



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinned 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 - March 6, 2022
First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to the first Sunday of Lent and a 40 day commitment to honour God and put God first before our own needs. Let us come to the altar of the Lord and humbly offer ourselves as firstfruit. Come with a grateful, contrite heart open to God's transforming grace, trusting that God hears our yearnings and guides us to the *Promised Land*.

We are called to *exodus* from judgment, criticism, fear, selfishness, a 'me' attitude, and let God transform our hearts of stone, shatter our patterns of sin, and deepen our understanding of a loving, merciful, faithful God. Lent is our annual pilgrimage to the *Promised Land*, to the deep recesses of our hearts where we abide with the indwelling God. God is our Promised Land, our dwelling place, our refuge and fortress where there is nothing to fear!

As we enter into Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we are fortified with the acclamation that Jesus is God's Son, the Beloved, the one who comes for all, who is *full* of the Holy Spirit, and *led* by the Holy Spirit into this wilderness. Jesus doesn't go alone, and neither do we. He has God's affirmation and the support of the Holy Spirit as do we. Jesus knows the wilderness just as we know the wilderness story from the Bible and from our own lives. God heard the cries of the Israelites and brought them out of slavery into the wilderness where God provided for them. They were formed and shaped into God's covenant people. When we reflect back on our lives, we see how God was fully present to us in our wildernesses, and how we are continually refined by Divine Love.

Jesus shows us that we will always be tempted; it's the human condition. What matters is how we react (or how we respond, there's a difference). Do we invite God into the situation? Do we offer up a short prayer or use scripture to guide us? Do we trust in the divine providence of God to lead us through? The temptations portray a selfish grabbing and grasping at power, security, and status. Are we hoarding our gifts, playing games to bolster our position, or adding to the divisiveness in our world today through our judgments, slander, and intolerance?

In the first temptation, Jesus is asked to use his power for selfish purposes, to put his comfort and physical well-being first, before others – *eat if you're hungry, why deprive yourself?* We hear the world say to us, *buy it now or do something nice for yourself, you deserve it.* This temptation depicts a lack of trust in God for sustenance; we rely on ourselves, grab and hoard, and put our needs first; a life of service and compassion for others is abandoned. God's Kingdom calls us to use our gifts for the greater good, to be of service, to be the good news.

The second temptation entices Jesus to worship the devil, a false god, to accomplish a good end (glory and authority) by evil means (worshipping the devil). Jesus obtains glory and authority by surrendering completely to God. His teaching, healing, forgiving, and suffering derive from God's glory and authority. Are we willing to kneel before the evil one to obtain power at any cost or do we follow Jesus who shows us the way through suffering with compassion and love, serving and worshipping God alone?

The third temptation tries to cast doubt on Jesus' identity, *If you are the Son of God*, and puts God to the test. Our own inner demons cast doubt telling us we are unworthy of God's love, that all is hopeless. The devil will not give up. Like Jesus, we must be vigilant as we tune our ears to God's voice, our hearts to God's Word, and our lives to God's ways. Don't let the devil in the driver's seat. We're not along for the ride! We know the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Call on the name of the Lord to help us fast from our needs, give from our gifts, and be the prayer that others need to hear.

Mona Goodman

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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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>

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

You gave to the Bishop's Appeal, and the money allocated back to our Parish's project has succeeded in allowing us to sponsor a refugee family! This week the agreement between Holy Cross Parish and the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto was formalized. A family of three, parents and their 21-year-old daughter, are in the last stages of having their application to come to Canada approved. They should be arriving within a couple of months if all continues to go well. In our initial email exchange, they relayed the following message: "I'm very thankful to you for your support. May God bless. We are very excited to see you soon." The Refugee Sponsorship Group is now preparing for the arrival of this family, and we are so grateful for your support and continuing prayers.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BOTTLE DRIVE

Save Your Bottles and the Date!! On Saturday April 23rd from 9:00 am until 1:00 Pm the Knights of Columbus will be having a bottle drive . Drop off any refundable cans, bottles, and milk containers to St. Patrick's Church parking lot. (No sorting required) Proceeds will be going to support The Knights of Columbus and student bursaries. Refundable containers can be dropped off at St. Patrick's Church before April 23rd and stored inside the KOFC storage room.

