

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The days are getting longer. March is flying by and already there is light. We have longer daylight to look forward to, especially when the clock went forward this weekend. With the increase in light, there is also an increase in growth. The blossoms of spring have already come out. Nature is coming to life after a time of hibernation. Today's gospel echoes what is happening in nature, for 'light has come into the world.' The light refers to God's revelation brought into the world by Jesus. Both St Paul and the gospel declare that God's light is the light of love. God's love is on full display in today's readings.

We are well into Lent. You could call it our journey through the desert, our journey to Easter, the light and the new life. We Christians go this path like everyone else, like ordinary people; like men and women who are marked by everything that happens in our world. There is a lot of misery, a lot of sin, a lot of powerlessness, a lot of hostility, a lot of not knowing where we are going. We do indeed live in a world where it is so easy to be a cynic and despair about what is truth. I guess it is all part of our life story. Of course, we have our good times as well. We have moments of happiness, of peace, of love, of a sense of purpose. But, as Christians, we are not protected from the disillusionment of life. We see dreams being shattered; if not in ourselves, then in others as is the case in the Middle East, Ukraine, Haiti, Sierra Leone. Closer to home, we are all edgy about politics on the North American continent. It is moments like these that we can hear ourselves say: "where is our God? Does he really care?" Perhaps we would not dare to say it, but don't we often think: "what is the use of being Christian in a world where you have to fend for yourself, where you should not get your expectations too high, because you are bound to get hurt and disillusioned?"

Jesus himself appears on our path today and he points us to the cross on which he will be lifted up. The cross signifies for us that God's entire existence is one of being given for us. With that kind of God in our lives, we will not have to go under.. Jesus wanted the example of his commitment to inspire us to believe in God's love and allow it to touch and transform us. Jesus on the cross is the exemplar par excellence of a life of commitment; his example gives us the courage to imitate him in our own lives. The cross is the ultimate example of God's love for the world.

When Nicodemus sought out Jesus, he was in the dark " both really and symbolically. He could not see clearly. In the years that followed this late-night conversation, Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus and, step by step, was drawn to see things differently. At last, he finally *did* see. When at the end, Jesus was really and truly lifted up, Nicodemus was not too far away. When we meditate on the crucifix and participate in the Eucharist we also see Jesus lifted up. Today as we lift our eyes to see him, I might ponder on the mystery of suffering and exaltation and wonder at the love that is lifted up and draws us ever closer, uplifting us as well. Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, The Empty Chair writes...I believe that I can return, no matter how far I have strayed. I believe that I have the inner strength to change. I believe that I can become truly devoted and close to God.

Lift high your cross

Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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***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. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday. 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, April 13 (10:00 am - 12 noon). Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

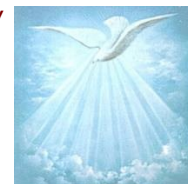
Share Lent

As you reflect on your Lenten journey, please give generously to the Development and Peace Share Lent collection which will be taken up next Sunday. Your gift will ensure that our partners can continue to support the most vulnerable people in our global family. You will find a Share Lent envelope in the pews or at the display tables at the entrances to the church. Please pick one up and bring it back next Sunday for the Share Lent collection. Or just use a plain envelope and mark it for Development and Peace.

Prayer for the Children Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at Holy Cross and St Patrick's Parishes

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them. May it be the beginning of a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

We have 27 children who are catechumens and candidates. The RCIC group will celebrate at the Easter Vigil at Holy Cross and the Year 2 group will celebrate at Pentecost at St Patrick's. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!



ATTENTION ALL HOLY CROSS VOLUNTEERS Joanie will be in the foyer after all the Masses this weekend with 2 new forms from The Diocese of Victoria - Responsible Ministry Safe Environment:

- (new) Volunteer Application Form, and
- (new) Covenant of Care Form.

All our volunteers are asked to please complete the new updated forms to assist with bringing all volunteer information up to date at the Diocese. You can either complete them at the table in the back or take home to complete and return to the Office, or next weekend at the Masses.

Your support is very much appreciated - thank you!

If you have any additional questions, please contact Joanie Bidlake at: officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

**Remembering Someone Special at Easter**

The Arts and Environment Ministry Team welcome your donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one or a special occasion, please pick up a marked envelope in the foyer. Once you have filled it out and placed your donation inside, please drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the office.



Funerals The funeral for Jean Forest will be held at noon on Saturday, March 9, and the funeral for Trudy Nitsch will be held at 9am on Wednesday, March 13. Our condolences go out to family and friends of these dear parishioners.

"Spring Ahead!"

Don't forget to 'spring ahead' an hour on Saturday night! Daylight Savings Time begins March 10, 2024.



Prayer Reflection

Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls.

—*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.

—*Saint Pio of Pietrelcina*

The gospel is a proclamation of **joy**. Ideologies don't make people smile, but the gospel is a smile. It makes you smile because it touches your soul with the Good News.

—*Pope Francis*

Word of the Week:

Joy

A fruit or mark of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful. While pleasure comes through the senses and happiness from human interaction, Christian **joy** is experienced in loving God and neighbor. Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once divided the world into those who have found God and those who are still hungering, thirsting, and seeking. Religious practices in themselves may or may not bring a person to genuine holiness. But the life that exhibits true **joy** proves to be radiant with the life of God.

