



# 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 29, 2020 First Sunday in Advent

Today marks the beginning of a new Church year, one in which we will be reading from the Gospel according to Mark. As the first one written, this Gospel is believed to be foundational to the writings of the authors of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It is the shortest Gospel, one that is written from the author's direct contact with the Apostle Peter. It is filled with the emotions of someone writing from the perspective of having received the story from someone 'who was there' and there is a sense of urgency about this Gospel.

Today's reading urges vigilance. Beware! Stay awake! Be alert! My initial response to this Scripture is to view this with a sense of foreboding. Is it possible, though, to interpret the reading with a sense of excitement and joyful anticipation? This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Liturgically, we are waiting and preparing for Christ's coming.

Think for a moment about young expectant parents. As the time of arrival of the new addition approaches there is a torrent of emotions - anticipation, joy, excitement, productive fear that propels the need for readiness, to name a few. All preparation is exacting, no detail overlooked. There is attentiveness to baby's movements and these are excitedly shared. Special gifts are crafted or chosen. All of this for a small and cherished child whose being is a mystery. When the baby does arrive, there is love and *more* love, enduring love. A relationship of discovery and revelation begins.

Advent is here and the Messiah is coming! Wouldn't it be wonderful to be as excited and ready as we are when welcoming our cherished baby bundles? If only we could be as vigilant and alert as Mark exhorts us to be. At the end of our Advent preparations we could celebrate the Nativity with an enriched relationship with our Savior. How can we dig deeper and change this Advent from the usual flurry of activity that is more commercially than Spiritually driven? We need to look for Jesus in our day and keep him in the forefront of our thoughts. We need to recognize his identity in all those we encounter. What special gift could we bring him? It may be as simple (or as hard) as dedicating some time to spend with him. And perhaps we could ask *him* for a special gift, like a Grace that we realize is lacking in ourselves. None of this is difficult, but it requires mindfulness and prayer, huddling with and listening to Jesus. A conversation. This is the basis of the Ignatian 'Examen'. From personal experience with this prayer form, I can attest to its effectiveness. You will be changed. At the beginning of this new Church year there is an invitation to be alert and be ready. There is always an opportunity to start over but why not try it now? Awaken your enthusiasm for our newborn King. Let the relationship of discovery and revelation begin.

The Advent candle will be lit today. The first Advent candle represents hope. Let us pray for hope - for each of us to be alert for the Child we await, Jesus. Let us pray for each other, our community, country and the world - for hope in these days.

Hoping to be focused throughout this Season, Sheila Wall



### 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. 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. Thank You!

### **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.

### **REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS**

In past years we have welcomed donations for the Christmas floral display. Let us remember a loved one by contributing towards a Poinsettia that will bear your name. Please pick up an envelope in the foyer of the church or in the office. Once you have filled it out, please drop it off in the office. **Deadline is Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.**



### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**



**Do you love working with children? Would you want to work casually?** Island Catholic Schools is looking for on-call Educational Assistants. For more information visit <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

### **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](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org) or - by phoning the parish office at: 250-477-5321. **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.**

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](mailto: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)

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](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)) and bulletins.

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

The world is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharp.  
—Bertrand Russell

When the church celebrates . . . Advent each year, she makes present [the] ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. —Catechism of the Catholic Church

**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](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

**SUNDAY** ..... 10 AM

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** ..... 7 PM

**Fraud Update:** Over the last several months there have been numerous fraud attempts using the email addresses of the Bishop, and our Priests. Scammers set up a fake email under the impersonated person's name. Please act with caution when responding to email requests asking for donations. Before you give money, stop and talk to a trusted friend. When in doubt call your parish office or the Diocesan office at: 250-479-1331.

**WRITE FOR RIGHTS**

**Write for Rights!** The Holy Cross Social and Ecological Justice Committee has been involved with Amnesty International's December campaign, Write for Rights, since 2016. Last year, 20 parishioners collectively wrote 59 letters. Let's see if we can do even better this year! These letters work: many people, wrongly imprisoned, some tortured, have been released due to these letter-writing campaigns.

**Please visit** <https://writeathon.ca/resources/#cases> for guidelines, tips, and sample letters/emails. The SEJC is hosting a ZOOM meeting on **Dec. 12th (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**, to provide assistance and support to letter writers. **Follow this link to join us** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89040437538?pwd=MGJKdTVMYXZFWithcGN4V2xQMmRCUT09>. Please notify Linda Leone ([lindaleone@telus.net](mailto:lindaleone@telus.net)) after you have sent letters or emails. Yes, we keep count!

**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 28th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

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

**Our Sunday Missals have arrived! Drop by the office during office hours Tuesday to Friday to pick yours up. Cost \$5.00**

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, November 28th**

No Mass

**SUNDAY, November 29th**

No Mass

**MONDAY, November 30th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, December 1st**

No Mass

**WEDNESDAY, December 2nd**

No Mass

**THURSDAY, December 3rd**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, December 4th**

No Mass

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**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 22, 2020**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 2,016.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,372.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,388.00</b>