his authority. This was the source of his understanding and knowledge.

At this time in our history, the search for truth is threatened. "False news" was not a familiar concept a few years ago but now it is part of our world. Recently, Pope Francis expressed concern for this phenomenon and encouraged all people to seek and find truth. Some people use lies, misinformation, and fraud to manipulate, to gain power, and sell goods and destructive ideas. They are most definitely not concerned with the common good. In contrast Jesus was and is very much concerned with the common good. Jesus desires everyone to be at peace, to be filled with joy and compassion. In John's Gospel Jesus told his disciples: *You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* (8:32) The authority of Jesus comes from caring for his listeners, from his desire to set all people free from fear and division. Jesus shares the truth that will bring comfort and peace to all people.

We too can hear God's voice amid all the loud and distracting noises besieging us. *O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord* is the refrain of Psalm 95. We need to make space and time to hear God's voice, the source of truth and love. We need to go *off to a solitary place* and pray. In the letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul suggested that his readers not be distracted by getting married. He encouraged them to remain single so that they could devote themselves to God. Is God really asking us to refrain from getting married? No! Of course get married, of course have children, of course study, or pursue a career. But even in a deep and intimate relationship with another person, even when involved in caring for beloved children, even when working, growing, and living; leave room to hear God's voice, leave room to hear the voice of truth and love, leave room for the life-giving voice of authority.

Tanya Taft

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC

V8N 3X7

Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844

office@holycrossvictoria.org

***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.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Parick's Parish at 9am Sunday, January 28, 2024. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. Please note that the next session for Baptismal Preparation is: Saturday, Feb 10 (10:00 am – 12 noon)
Please email hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

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

Victoria Diocesan Catholic Women's League Bursary

The Victoria Diocesan Catholic Women's League is now accepting applications for a \$750 bursary "in memory of Freda Smith". The bursary is available to Catholic students studying in the Diocese of Victoria, who will be graduating from secondary school this year and who will be proceeding on to a form of higher education. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2024. Full details and application forms are available in the foyer or from the office.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



It's membership renewal time! All ladies of St. Patrick's & Holy Cross Parishes are welcome to renew – or join for the first time. Membership forms are available online to download/print at [St. Patrick's Parish | Service Organizations \(stpatsvictoria.com\)](http://St.Patrick's Parish | Service Organizations (stpatsvictoria.com)) or [CWL_renew_2024_Final.pdf](#). Forms can be dropped off at St. Pat's office (in person or by mail) along with your fee prior to January 31st. Or they can be scanned and emailed to theresasmith1225@shaw.ca. We are trying to minimize postage costs but are happy to mail forms to anyone who requests them. We hope you will join us to help us continue to serve our community. For information, or to request a form contact Theresa Smith theresasmith1225@shaw.ca, or Layne Moore margaretlaynemoore@gmail.com.

GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together), the social and climate justice alliance of which Holy Cross, St. Patrick's, the Sisters of St. Ann, and Anawim House are all member organizations, is urgently looking for a **volunteer Treasurer**. The Treasurer serves as a member of GVAT's Board of Directors, and keeps track of the organization's income and expenditures, payroll for 2 part-time staff and banking authorizations. The retiring Treasurer will remain available to provide training and oversight for the new office holder. Please contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca; 250-385-8322) if you are interested or able to suggest someone we could approach.



January 28th celebrates the Feast Day of the 13th century Dominican friar, St Thomas Aquinas, whose moral and theological thought underlay the "Natural Law", the foundation of Catholic belief. We have three copies of his biography by G K Chesterton. Chesterton is brilliant, but not an easy read and It may be better to skip his lengthy introductory chapter and proceed directly to the edifying and varied life of this international medieval scholar. It is Thomas who gave us the cautionary reminder that "it is a sin to withhold a compliment". Earlier in the month on the 17th is the Feast Day of St

Anthony, "the patron saint of lost things" --- wise to keep on the best side of him --- these white-haired days. See the Suggestion Shelf in the Parish Library

- St Thomas Aquinas, the Dumb Ox by G K Chesterton
- Saints Who Changed Things (Chapter 11) by L Knowles



THE LIBRARY

CORNER

- Life: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas
- Quotes: https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/158904.Thomas_Aquinas
- Lost things: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_of_Padua

Prayer Reflection

May I have the courage today/ To live the life that I would love,/ To postpone my dream no longer,/ But do at last what I came here for/ And waste my heart on fear no more.

—John O'Donohue, **Benedictus**: A Book of Blessings

Do not go in pursuit of [God] outside yourself. You will only become distracted, and you won't find him, or enjoy him more than by seeking him within you.

—Saint John of the Cross

Word of the Week:

Benedictus

From Latin meaning "blessed," the hymn sung by Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, an elder priest, who became mute on learning that he and Elizabeth would become parents late in life. After John's birth, Zechariah's tongue is loosed and he praises God with this canticle beginning: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free" (Luke 1:68). Since the early centuries, the **Benedictus** has been sung in the morning prayer of the church's liturgy because of its praise for the coming of the Redeemer and its allusion to Christ coming as the dawn to give light to those in darkness. The **Benedictus** is one of four canticles sung at the start of Luke's gospel, including Mary's Magnificat, (*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*), the song of the angels to the shepherds (*Glory to God in the highest!*), and Simeon's prayer at the presentation of Jesus in the temple (*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace*). Together these songs remind us that, in the face of good news, the most reasonable response is to sing. Joyful people know this. Saint Augustine, who said many things well, insisted: "Singing is for one who loves." From The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours: The Gospel canticles, the *Benedictus*, the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*, should be accorded the same solemnity and dignity as is usual for the hearing of the Gospel (138).

