



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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 November 22, 2020 Feast of Christ the King

The church year ends this week. Along with that we're invited to consider another ending: our mortality. What goes on in eternity, anyway? Thomas Aquinas declares that God and eternity are the same. When we go from here, we go to God. How we experience the Divine Presence depends on whether our lives have become fully compatible with Love. Francis de Sales envisions Jesus saying to us: "Be it done as you desire; and because of what you have done, come, enjoy eternity." The desire of my heart will be answered: Will the choice be a life of love?

How do we nurture our relationship with God, apart from the keeping of the rules? Jesus and the prophets of old both point to our treatment of others. What we do for them, we do for God. The best way to honor the God we don't see is to honor the sister or brother that we do see. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, and we will not only have helped a fellow human being, we will have entered into the compassion of God in Christ. Everything else we do in this world is passing, but our communion with the heart of God is eternal. As Saint Paul put it, faith, hope, and love will all remain, but love is the greatest of even these three noble virtues. To these six activities listed in Matthew 25, the church has added a seventh, burying the dead, and wrapped the package together as the corporal works of mercy. As with every useful tool, we can reduce this to a checklist to be satisfied: "Gave five dollars to the missions. Said hi to that homeless guy. Brought old clothes to Anawim. Visited Aunt Bertha at the nursing home, sent a card to incarcerated Uncle Ray, and went to cousin Pete's funeral. Done!" But like the Love Command, these seven activities are invitations to think more broadly and deeply about how to love others. The farther we journey into them, the more deeply we come into communion with the heart of God.

On this Feast of Christ the King, we have an image of the Shepherd protecting the sheep. It is a comforting and familiar image. We know that God protects us. But the readings also challenge us to protect one another—the weak, the hungry, the imprisoned. This reflects the kingship of Jesus. We are being trusted to make Christ's kingship what it needs to be. We become the presence of Christ our king in the world today. We determine the image of Christ for the world to see and experience as Christ works through us—if we let him. It is our choice. And how we respond determines if we have protected Christ's presence in our world. This is no easy task. To be able to make all the right moves, we come forward to share in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We take our king into our hearts and into our world. The world we live in is challenged. To a certain degree, despair abounds in everyone. And sometimes reality becomes so burdensome, we are so divided, that the goodness of creation, the presence of God in our brothers and sisters, is invisible. Though we long, we cannot to see. If this Feast of Christ as King does anything for us, might it be a reminder of the trustworthiness of God. Might we believe that both the sheep and the goats are in good hands, that we can leave judgment to the Judge and allow Peace to reign in our hearts.

Let us make Our King the center of our everything,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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Effective Immediately: All in person faith gatherings have been suspended for the next two weeks. That means all weekend and weekday Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering the parish centre, and all business will be conducted through the glass partitioned greeting counter. Whenever possible please call or email the office before coming. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9-11am for private prayer, please sit on chairs on left side only.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJ hospital chaplain please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

Our conversation started with my request to put a poster on the bulletin board with the latest fundraising efforts of the GHERKINS (Gordon Head Refugee Sponsorship Constituent Group). Fr. William became very thoughtful and expressed his concern for the refugee plight, especially in the light of recent prayers of the faithful for those without access to soap and clean water, an inability to access medical attention or to practice physical distancing in refugee camps. "Would there be a willingness to pursue another refugee sponsorship?" he asked. So, I asked those who had previously invested so much talent, time and effort into our first sponsorship. Their response was overwhelmingly positive. And so, we come to you, the parishioners of Holy Cross, and ask the same question. Perhaps you could express your willingness to support a second refugee family to Fr. William, Trudy Holden or myself, Sheila Wall. The road will be long due to Covid-19 and a slowing of the bureaucratic process but we are willing to take the first steps in this journey with your support.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Given the recent situation in our Province regarding Covid-19, Fr. William is choosing to keep everyone in their Mass bubbles for Christmas this year and celebrate the **12 Days of Christmas**. This means, if you are already in a Mass bubble, *your regular weekly Mass will be your Christmas Mass*.

For those of you that have not attended Mass at Holy Cross or any other parish since March, Fr. William will be adding extra Masses for you to attend. Registration will be required, and we will open *registration on Tuesday, December 8th*. (please provide your name, email, contact number and parish.) For Holy Cross: You can register by emailing Joanie Bidlake at: officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org or - by phoning the parish office at: 250-477-5321.

For St. Patrick's: Please call Deborah Mackay at St. Patrick's parish office at: 250-592-7391, or by e-mail: StPat190@telus.net

The extra Masses available to those who are not in a Mass bubble currently are as follows:

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th

4:00pm Holy Cross Parish—Family Mass for families with children (Register at Holy Cross by phone or email)

8:30pm St. Patrick's Parish— Mass (Register at St. Patrick's by phone or email)

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th

7:00am Holy Cross Parish—Mass (Register at Holy Cross by phone or email)

10:15am St. Patrick's Parish—Mass (Register at St. Patrick's by phone or email)

Important information: You may only register for the Masses above if you are **NOT** already in a mass bubble, and have not attended Mass anywhere else in the meantime. Registration opens on **Tuesday, December 8th**.

Any requests for registration received before then will not be processed.

Please also keep in mind that new information, updates and changes to protocols are coming almost daily from our Provincial Health Authority; therefore, further changes or cancellations to this schedule may be necessary as the weeks progress. We are grateful for your understanding and patience at this time, and will continue to keep you updated via our web-site (www.holycrossvictoria.org) and bulletins.

PRAYER REFLECTION

Everyone must consider one's every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all life and the means necessary to living it with dignity, so as not to imitate the rich man who had no concern for the poor man Lazarus.

—The Church and the Modern World

Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.

—Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

DIOCESAN BLOG: It is fitting that our Blog “Church of Many Faces” features Saanich Peninsula Parish, which is comprised of two churches, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (whose Memorial we celebrate today), and Our Lady of the Assumption. As prayed in the Collect (opening Prayer) for the Mass today, “O God, by whose gift Saint Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and revered Christ in the poor, grant, through her intercession, that we may serve with unflinching charity the needy and those afflicted.” Saint Elizabeth, pray for us.

Kindly please share the link to the Diocesan Blog with your community and friends:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/saanich-peninsula-parish-a-pilgrim-church>

FROM ST. PATRICK’S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Did you know our local elementary school has a Facebook page that is updated regularly with school news and projects from the students at the school? If you haven’t already go check out what our parish affiliated school is up to: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/3832802470115851>

Reminder: the school has a bottle drive coming up Saturday, November 28th from 9-11am.

OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick’s and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, November 21st at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, November 21st

No Mass

SUNDAY, November 22nd

No Mass

MONDAY, November 23rd

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, November 24th

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, November 25th

No Mass

THURSDAY, November 26th

No Mass

FRIDAY, November 27th

No Mass

Please note that during the next two weeks all masses will be temporarily suspended. Father William will continue to live stream one mass per week.

As of Tuesday, November 24th the church will be open for private prayer from 9am-11am. Please only sit on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians. Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.



COLLECTION for November 15, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 2,660.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,372.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,032.00