



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Vision Statement

Holy Cross Parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic, vibrant, and inclusive Catholic community that gathers in unity and reaches out to attend to the needs of others.

SUNDAY September 2, 2018
Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

Mention the name Pharisee and descriptions quickly jump to mind -- hypocrite, self-righteous, judgemental. Such is the casting of the Pharisee in today's gospel. Yet, there is another side to the Pharisee. Go back through biblical history to the time when God gave the Commandments to his people. He told them not to add anything and not to take anything away. They were to be faithful to God in word and in deed - *love God and love others*. Many Pharisees were sincere; they practiced their faith and took care of widows, orphans and strangers. In their zeal they gradually added hundreds of rules, rituals and traditions which became heavy burdens upon the people and became the focus of worship. They believed all they had to do was to obey these rules. Over time they found reasons and ways to justify their growing lack of love and lack of mercy. In the end, they deceived themselves. They had all but forgotten God's commandments in favour of human tradition, ritual and ceremony, merciless justice and 'looking' holy.

Jesus did not condemn the Pharisees, but he did condemn their hearts. Of these He said, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Jesus was clear - the thing that matters is the condition of our heart. Then as now, those who are "doers of the word and not merely hearers" of the word are Disciple.

Rituals and rules can have their place in reverential worship. But, when rules, self-imposed or imposed by others, become the means by which we practice and judge our faith and belief and that of others, we are as Pharisee. We are not in relationship with Jesus. We are not a light for the world. As Pope Francis said, "a common temptation to reduce religion to just following the laws ... faith is a relationship, not a set of rules ... believing in Jesus and allowing love for him to translate into love for one's neighbors."

We are Disciple and walk as one with God when God's law takes deep root in our heart. We live in relationship with Jesus in prayer and worship and when we live to do his will – to "speak the truth from our heart ...," to serve those in need and work to eliminate the causes of our social ills. Disciple also accepts God's call '*to be compassionate and merciful as our heavenly Father is*'. The parables of the Good Samaritan and the woman caught in adultery are the models of compassion and mercy that we follow. Justice and fairness are important but they must be applied in light of abundant mercy. Our mantras become, "I forgive", from the easiest to forgive to the most unforgiveable, and as Pope Francis says, "Who am I to judge?" It is then that we are Disciple; that we are 'first fruits of God's creation'; that we are "in the world but not of the world."

This week let's observe ourselves very closely for Pharisee-Disciple tendencies. Let's watch our behaviours, listen to the words, language and topics of our conversations and examine our thoughts and judgements those fleeting and those lingering. Build on our Disciple qualities and ask God's help to be faithful to the Disciple namesake and the discipleship to which we are called – *to accept God's love for us, to love God, to love others, to be compassionate hearers and merciful doers of God's word*.

Disciples Together,
Trudy Holden

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. Karam Alraban, Parish Administrator

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

WELCOME BACK BBQ FOR UVIC AND CAMOSUN STUDENTS

The Outreach Committee is planning the annual Welcome Back BBQ for UVic and Camosun Catholic students after the 4:00 PM mass on Sunday 16 September. About 90 guests are expected. This is an important outreach initiative to the students who form part of our parish, and will continue with five other suppers in the course of the academic year. This year we need 4 volunteers to help with the BBQ and serving. We would also appreciate volunteers to provide salads and simple desserts. Sign-up lists have been posted in the church foyer for this and the October supper. I want to thank all the parishioners who cooked for us last year, and those of you who plan to help out this year. (John Oleson; jpoleson@uvic.ca)

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

On Friday, September 14th we are going to celebrate our Feast Day with our neighbors Saint Leopold Mandic Croatian Parish. There will be a Celebration Mass at 5:30pm with a lasagna dinner to follow in the hall. Sign up sheets are in the entrance.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Religious Education at Holy Cross will be starting up again in the Fall. Stay tuned for the date and time of our information meeting for parents interested in registering their children. All the details regarding classes offered this year will be presented...along with light refreshments! See you in September.

GREEN TIP FOR THE MONTH

The Social & Eco Justice Committee is starting a new series of monthly green tips, many proposed by parishioners during the Saint Patrick's Day "Green" Dinner. Here's one for September: Save laundry until you have a full load. Use dryer balls (reusable indefinitely) instead of single-use sheets. Better still, use drying racks or a clothes line!



CATECHISTS, SACRAMENT PREPARATION LEADERS, YOUTH MINISTERS JOIN US!

Diocesan Catechist Retreat & Workshop Saturday, September 15th 9:00am – 3:00 pm (Coffee's on at 8:30) Church of the Ascension - 887 Wembley Road, Parksville, BC
Lunch provided – Free will offering
REGISTRATION REQUIRED! – Online at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-catechist-retreat-workshop-tickets-47970458934> or Diocesan website <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/> Contact Glen or Gwen for more information: (250) 479 1331
gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org

IN THE LIBRARY

The Parish library has an excellent collection of fine books under such headings as: **Devotional, Bible Commentaries, Biographies, History, Reasons to Believe, Favourite Writers, Contemporary Issues, Vatican II Onward** etc... Our Library has been well stocked over the years by Mark Underhill's innumerable gifts and we have also been able to purchase some new books from a limited budget including most recently Brad Gregory's remarkable and controversial rethinking in **The Unintended Reformation**. **Browsing encouraged!**

PRAYER REFLECTION

What goes into a person *can* defile a person. Ask a drug addict or an alcoholic. But Jesus' diagnosis is that there's a deeper problem that comes from within. Spiritual impurity or moral defilement starts on the inside. It arises from the heart. —*Heidi Husted, The Christian Century*