"Ordination to the Priesthood"

Announcement from Bishop Gary Gordon

It is with great joy that I announce, after consulting with the Diocesan Consultants, that Deacon Joseph Yuson, a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, presently in formation at St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, will be ordained to the Ministerial Priesthood on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria.

This is good news indeed for our Diocese. All are invited to join the celebration by participating in Deacon Joseph's ordination Mass, either in person at St. Andrew's or via the livestream at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/>.

Your prayers for Joseph and his intentions are appreciated as he prepares for service as a ministerial priest to the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria. Please also pray that we all may discern the vocation which God has planned for us, and respond generously and whole-heartedly to His call.

Lent is just around the corner! Ash Wednesday Mass will be held at 7pm on February 14. Please see the sign-up sheet for Liturgical Ministers in the foyer if you are able to assist in ministry for that Mass.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 27, 2024

4PM Mass: Lynn Seidel+

SUNDAY, January 28, 2024

9AM Mass: Amaro Dapat+

MONDAY, January 29, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, January 30, 2024

9AM Mass: Bernice and Michael Kobylanski+

WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 1, 2024

9AM Mass: Carmen Rose+

FRIDAY, February 2, 2024

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon via the side door.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

Friday, February 2, 9am in the Chapel, preceded by the Rosary at 8:30am. Please enter by the Chapel door.

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

COLLECTIONS, January 21, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,225.00
Loose	\$ 370.00
Canada Helps	\$ 1,133.71
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,048.00
TOTAL	\$4,776.71

Thank you!

Thank you for all of your prayers for the Sisters of St Ann and their driver abducted in Haiti - they have been freed!

News from the Chancery

- 1) Registration is now open for the online course “Integral Ecology: From *Laudato si’* to *Laudate Deum*”. Offered by the Pontifical Universities and Atheneums of Rome, the course is led by a renowned faculty of academics, leaders, and activists from around the world, representing some of the major institutions and groups involved in the area of creation care. The course runs until June, and consists of six 90 minutes modules, a workshop in March, and an online conference in May. The first module will be released on January 25, but people can join the course any time before March 31. The course fee is 30 Euros (approximately \$45 CAD). For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.unigre.it/en/events-and-communication/communication/news-and-press-releases/registration-open-online-course-on-integral-ecology/>.
- 2) Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to the annual Diocese of Victoria Youth Retreat, which runs from February 2 – 4, 2024 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. This year's theme is "Seek Him", and the retreat will be presented by Face to Face Ministries. The cost is \$195 per participant, which includes all food, accommodation, and activities. Youth are asked to register with their local parish. For more information, contact St. Patrick's Parish in Campbell River (stpatricks-CR@shaw.ca or 250-287-3498), or Bonni Roset, Camp Coordinator, at broset@telus.net or 250-203-1518.
- 3) On Sunday, February 4, the Victoria Multifaith Society and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will host a World Religions Conference from 4:30 – 6:30 pm at Saanich Commonwealth Place in Victoria (4636 Elk Lake Dr). Speakers from nine different spiritual traditions will hold a panel discussion on the topic of “Kindness and Kinship”; following the presentation, all are invited to stay for an East Indian dinner. The event and dinner are free, but advanced registration is requested at <https://worldreligionsconference.ca/upcoming-conference-2/#register>.
- 4) *Faith Through Film*, hosted by Holy Family Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni, continues with screenings taking place every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 and Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00. Starting on January 31, the film for the next three weeks will be “Jesus of Nazareth”, shown in 3 parts. With funding made available through the Bishop’s Appeal, all screenings are free of charge, and complimentary popcorn and other snacks will also be offered. Pre-registration is encouraged but not mandatory; please phone 250-723-8912, or email hfnf@rcdvictoria.org. For a complete schedule of screenings, please visit the Diocesan Events Calendar at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events-calendar>.
- 5) The CCCB Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace has today released its Pastoral Letter on the use of social media titled: “*Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious.*” The release is timed with the liturgical memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, who was known for his graciousness in speech and who is invoked as a patron saint of writers and publishers. Acknowledging the prominent role social media has come to play at an individual and societal level, this timely Pastoral Letter considers the benefits and dangers of social media from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. It provides tools for moral reflection and self-examination, and suggests seven commitments by which to be guided for a more ethical use of social media. The Letter can be read online at <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/bishops-release-a-pastoral-letter-on-the-use-of-social-media>

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:

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Regular Mass Times

Holy Cross and St. Patrick's Parishes

Mass times at Holy Cross Parish are 4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday, 9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday.

Mass times at St. Patrick's Church are 11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday, 12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday.

Confessions are at 3:00pm on Saturdays at Holy Cross Parish and at 11:30am on Fridays at St. Patrick's Parish.

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.