



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - March 26th, 2023

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today, March 26th, is the Fifth Sunday of Lent and today's scriptures tell us in several ways that we don't have to fear death, that every experience of death is with, and within God's spirit. The first reading by Ezekiel exclaims *thus says the Lord God: "I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves."* Paul writes in the second reading, *if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.* Psalm 130 reassures us that *with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.* And finally, John's Gospel tells us the extraordinary story of the raising of Lazarus.

The account was written with many details; the message from the sisters to Jesus, the concern of the disciples to return to Bethany, the crowds gathering to mourn, Lazarus being in the tomb four days, and notably the faith of Martha and Mary. Both of the sisters expressed their sincere belief that if Jesus had visited Lazarus when he was ill, Lazarus would have lived. They had no doubts! It is clear that they witnessed many of the healings performed by Jesus during the past months. They listened to his words of love and mercy, his words on forgiveness and solidarity. Martha and Mary reflected on what they saw and heard, and their belief grew. We hear their voices two thousand years later and their faith inspires us. We, too, have witnessed God in our lives. We, too, have listened to his words. As we reflect on God's steadfast love and mercy, our own faith grows.

In the account of this miraculous happening are some of the most startling words expressed by Jesus. *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.* This is the Good News; this is the fulfillment of our faith - this is preposterous! Jesus knew we would have trouble accepting such a challenging concept and so that we might believe, he raised Lazarus who had been in a tomb for four days from the dead. Not even death can withstand the love and power of Jesus. He truly is the resurrection and the life. He truly is the way, the truth, and the life. He truly is *the Christ, the Son of God.*

How blessed are we to know and believe!

Tanya Taft



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
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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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>

 <i>Holy Week Schedule</i> 		
Thursday, April 6 th Holy Thursday	St. Patrick's Parish	7 PM
Friday, April 7 th Stations of the Cross	St. Patrick's Parish Holy Cross Parish	9 AM 11 AM
Good Friday Services	Holy Cross Parish St. Patrick's Parish	2 PM 4 PM
Saturday, April 8 th Easter Vigil	St. Patrick's Parish	8:30 PM
Sunday, April 9 th Easter Sunday Masses	Holy Cross Parish St. Patrick's Parish Please note there will be no 4 PM Mass at St. Patrick's	9 AM 11 AM

**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, place your donation inside, please drop it into the collection basket or drop it by the office. Thank you for your help in making this a beautiful celebration.



Children's Liturgy will be cancelled on March 26th for Spring Break and no Liturgy will run on Easter Sunday April 9th as children are invited to stay in the Church for Easter Mass.

Did you know - Development and Peace-Caritas Canada funds a project in **Madagascar**, where our partner CDA, is helping residents transform one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods into an ecological village. Please support the Share Lent collection this weekend or consider becoming a monthly donor at devp.org

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

Note from John Seale - Garden Time! Attention all parishioners, spring has sprung and that means it is once again time to work on beautifying the gardens at Holy Cross. We will hold two hour gardening sessions on Wednesday's, our first session will be held April 5. Tasks will include: weeding, pruning, planting and watering. If this is something that you would be interested in returning to, or joining for the first time, please email jseale1234@gmail.com to sign up and to receive weekly reminders. When you do email me, please state whether you would prefer the time of the session to be held at 10 am, or would you rather it be held at 1 pm, which is when we met the last two years.



Prayer Reflection

One truth stands firm. All that happens in world history rests on something spiritual. If the spiritual is strong, it creates world history. If it is weak, it suffers world history.

—Albert Schweitzer

No one can make the ascent without you, for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our confidence, our reward. Be the way that receives us, the truth that strengthens us, the life that invigorates us.

—Saint Ambrose of Milan

I live each day to kill death; I die each day to beget life, and in this dying unto death, I die a thousand times and am reborn another thousand through that love from my people, which nourishes hope!

—Julia Esquivel

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, March 25th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Bill Malcolmson+

SUNDAY, March 26th

9am Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

MONDAY, March 27th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, March 28th

9am Mass: Ron Maclsaac+

WEDNESDAY, March 29th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 30th

9am Mass: Marie Arsenault+

Narciso+ and Soccorro+

FRIDAY, March 31st

9am: Stations of the Cross

Office Staff

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

Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - is held on the First Friday of the month

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 26, 2023

“Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” Do you believe that your plan is God’s plan? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcdvictoria.org

Baptism Coordinator News

Thank you! to Barb Shenton, our wonderful Baptism Coordinator, for her years of service. Welcome! to Bev Pulyk who will be taking over as the new Baptism Coordinator.

