



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 6, 2019
Epiphany of the Lord

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

The candles we light, and the lights we use for decorations are a symbol of the joy and hope we have at this time. They also help to remind us of the star that the wise men saw rising to lead them to Jesus. The star that helps us to recognize that Jesus is the Messiah, and not just King of the Jews but of all of the nations of the world. The star proclaims that “Jesus is born”.

Their journey was probably not an easy one and traveling in ancient times involved risks and hardships unknown to us. They undertook the journey because they believed in Jesus Christ, even though they had not seen any of his miracles. Once the magi knew which way to go, they found their way. They listened to God’s messenger. They were no longer seekers. They were believers. Are we seekers or are we believers? Where do we find God? Spiritually, he dwells in all things. But are we ready to see him as a living God, interacting with us? God is a seeker and a believer. He seeks us out and speaks to us and he believes in us. Why then, do I sometimes find it so difficult to accept that friendship that he is glad to give to me? The magi used their wisdom to get them to Bethlehem. They knew from their astrology that a king had been born in Israel. A star led them to Messiah and they were *overwhelmed with joy*.

Are we still looking for a star to guide us to God? Looking up at the night sky, do we think about that night 2000 years ago and how God came to earth to be one of us and to give his life for us? The wise men had their eyes on the star, they were not distracted and arrived at their destination and were ‘overwhelmed with joy’. On our journey it is easy to get distracted along the way. To take a path that may lead us away from what our purpose is. The wise men were not alone on their journey, they were led by the Star. We are not alone on our journey. We may lose sight of the Star and at times it may be hidden behind clouds. But it is always there. God is always with us. When we wander off the path and think that we are alone, we need to remember that God has not lost sight of us. He is with us always. Common sense and wisdom, and what we know will take a person only so far. It is only when we meet Christ and have an encounter with the living God that our lives truly change and we may be overwhelmed with joy.

I knew I loved you, before I knew you, The hands of time would lead me to you An evening star, watched from afar, It guided me here, It knew you’d be here ... And my tomorrows will all begin and end with you—

Sharing the Journey
Debby Pietraszek

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.

GREEN TIP

London Drugs accepts a huge variety of recyclables: electronics, lighting, small appliances, packaging (including soft plastic bags, clean Styrofoam), and other items. Check out their website at <https://greendeal.ca/recycling>.

ENVELOPE REMINDER

Please remember take your box of collection envelopes from the foyer of the church. They will stay in the foyer for the duration of January after which they will be available for pick up at the parish office. Envelopes help parish administration track donations more easily for tax receipt purposes. It is also helpful when the contributor notes the amount donated on the outside of the envelope which helps counters cross check incoming donations.

Those of you who would like to register for or have any questions about **Pre-Authorized Debit** please contact the office at 250-477-5321.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Religious education classes are on break for the holidays. Classes resume on Sunday January 13th at 9:30am in the parish hall.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

The 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.

2018/2019 MISSALS

There are still some Sunday missals left, which are out on the table in the foyer, as well as in the parish office. Missals are \$5 each.

TIMELY TALKS

We are looking for new and interesting guest speakers to come to Holy Cross to present a Timely Talk. If you have recently heard, or know of someone who would be relevant and willing to speak to our Holy Cross parishioners, please pass along the information to Anna at the office: 250-477-4321 or by email pastoralassistant@holycrossvictoria.org.

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.

On behalf of Fr. Karam, Fr. William and all the staff at Holy Cross we wish you all a happy, healthy, and joy filled 2019.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PRAYER REFLECTION

The epiphanies of Christ: "Three mysteries mark this holy day: Today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation."

—Antiphon for Evening Prayer, Epiphany

Today the Bridegroom claims his bride, the church, since Christ has washed away her sins in Jordan's waters; the Magi hasten with their gifts to the royal wedding; and the wedding guests rejoice . . . alleluia.

—Antiphon for Morning Prayer, Epiphany

Mystery may be "shown, witnessed, revealed, but not explained."

—Lewis Hyde

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **MEN'S SUPPER:** New event coming to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford! Join us for our first annual "Men's Supper" on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The evening will consist of dinner, drinks (Your favorite beer!). Guest Speakers Fr. Dean Henderson and Danny Brock, prizes! and car show! Call or email Tyson Babcock for tickets (\$20 each, dinner included) 250 818 1503 or tyson.babcock@gmail.com. You don't want to miss it!
- **NACN CANADA:** The National Association of Catholic Nurses Canada was formed in 2018 to support Catholic Nurses and other health professionals who experience moral distress in practice related to changes in Canadian healthcare. We joined CICIAMS, an international group of Catholic nurses with a voice at the United Nations. Our goal is to align our professional practice with our faith through prayer, education, service and participation in public discourse. Request our membership application form at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com and mail it with your annual fee to: NACN-Canada, PO Box 19525 Manulife PO, 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M5W 3T9. More about us at nacncanada.weebly.com.
- **WHY LITURGY MATTERS:** Save the date for a **Liturgy Matters Workshop** on Saturday, February 23 at Ascension Parish in Parksville and a **Credible Christian Course** starting January 23 for 6 evenings at the Pastoral Center. More information and registration on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/> Contact gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org

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

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, January 6th

8:30 am Mass: **Angela Murphy +**

10:30 am Mass: **Joe & Theresa DeRosa +**

4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, January 7th

No Mass

TUESDAY, January 8th

9:00 am Mass: **Debbie Underhill +**

WEDNESDAY, January 9th

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

THURSDAY, January 10th

9:00 am Mass: **Jean Moisey +**

FRIDAY, January 11th

9:00 am Mass: **Zach Riley +**

SATURDAY, January 12th

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Amaro Martins +**

SUNDAY, January 13th

8:30 am Mass: **Brian Wall +**

10:30 am Mass: **Terry Davis +**

4:00 pm Mass

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to the team of hard workers who will be taking down and cleaning up all the Christmas decorations in the church after 10:30mass this Sunday.

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 December 30, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3, 586.00
Loose	\$ 792.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 095.00
TOTAL	\$ 5, 473.00

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 Glenn Palahicky	250-477-5321 250-479-1331
RCIA	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