



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

**Mission Statement:** Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## SUNDAY - January 9, 2022 The Baptism of the Lord

The readings for the Baptism of the Lord have an “Epiphany” feel to them. God is revealing something about Jesus, about how to follow Jesus, and ultimately about God’s self. The Messiah you have been expecting, God says, has arrived. All will see him. His appearance will be proclaimed from mountaintops. He is the anointed one, the favored one, the beloved Son. Like the Israelite exiles leaving enslavement in Egypt or returning to a restored Jerusalem, his disciples are to imitate him in doing good, living righteously, showing kindness, and bringing about justice *without violence*—the human power of violence that God’s power and word outlast and that has no place with God who cares for people like a shepherd.

The Baptism of Jesus revealed Christ to be the anointed and chosen one, a sign of God’s care, and the proclamation of God’s grace and glory. Scripture testifies that through God’s definitive revelation in the person of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit God is involved in a constant process of communication with humanity. When we look at the testimony of scripture, we see that Jesus represents the fullness of God’s revelation to humanity. As Jesus himself explained to the apostle Phillip: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). By his example Jesus shows us that God possesses and expresses to perfection the qualities of truth, beauty, justice, mercy, grace, goodness, compassion—in a word, *love*. In fact, Jesus lived and suffered as one of us because “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

When we celebrate Christ’s baptism today, then I do not think that we can get around celebrating our baptism as well. And if it is true that in the Gospels, in story after story, on page after page, we find what being baptized meant for Jesus, then we too may find there what our being baptized can mean for us. So we go on our way: all of us baptized in Jesus’ name: men and women, young and old. We go on our way, full of enthusiasm, but also with a good amount of hesitation. Today’s feast is an invitation to celebrate our own baptism. We let ourselves be drawn by him, that unforgettable Jesus, Servant of the Lord, Prince of Peace, and God’s beloved Son. We won’t let go of him, because we know too well that he needs each one of us to show that he lives. Yes, indeed, without us his disciples, Jesus is dead, finished. But with us and in us he lives.

Today’s celebration affirms we are beloved daughters and sons. We are accepted and loved individually and uniquely, as a gift that we do not have to earn or deserve. This is the core grace of our Christian lives. Secondly, today’s celebration affirms our call to ministry, to proclaim by our lives God’s presence and victory in our world. The Good News of today is that we are beloved, chosen and may we know it with every fiber of our being. As we celebrate Eucharist today, we remember we are - beloved, chosen, empowered, and sent - as we celebrate God’s faithful love in proclaimed word and in shared communion. Each one of us is called to be a living witness to the Gospel: to be the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, a lamp radiating light for all. Our baptism is a never-ending call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Every word of Isaiah can also be applied to each one of us who has been baptized. So let us today renew our faith in and our commitment to follow Jesus. Let us re-affirm our readiness to carry on his work. For it is a sobering fact that without our co-operation, much of God’s work will never get done. Through baptism, you were given the only garment that will ever fit you perfectly; you were clothed in Christ and made identical to Jesus. He is your identity and you’re Name. He is the reason the Father beholds you and cries out, “I love you SO MUCH.”

Amen and praise God  
Father William

#### OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm  
Fr. William Hann, Pastor

***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.***

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**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.

### LIVESTREAM MASSES

**Live Mass broadcast this weekend!** Mass is livestreamed this week from *St. Patrick's Parish on Saturday at 6pm*. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

### PASTORAL TRAINING OUTREACH PROGRAM

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 29, 2022, and running until April 9** (with no sessions on March 19 & 26 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. This course is for anyone interested and will show why those who visit the sick are unique, and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Until pastoral access to homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities is fully available, Bishop Gary Gordon (of the Diocese of Victoria) feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, and a reliable Internet connection. Please register through your local parish by Jan. 24, 2022. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

### THANK YOU CORNER

**THANK YOU to all our Liturgical Ministry Volunteers!!** Over Christmas and New Year's, Holy Cross was indeed blessed to have such dedicated volunteers step up to cover the many spots needed for our additional Special Liturgies. Including the choirs/musicians! And thank you especially to Fr. William, who made sure at both Holy Cross and St. Patrick's, we had enough opportunities to attend Mass during this holy season while still dealing with the COVID restrictions. Wishing each of you a very blessed and healthy New Year. – Joanie Bidlake

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A sincere thank you to the many Holy Cross parishioners who so generously donated to the Christmas display. You helped to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and remember our loved ones as well. Wishing you a healthy and happy 2022.