VICTORIA DIOCESAN BURSARY IN MEMORY OF FREDA SMITH

The Victoria Diocesan CWL Council is offering a \$750 bursary to a graduating Catholic student within the Diocese of Victoria. This bursary will be awarded to a student proceeding on to a form of higher education. Criteria and applications are available at the Parish Office, online at cwldov.org or from your local CWL president. **The deadline for applications is March 31, 2022,**

NOTE FROM THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Sandwich Patrol: Saturday, March 5th please come and join us as we distribute sandwiches on Pandora Avenue. The group will meet at St. Andrew's Cathedral at 2:15, and will come back to the same location at 5pm for Mass and a debrief over snacks afterwards. For more information please view the poster [here](#). Students, please RSVP by emailing Lydia at: lfoch@rcdvictoria.org
Friday, March 4th Lifeboat Ethics zoom event : Tonight's discussion is on euthanasia. Contact Lydia for the zoom link if you are interested.



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SHARE LENT



Development and Peace: a movement of solidarity

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada.

We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice.

With the help of our 11,000+ volunteer members, we inform Canadians about the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change. Our Lenten campaign, *People and Planet First*, offers you the opportunity to help protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems from corporate abuse.

To learn more about and to join our movement, visit devp.org.

PRAYER REFLECTION

Maybe you have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light. —Madeline L'Engle

Have you run so many circles of the years bustling vainly about the world, and yet you don't have 40 days to be free for prayer for your own soul's sake? —Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

I have been my own disciple and my own master. And I have been a good disciple but a bad master. —Antonio Porchia

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Please note the following changes to the schedule in March. We have also posted these changes at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

- Friday, March 18: Livestream at 7 pm from Port Hardy
- Sunday, March 20: 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 from St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria.

A post has just been added to the Diocesan website about the escalation of conflict in Ukraine. The text of the post is copied below, or it can be read online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/pray-for-peace-in-ukraine>. Please share with your communities.

In addition, parishes are encouraged to include a suitable intercessory prayer in their liturgical celebrations, such as the following:

We pray for an end to conflict in Ukraine, and that peace will be brought through dialogue and diplomacy.

ASSISTING THE REFUGEE FAMILY

Our family of 3 will arrive soon, maybe in a couple months, if all goes well. Actual arrival date will depend on when the final stages in their application process are completed and travel approved.

In preparation for their arrival, the search for **rental accommodation** is ongoing and household items are being collected for their apartment/suite. As accommodation is scarce in the current rental market, we are hoping you can help us in our search for a 2-bedroom apartment in a central location with easy access to public transportation and grocery shopping. If you know of any upcoming vacancy, please contact Carol Tyshynski at tyshynskic@gmail.com.

Thanks to the generosity of the Franciscan Poor Clare sisters who will be vacating their Duncan monastery soon, we have acquired many furniture pieces, etc. For **household items** still required, please refer to this [list](#) and, if you wish to donate, please contact Carol who will be updating inventory as items are offered/received. Thank you for your continued support.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, March 5th

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone +

SUNDAY, March 6th

9am Mass: Clive Loader +

MONDAY, March 7th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, March 8th

9am Mass: Franco Flora +

WEDNESDAY, March 9th

9am Mass: Mary Gillen +

THURSDAY, March 10th

9am Mass: Pat Gabany +

FRIDAY, March 11th

9am: Mass: Angela Murphy +

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 February 20, 2022

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 1,800.00
Loose	\$ 240.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,717.00



CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

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: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshenton@rcdvictoria.org

NEWS FROM ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The children at St. Patrick's are always up to something! Join the fun on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/>

CALL FOR DONATED YARN!

You might not know this, but long time parishioner, Judy Begg, is also a long time supporter of the Hospital Auxiliary at Royal Jubilee Hospital Gift Shop. To date she has knit *over 360 baby sweaters* and donated them all to the gift shop to be sold for charity. But her yarn supply is running low. If you have any unused balls of yarn please consider donating them to Judy. Yarn donations can be dropped off at the parish office or in the bin in the foyer of the church. *Thank you!*

SYNOD LISTENING CIRCLE INFORMATION

As many of you know, in unity with our Holy Father Pope Francis, our diocese is embarking on a special journey toward a synodal Church, a listening Church. Bishop Gary invites each and every person to participate and contribute to the synod process in our diocese.

