



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - November 27th 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Today, November 27th, is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the beautiful Advent season. This is the time of wreaths and candlelight, calendars and waiting, longer nights and stillness, preparing for Christmas. Yet, Matthew's Gospel for this Sunday is startling and unexpected. *The flood came and swept them all away, and one will be taken and one will be left.* What is going on here? Who would want to be left behind? Who would want to be swept away? We are only too aware of the power of water sweeping away buildings, animals, and people. The floods a year ago in British Columbia and the recent ones in Pakistan have left us with indelible images of the destruction by water. This can't really be the appropriate Gospel for the beginning of Advent! But Jesus finishes his words with a plea. *Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming . . . the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.*

These few words shift everything! Jesus does not meet us in our daily lives with trumpet blasts and flashing lights. He comes gently, quietly, as a tiny movement in our hearts. We could easily miss him, we often do. As we work side by side in the field some of us will notice Jesus' coming, some of us will not. Ron Rolheiser, OMI (a Canadian priest and author from Saskatchewan) clarifies this gentle approach. He explains that God respects our free will and chooses not to overwhelm us. God is always waiting, always inviting us to respond, but always unobtrusively. Nevertheless, Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel let us know that God wants us to be awake so that we don't miss his coming, his invitation. God wants us to hear the Good News of his great mercy and love. God wants us to know that we are cherished and cared for. And if we are asleep, God will wait for us to wake up and take notice.

Jesus is asking us to be awake, aware, present! It doesn't matter if we are working the field or grinding flour. It doesn't matter whether we are sweeping the school gym, selling shoes, standing in the grocery line up or playing violin with the symphony. At any and every moment we are invited to be ready to meet God in our neighbor, in our friend or family member, in creation or the circumstances of our lives. We have a choice; we can be ready; we can *keep awake*.

Therefore, let us *put on the amour of light* as St. Paul encourages us to do, and follow Isaiah who urges us *to walk in the light of the Lord*, for our Lord of infinite love and mercy, our Lord of light and joy is coming.

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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

2022 / 2023

Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

			<u>Choir/Music</u>
SATURDAY, December 24th – Christmas Eve			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	VOX
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Rose & Brian
St. Patrick's Parish	Midnight	Fr. William Hann	Susan
SUNDAY, December 25th – Christmas Day			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Tafts
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	CFC
SATURDAY, December 31st – 2022 New Year's Eve - Vigil of Mary, Mother of God			
Holy Cross Parish	4:00pm	Fr. William Hann	Tafts
St. Patrick's Parish	6:00pm	Fr. William Hann	CFC
SUNDAY, January 1st – 2023 New Year's Day – The Solemnity of Mary			
Holy Cross Parish	9:00am	Fr. William Hann	Janet
St. Patrick's Parish	11:00am	Fr. William Hann	Bartle-Clars

Event: Saturday, February 4, 2023-**Called and Gifted live workshop** with Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge:
 Location: Holy Cross Parish: 9am to 3:30pm. An opportunity to discover God's call for your life God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you! **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Call of the Laity, Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, Explained Role of the Holy Spirit, Charisms Discernment Process, Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World. Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's parishioners will have the opportunity to register first before I open it up to other parishes. Please register in the next two weeks at either Holy Cross office@holycrossvictoria.org; St. Patrick's Parish stpat190@telus.net.

The **Holy Cross Volunteer Gardening** team recently wrapped up our 2022 gardening year. I would like to give a big thank you to everyone involved! A major focus of our work has been adding non-native, native and pollinator plants, including lavender, dwarf catmint, coastal sage, small flowered alumroot, yarrow, gumweed and woolly sunflower. Other important activities included weeding, watering, and deadheading. If this is of interest to you, you are more than welcome to join our vibrant group. We will be starting up again in April, welcoming new and former members. John Seale, Coordinator

The next **UVic Supper** will be held on **December 3rd**. Contributions to this meal are urgently required. If you are able to contribute, please sign up on the sheets in the foyer.

Library Corner The Library table in the church foyer has a small display of books appropriate for the Advent season of Christmas. They are "Advent Retreats" with such notable Spiritual Directors as St John the Evangelist, Julian of Norwich, St Frances of Assisi, Catherine of Siena and several others. Please use the sign-out book and return when finished. **At the other end of the Table**, our Parish Justice and Environment Committee has acquired some excellent books on the climate-change crisis. Pope Francis has led the way in our obligation to take care of God's nourishing earth.

Prayer Reflection

It is Advent again. We call this time Advent because it reminds us what comes from God for the creation of his Kingdom on Earth.