From *Gaudium et spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: "The Lord is the goal of human history, the focal point of the longings of history and of civilization, the center of the human race, the **joy** of every heart and the answer to all its yearnings." Most of us aren't crazy about being told to "cheer up." Yet today is called Laetare ("rejoice") Sunday because even though it's Lent, the church urges us to cheer up in the words of Isaiah 66:10: "Rejoice with Jerusalem all you who love her." We may feel affection for the memory of biblical Jerusalem or concern for the current sorrows of the city. But it's the heavenly city, where justice and peace reign, that gives us reason to rejoice.

Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service

Please note that our Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish on Wednesday March 20th at 7pm.

Income Tax Receipts!

Income tax receipts for donations made in 2023 are now available for pickup in the foyer.

Parish Directory!

In celebration of Holy Cross Parish's 40th anniversary, a new parish directory will be produced this year. We're hoping to include everyone, whether you've been part of the parish for 40 years or 40 days. Let's get to know each other better!

After Masses on the weekends of 9-10 March and 16-17 March, you can sign up for photo-taking appointments, with photos scheduled to be taken in the chapel in the weeks following Easter (starting 1 April 2024). The directory will include your names and family photos—you will receive a free directory and the option of purchasing a set of photos from the images taken. More information is available in leaflets and posters available in the church foyer.



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 9, 2024

12 Noon: Funeral Jean Forest

4PM Mass: Theresa Ritchie+

SUNDAY, March 10, 2024

9AM Mass: Pro Populo

MONDAY, March 11, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

TUESDAY, March 12, 2024

9AM Mass: Paul Glischinski+

Luigi Gagliani+

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024

9AM: Funeral Trudy Nitsch

THURSDAY, March 14, 2024

9AM Mass: Elmo Beruno (Int)

Stations of the Cross 9:30am D&P

FRIDAY, March 15, 2024

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

Adoration is held on the 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, March 3, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 3,955.00
Loose	\$ 525.00
Social and Eco Justice	\$ 50.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,310.00
TOTAL	\$5,840.00

Thank you! Thank you to Bev Pulyk for her donation of the monitor lift to the office. This will indeed make things easier for office staff!



News from the Chancery

- 1) March 17 is Solidarity Sunday, an opportunity to support *Development and Peace – Caritas Canada* in its work with the poorest and most marginalized of our human family. Bishop Gary has written a letter to the people of the Diocese of Victoria, introducing this year's focus on small-scale farmers and peasant communities, and encouraging all to embody Christ's love through generosity and solidarity. To read Bishop Gary's letter, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-share-lent-2024>
- 2) Our Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration project has begun! A small but hardy band of volunteers has started the work of removing invasive plants from the properties of St. Andrew's Regional High School, Sacred Heart Parish, and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. For more information and some great pictures, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/restoring-our-garry-oak-ecosystem>. The project will continue through the spring, summer, and fall - all are welcome to join us on any Saturday morning from 10 am – noon, rain or shine.
- 3) Registration is now open for the Diocesan Youth Retreat. Since 2003, the DYR (formerly the Diocesan Youth Conference) has been the premier youth ministry event in the Diocese of Victoria. Grade 8-12 students and their chaperones are invited to the faith and fun-filled event, to be held on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 at Camp Imadene. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/dyr>
- 4) World Wide Marriage Encounter will be offering a virtual WWME experience April 19-21st, 2024. Even when a marriage is going smoothly, there are always opportunities to make it work better. The Marriage Encounter experience helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply in order to uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformational marriage. Any questions can be directed to Doug and Candice Chappell at 778-479-7900 or Doug.candice.chappell@wwme.org. To apply, please visit <https://wwme.org/>
- 5) Holy Trinity Parish in Nanaimo invite all to "Mapping The Ground We Stand On", a free interactive workshop exploring Indigenous and Settler relationships. Developed to help make sense of the deep challenges faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples today, this workshop lays out historical and contextual realities that Indigenous peoples in Canada face daily, and offers suggestions for taking action, ways to journey further on paths of reconciliation, and how to create of a better and more just country for all of us. The workshop will be offered twice, on Friday, March 15 from 3 – 6 pm and again on Saturday, March 16 from 11 am – 2 pm. For more information and to register for your preferred date, please contact the parish office at 250-933-8208.

Catholic Street Missionaries

The Archdiocese of Vancouver and Catholic Street Missionaries invite young adults 19-30 to join us for the Hope on the Horizon outreach and leadership program happening between August 6-21st in downtown Vancouver. The program is designed to introduce young people to the life of a street missionary, sharing a life of prayer and service with others who go out into the streets bringing the love of Jesus to the homeless. For two and a half weeks, participants will live a communal life, praying, learning, and reaching out to our homeless friends on the streets. There will be street outreach training, faith formation and personal skills development. We will also enjoy recreational activities together. Food and accommodation will be provided. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon>

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

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday

9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday

12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

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.