Message from Bishop Gary Gordon

Please join me in welcoming **Joelle Dressler** who will serve in the role of **Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization** effective May 1, 2023. Joelle is a highly respected educator who has taught in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. She joins us most recently from the Diocese of Kamloops. Joelle holds a Master of Religious Education from Newman Theological College and has numerous years of experience serving her parish and school communities in a variety of roles. Her willingness to serve others as a missionary disciple will assist us in living Christ’s mission in our parishes and schools. Your continued prayer and support for our parishes and schools is very much appreciated.

Orders for plants and hanging baskets are being taken now!

Ellis is ready to take your order for plants, veggies and hanging baskets. All proceeds go to Mount St. Mary Hospital, and prices remain the same as last year. In addition, if you bring Ellis your empty patio pots in early April, he will plant them with whatever you wish – in the best potting soil and 100-day slow-release fertilizer! Call Ellis at 250-477-6754 or email him at eachtem@shaw.ca to order or for more information. Plants being offered are hanging baskets, geraniums (three types), veggies (tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, basil, zucchini) and assorted flowers (perennial African daisies, marigolds and sunflowers)



COLLECTION for March 20th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 1,360.00
Loose	\$ 250.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,370.00
Development & Peace	\$ 60.00
Anawim	\$ 736.00
TOTAL	\$3,776.00

Thank You Corner

Thank you to Trish Westwood and Marcia Thompson for stepping in to do Liturgy of the Word with Communion on Sunday, March 19th when Fr. William was away saying Mass in Mill Bay.

News from the Diocese

1) March 28 – April 1 marks the **one-year anniversary of the Indigenous Delegation to Rome**. As we reflect on our continuing journey of healing and reconciliation, we are happy to share some new resources on the Diocesan Indigenous Relations page (<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous>):

Archbishop Donald Bolen's presentations from the 2022 Diocesan Faith Days, "Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation", are now available online in video and/or PDF format at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/seeking-truth-healing-and-reconciliation-with-archbishop-don-bolen>

The *Indigenous Voices of Faith* project has released a booklet featuring interviews with 12 Indigenous Canadians about their religious faith and its interaction with their culture. To learn more and to read the interviews, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/indigenous-voices-of-faith>

2) All people of the Diocese of Victoria are invited to join in the celebration of the **Chrism Mass**. At this yearly liturgy, sacred oils are blessed and given to representatives from each parish in the diocese. These will be presented in each church on Holy Thursday and used during the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. The Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo

Mark your calendar! Fashion Show with a Difference - Tuesday April 11th at 1:00pm in the Hall. No charge. Everyone welcome! Join the CWL ladies for a fun and informative fashion show featuring items available at our upcoming sale (April 28th & 29th). As we watch the models in their beautiful curated outfits, the Social & Eco Justice Committee will present interesting and thought provoking information about the origins and lifecycle of our clothes. Be entertained and educated while getting fashion ideas!

* **April 28th & 29th (Fri./Sat.) CWL SPRING GOOD USED CLOTHING SALE** now includes the Treasured Book & Jigsaw Puzzles Sale to their Spring venue. Not to be missed!

Donations needed and gratefully accepted!

* Men's, women's, children's clothing and shoes along with household linens;

* Book and puzzle donations are now being accepted; but please note - we're unable to accept magazines, text or reference books.

All items can be left: 1) at St. Pat's - on the marked carts in the hall closet area (just before the Office). Or 2) in the Holy Cross Office (Joanie will transport to St. Pat's).

Please note we are NOT accepting any other items at this time.

Thank you for your kind support. - Theresa Smith, theresasmith1225@shaw.ca

Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Tony Southwell at (250) 477-5738 to register.

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: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

spahcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Office Assistant Job Posting St. Andrew's Cathedral is seeking a full-time, customer-service oriented Office Assistant to assist with the clerical duties of a busy parish office. We're looking for someone with a friendly attitude and strong work ethic, with an eye for detail, who can comfortably prioritize duties and work diligently under pressure. A full job description is available on our website or by email: saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com. Only those candidates who most closely match our requirements will be contacted. Please send your resume and covering letter to Rita Fichtner, Office Manager, at the parish office no later than April 22nd.

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.