To participate, you can:

Join one of the upcoming *Listening Circles* being offered via zoom **by the diocese**. Dates to choose from are (click on the link to register)

[Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM](#)

[Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM](#)

Watch the diocesan website for additional dates

Join one of the *Listening Circles* being offered **here at Holy Cross on:**

Thurs, March 10 after morning mass (9:45am at the church)

Thurs, March 17 at 6:30pm via zoom

Wed, April 6 after morning mass (9:45am at the church)

To sign up for any of the parish *Listening Circles*, please call or email the parish office with your name and contact information (phone and email).

NOTE: If you are interested in attending an in-person *Listening Circle* on an evening or weekend here in our parish, please let the parish office know and Bev Pulyk would be happy to organize one.

Respond to a survey

paper survey – [Click here for a PDF version of the form](#)

respond to an online survey - [Click here to complete the form online.](#)

Once you have completed the PDF form, please send it to us by [email](#), or mail it to: Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria - Synod Committee, #1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, V8X 2A1

We want to hear from everyone. In preparation for your participation, we invite you to reflect on these questions:

How is "journeying together" happening today in our particular church or community?

What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow in our "journeying together"?

For more information on the Synod, you may visit the diocesan website. www.rcdvictoria.org/synod. Please, be a part of the conversation, so we all may grow in participation, communion, and mission.

SILENT AUCTION AT ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY

Mark your calendar: February 27th to March 13th 2022

<https://www.32auctions.com/PSG2022>



Check out some of the items donated so far:

- 2 Nights Salt Spring Island lakeside cottage
- WildPlay gift certificate
- 4 Cats gift certificate
- Restaurant gift cards (Romeo's, Blue Crab, Finns, White Spot, Dead Beetz Burger, Fernwood Pizza etc)
- Book store gift cards (Russell Books, Ivy's book)
- Spa packages
- Retail gift cards (Thrifty Foods, Mr. Pet's, Uptown Mall, Slaters Meat, Market on Yates etc)
- Gift Baskets (Save on Foods, Pharmasave, Dental Gift Basket)
- Services (BC Ferries, Oak Bay Rec Centre drop in courtesy passes)
- and much more!

Thank you to everyone who donated to this fundraiser! Your support is very much appreciated!

**Care for our
Common
HOME**

**Franciscan
Youth Group**

Sacred Heart Franciscan Youth Group gathers biweekly to build a community that cares for God's creation and one another by learning, having fun and deepening our faith.

Sundays at 1pm on Zoom

Register by email: religioused@sacredheartvictoria.com

WORLD YOUTH DAYS INFORMATION MEETING

The next World Youth Day will be in August 2023 in Lisbon Portugal. World Youth Day is a gathering of young adult Catholics from all over the world to gather in a particular place to pray, learn, and celebrate the joy of being Catholic. The event concludes with an overnight vigil and Mass on the Sunday with the Pope! Open to anyone 19-35. The Diocese of Victoria will be organizing a pilgrimage group to go to World Youth Day with Fr Harrison Ayre and Fr Eduardo Santos as chaplains. We will be holding an informational meeting at Our Lady of Fatima on April 10th at 4pm to talk about costs, dates, and help you learn more about what WYD is. If you're unable to be in Victoria, we will try to have a zoom link available for those in other parts of the diocese. Please e-mail Fr. Harrison at hayre@rcdvictoria.org to register.

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!

Knights of Columbus On-line Lenten Retreat March 26

The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council is inviting member Knights of Greater Victoria Councils to join our LENTEN RETREAT on Saturday, March 26th from 1 to 4 p.m. The Retreat Master will be Deacon Philip Yuson; and the topic of the Retreat is "Spiritual Warfare" (from the KofC's "Into the Breach"). Be sure to have a working microphone and camera in order to fully participate in the talks & prayers. To join, simply click on this link: <http://refuge.conceptbc.ca>