Many thanks, Ann Francis

### LIBRARY CORNER

January 28<sup>th</sup> celebrates the Feast Day of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 he who gave us the cautionary reminder that “it is a sin to withhold a compliment”. Earlier in the month on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

- **St Thomas Aquinas, the Dumb Ox** by G K Chesterton
- **Saints Who Changed Things** (Chapter 11) by L Knowles
- **Life:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Aquinas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas)
- **Quotes:** [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/158904.Thomas\\_Aquinas](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/158904.Thomas_Aquinas)
- **Lost things:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony\\_of\\_Padua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_of_Padua)

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

Peoples of every nation, come and receive the immortality given in Baptism. . . . Do you wish to know how to do this? By water and the Holy Spirit. This is to say, by the water through which we are born again and given life, and by the Spirit who is the Comforter sent for your sake to make you a child of God.

—Third-century homily

Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.

—Rabindranath Tagore

In Baptism the form of Christ's death is impressed upon [one's] own. . . . Anybody living in the strength of Christ's Baptism lives in the strength of Christ's death.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness.

—Pope Saint John Paul II

**A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE**

Please note the following changes to the Diocesan Livestream schedule in January. These changes are also posted at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

Monday, Jan 10 - Friday, Jan 14: Livestream cancelled

Monday, Jan 24: Livestream cancelled

Friday, Jan 28: Livestream at 7 pm from Port Hardy

Sunday, Jan 30: Livestream at 9 am from Port McNeill

**On all other days, the regular schedule is in effect: 7 pm on weeknights, and 9:30 am on Sundays**

**UNIVERSITY SUPPER UPDATE**

As a result of the rapid spread of the new Covid variant, and the return of UVic to virtual teaching for most of January, we have cancelled the student supper scheduled for January 9. At the moment, we hope to have a supper on Sunday February 6, and if you wish to volunteer food for that event, please look for a sign-up sheet in the foyer on Jan. 16 and following Sundays. I will also announce it in the Bulletin. Many thanks for your support of this important outreach activity! -John Oleson

**MORNING ROSARY**

Please join the rosary group that gathers in the Church every **Tuesday to Friday morning at 8:30** (before morning Mass) to pray the rosary together. **All are welcome.**

**GREEN FUNERAL BINDERS**

This is a gentle reminder that if you have a **green funeral planning binder** from the library please return it and any accompanying hymnals to the office. Thank you!

The Wisemen finally made it to **St. Patrick's Elementary School** just in time for Epiphany! The final instatement of their journey can be found on the Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/>

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, January 8th**

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Bill Malcomson +

**SUNDAY, January 9th**

9am Mass: Vitalina & Giobatta Flora +

**MONDAY, January 10th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, January 11th**

9am Mass: All Souls in Purgatory

**WEDNESDAY, January 12th**

9am Mass: Angela Ruffles +

**THURSDAY, January 13th**

9am Mass: Frank Leone +

**FRIDAY, January 14th**

4pm Mass: Maria Bellavia +

**SATURDAY, January 15th**

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: In Thanksgiving (Drew Family)

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**Update: There will be only half capacity allowed in the church, which is 140 people at Holy Cross. Ushers will be counting people as they enter and will lock the doors when capacity is reached.**

**Masks are now mandatory everywhere at all times.**



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

**COLLECTION for Dec 31, 2021**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,994.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,671.00</b>

**COLLECTION for January 2, 2022**

Envelopes	\$ 1,820.00
Loose	\$ 80.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,577.00</b>