—C. F. Blumhardt

God’s intervening into human history came about with an almost frightening quietness and self-effacement, and . . . he will come again with the same silence and the same devastating humility into any heart ready to receive him.

—J. B. Phillips

To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work.

—Mary Oliver

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” If God is calling you to be 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

Advent Mission Opportunity: Sacred Heart Parish is happy to invite you to an **Advent Mission led by Bishop Gary**. As we begin our Advent journey, come and share the Hope, heralded by the promise of the birth of our Lord in our hearts and lives this Christmas. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent with a Mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday 27 November, the three-day Mission continues with a 7 p.m. Mass on Monday, 28 November, and will end with a Penitential Service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 November 2022.

2022 Diocesan Faith Day

Join us this Saturday, November 26th as we journey together “Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation” featuring keynote speaker, Most Reverend Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina.

We are a Church that is wounded and hurting, needing to search out our Pascal bearings and tell our story in a new way – to go deeper into the Pascal Mystery! How are we to be a Church (poor and for the poor) that reaches out in dialogue, seeking healing paths by walking together? More information and to register go to

<https://Diocesanfaithday2022.eventbrite.com>

OR email gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org OR Phone 250.479.1331 ext 230

Free bus transportation will be available, leaving at 7am from the Diocesan Centre. **Contact the office to be added to the bus transportation list. Limited spaces are available.**

A few missals remain for sale, in the office. \$5.00 as in previous years.

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, November 26th**

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

SUNDAY, November 27th

9am Mass: Chi-lit Chan+

MONDAY, November 28th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, November 29th

9am Mass: Aaron DeSilva+

WEDNESDAY, November 30th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 1st

9am: Ron Tinney+

Gladys Gray+

FRIDAY, December 2nd

NO MASS

The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday
9am - noon

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.

COLLECTION for Nov. 20th

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 4,295.00

Loose \$ 455.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,331.00

TOTAL \$ 6,081.00

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.

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have sold missals over the past few weekends, and to those who are selling fudge for Birth-right this weekend: Anna Mendonca, Shirley Lee, Patti-Lee Ross, Barry and Shelley Forrester

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Starting on Monday, November 21st, the Mass will be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Church in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe St), and will also be open to those who wish to attend in person. This change has also been posted at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

CHRISTMAS 2022 AT ANAWIM HOUSE !!

Your continued generosity in support of Anawim Companions Society for so many years is very much appreciated. You have always answered the “cry of the poor” and helped us provide a safe environment for those seeking to make positive changes in their lives.

As you are all aware the need for this support is becoming greater with more challenges. This Christmas, as we have for more so many years, we would like to continue to provide a “family” Christmas dinner and gift giving. This will take place on **December 16th**.

We are asking for your help with donations of NEW warm winter clothing. There will be a decorated donation box in the entrance to your Church starting November 26th until December 18th.

If you would like to make a donation and are unable to attend your Church you can contact Anawim House at info@anawimhouse.com You can also call 250 382-0283. If you would prefer to make a financial donation you can donate through <https://www.anawimhouse.com/donations/?preview=true> or by mail to Anawim House, 973 Caledonia Ave. Victoria, B.C. V8T 1E7.

The very popular Island grown, fresh cut Christmas trees will be on sale at the house from **NOVEMBER 30TH** Mon.-Fri.: 10am to 8pm, Saturday: 9am to 7pm, Sunday: 11am to 6pm.

The Social and Eco. Justice Committee is once again inviting all parishioners and friends to join the **annual Amnesty International letter-writing campaign** at our Parish Hall on **Sun. Dec. 11 (10–11:30 am)**. Last year, Holy Cross and St. Patrick’s parishioners collectively wrote over 60 letters, urging world leaders to protect individuals whose human rights have been denied. These letters can save lives! Visit <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/> for more info. Writing materials and postage will be provided at the session, and instructions given to first-time participants. If you are planning to come, **please contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca or 250-385-8322)** so that the Committee can plan for refreshments.



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

Children’s Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshenton@rcdvictoria.org

An Invitation! The Gospel Gals would like to invite you to join them for 9:00 am Mass on Thursday, December 01. After Mass mozey on over to the parish hall where everything will be set up and ready for you to make your very own fun Christmas Craft. After your creative creations you'll have the chance to visit each other as you enjoy tea/coffee and yummy treats, provided by the Gospel Gals. Numbers are limited so don't delay. **Sign up sheets are in the foyer.**

Are you doing Christmas baking? Please make a little extra and donate it to the Soup Kitchen at St. Andrew’s Cathedral. All cookies and squares welcomed, including store-bought, but especially those that can be frozen! Please place donations in the labeled box in the foyer. Many thanks for your help!