



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord

Arise! Shine! The Lord has risen upon you! Each candle from our Advent wreath slowly lit our way to the glorious chorus of Christmas splendor, igniting our hearts with renewed vigor, graced by the love of Christ within. And today, the star of Bethlehem illumines us as we rise to pay homage to the Christ child. We come searching, spurred on by our desire to seek Christ in joy, as we humbly offer our gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What gifts do we bring to the Christ child?

- Let us bring the gift of desire to be one with all God's people – the outsider, the stranger, the foreigner – like the wise men who came from the east, like those fleeing war, oppression, and hatred. How would we want to be received, treated, and accepted?
- Let us bring the gift of prayer as we open ourselves up to God, deepening our relationship and fine-tuning our hearts to hear God's voice in the silence and the chaos.
- Let us offer the gift of humility, humbly surrendering ourselves completely into God's loving care.
- By letting go of our judgment and seeing the goodness of others, let us offer the gift of charity.
- The gifts of courage, trust, and confidence in God allows our fears and sense of control to melt away as we step out of our comfort zone and say 'yes' to God's plan. The wise men trusted in the star and followed their intuition; Herod felt threatened and out of control and reacted in fear of the unknown.
- Become the gift placed on the altar, transformed by the Star of Bethlehem where God loves us into being, gifts us with the Holy Spirit, and sends us out as God's gift in the world.

We are called to bear witness to Christ's light and to be that light in the world. Will we let the light of Christ transform and enrich our lives? There will be times of darkness, suffering, and pain; times when we are deaf to God's voice and choose to ignore God's light; when we fear, fail, sin, and despair. AND *God-with-us* continues to invite us into the light, continues to fashion us to be children of the light, continues to free us from bondage, and promises to be with us always. We have the choice to live in the grace of God, in the mercy of forgiveness, in the love of the Creator who calls us Beloved, in the light of the Star that dissipates all of our darkness! Trust, hope, and believe.

Each of us has our own personal star guiding us – the star of prayer, love, friendship, support...the star has a different name at different times. Be grateful for your star – and be grateful that you have been a star for others.

"What star am I being called to follow this year?"

*What gifts from my treasure chest will I offer God in service of God's mission?
Lord, send me out each day to be a bearer of your love to all whom I encounter."*

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!
Mona



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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday, January 6, 2024. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Pastoral Care Outreach Training Series

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 20 and running until March 23, 2024** (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. **Please register through your parish by January 12.** For more information email moiraking@shaw.ca

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 sessions to choose from for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, Jan 13 (10:00 am – 12 noon) and 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

Childrens Liturgy

All school-aged children are welcome to join Childrens Liturgy on the first Sunday of every month starting **January 7** at the 9am Mass.



Missals for 2024

There are still a few missals available for purchase in the office. The cost is \$5.00.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ENVELOPES

Collection envelopes have all been **renumbered** for 2024 and are available for pickup in the foyer. Please begin to use these immediately and **discard all old envelopes**. Please write your name on your new envelopes for the first month of use. Thank you!

Social and Ecological Justice Committee

SEJC (Social and Ecological Justice Committee) will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at 1pm in the Boardroom at Patrick's church on Haultain St. in Victoria.

Library Corner

After the Nativity of Jesus, the Holy Family flee to Egypt when King Herod, fearing the birth of someone who might challenge his throne, declared that all children under the age of two should be killed --- heralding the commemoration of "The Holy Innocents"

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Feast-of-the-Holy-Innocents>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_into_Egypt



Prayer Reflection

If we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks . . . We need to take risks simply to meet a child.
—Pope Francis

Lord Jesus . . . every presence makes me feel that you are near; every touch is the touch of your hand; every necessity transmits to me a pulse of your will.
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on Earth, Earth in heaven, a human being in God, God in a human being, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.
—Saint Peter Chrysologus

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January 2024

His Holiness Pope Francis Prayer Intention for the month of January 2024,
For the Gift of Diversity in the Church.

Video link click here: <https://youtu.be/UY2tyY74fNk?si=oqyFr0D1VYz5tBWz>

Isabel Harding

On behalf of Father William and the parishioners of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Parishes, we wish to extend our sincere condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Isabel Harding who passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Isabel was long time and valued employee of the RC Diocese of Victoria. May she rest in peace, and may perpetual light shine upon her. Her Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 6th, at 11:am at St. Patrick's Church. A Reception will follow in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall.

The funeral will be livestreamed at the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/IYCHSbjbuC8?feature=share>



Thank you to all
the volunteers in our Parish
in so many different areas
who make everything come
together beautifully!
What a great community we
have!
Blessings for 2024!

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 6, 2024

4PM Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

SUNDAY, January 7, 2024

9AM Mass: Noreen Newton+

MONDAY, January 8, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, January 9, 2024

9AM Mass: Maria Alois & Family (Int)

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, January 11, 2024

9AM Mass: Estelita Ostan+

FRIDAY, January 12, 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

First Friday of the Month in the Chapel
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 , December 31, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,570.00
Loose	\$ 90.00
eTransfers	\$ 1,910.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,390.00
TOTAL	\$5,960.00

COLLECTION, January 1, 2024

Envelopes	\$ 635.00
Loose	\$ 155.00
	\$ 790.00



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



Prayer in the Style of Taize

St Philip Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Road, 5:45pm for 6pm Friday January 19, 2024. Everyone welcome to this '*...way of searching for God in silence and prayer in the midst of daily life.*' www.taize.fr

Social Bridge Night! Is held the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Tony Southwell to register. 250-477-5738 or Email: tony_southwell@hotmail.com

St. Andrew's High School Bottle Drive!

Save your refundable bottles and cans and support students going to Spain in 2024. Drop them off **Sat. Jan. 13** at St. Andrew's (on McKenzie Ave.) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thank you for your support.

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

hcsbaptismalprep@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 3:00 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.