Knowledge is of no avail without the love of God, nor is understanding of mysteries, faith, or prophecy. Without love all are vain and profitless. Love, on the other hand, perfects a person, and one who loves God is perfect both in this world and the next, for we shall never stop loving God.
—*Saint Irenaeus (c. 140-200)*

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **SEPTEMBER 15:** As indicated by Bishop Gary, in his recent letter, he is inviting us to a day of prayer, penance and fasting as we implore God for the healing of victims of sexual abuse and for all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of Church authorities. How or if one does this is left to the individual's conscience. We will have our usual two Masses that day (9:30 am and 5 pm) and while the Bishop would like to be with us at the Cathedral for one of those Masses, his schedule has him in the mid-island and so he will celebrate Mass at one of the parishes in that area.
- **ST. ANDREW'S REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL:** Our Catholic High School for the Diocese of Victoria is having many changes this year from new staff to a new section of the building being added on. Therefore, the start of school has been delayed to the second week of September. Please refer to the schools website or call the school for up to date information on the extraordinary schedule this year.
- **ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:** will be accepting applications for Teachers on Call for all schools. Application forms and details are posted at: <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>
- **PARENTS AND TOTS:** St. Patrick's Parish, 2060 Haultain St. invites moms or dads at home with children under 5 to join our Parents and Tots group which meets weekly on Wednesday mornings. There are toys and activities and volunteer grandmas to keep the children amused while the parents gather to socialize. Start date, Wed. Oct. 3 at 9:30. It finishes at 11:00. Contact Pauline at 250-592-9434, email: pischerr@shaw.ca or Nancy Stuart at 250-477-6952, email: nancy-stuart@shaw.ca

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, September 2nd

8:30 am Mass: **Sid Joss +**

10:30 am Mass: **Pat Stewart +**

MONDAY, September 3rd

No Mass

TUESDAY, September 4th

9:00 am Mass: **Espirito Santo +**

Tony Martins +

WEDNESDAY, September 5th

11:00 am Memorial Mass:

John Carrieres

THURSDAY, September 6th

9:00 am Mass: **Mark Zamorski +**

FRIDAY, September 7th

9:00 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**

SATURDAY, September 8th

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Margaret (int)**

SUNDAY, September 9th

8:30 am Mass: **Sid Joss +**

10:30 am Mass: **Jose Pacheco +**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL GROUP

The Wednesday Afternoon Social group will be reconvening on Wednesday, Sept. 5th, from 1-3pm in the parish hall. New members are always welcome. Come join the fun playing bridge and enjoying coffee/tea and baked goods afterwards. Contact Angie Speller (250 382 - 3908) or Veronica Rampon (250 477-1963) if you have inquiries.

MEMORIAL MASS

Memorial Mass for John Carrieres will take place at 11am on Wednesday, September 5th. Please come and support the family.

PASTORAL CARE VISITS WHILE IN HOSPITAL

If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Ian Stuart** to make this request.

CONTACTS

Administrator: Fr. Karam Alraban

250-477-5321 rev.karam@gmail.com

250-294-9615 after hours

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Ian Stuart

250-889-3761

Pastoral Assistant: Anna Mendonca

250-477-5321 pastoralassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council: Esther Sangster-Gormley

egorm@uvic.ca

University Chaplain: Fr. Dean Henderson

250-721-8339 (office) 250-882-2151 (cell)

catholic@uvic.ca

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	PHONE
Liturgy	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Liturgical Ministries:		
Usher / Greeter	Maria Arruda	250-477-5526
Altar Server	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Music	Various Choirs	250-477-5321
Altar Linens	Marg McDonnell	250-477-6332
Flowers/Art Envir.	Ann Francis	250-477-8650
Sun. Coffee, 8:30	Darlene Southwell	250-477-5738
Sun. Coffee, 10:30	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Bulletin Folders	Vicki Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Sacramental Wine	John Bartle-Clar	250-995-1891

SERVING OUR HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Responsible Min.	Martha Oleson	250-477-6455
	Janita McHugh	250-220-4778
Parish Council	Esther Gormley	250-360-0107
Finance	David Begg	250-658-0870
Maintenance/Bldg.	Ed Boomars	250-881-8124
Cleaning Kitchens	Loretta MacDonald	250-477-6682
Annual Shed Clean	Jack Ponsioen	250-383-0654
Parish Grounds	Joe Mendonca	250-888-8930
Social/Comm. Life		
Baptism Prep.	Anna Mendonca	250-477-5321
Marriage Prep.	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Mom's/Tots	Partnership with St. Patrick's	
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION August 26, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2,395.00
Loose	\$ 570.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,107.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,072.00

Children's Liturgy of the Word	Bobbi Bartle-Clar/ Valentina Boyd	250-995-1891 250-813-0230
Catholicism	Fr. Karam Alraban	250-477-5321
Library	George Murphy	250-658-6061
Outreach/Visiting	Anna Mendonca	250-477-3552
Bereavement / Funeral / Follow-Up	Fr. William Hann	250-477-5321
Funeral Reception	Barb McKrow	250-477-8322

SERVING COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

Diocesan Appeal	Ed Chwyl	
Franciscans and Friends Youth	Maritza Chouza	778-533-1736
Could You Ever Come Back To The Church	Fr. William Hann Glenn Palahicky	250-477-5321 250-479-1331
RCIA	Phil / Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
RCIC	Dan Taft Jr.	250-721-0821
Ecumenism	Terry Marner	250-380-0157
Social & Eco. Justice	Yvonne Hsieh	250-385-8322
Anawim	Parish Office	250-477-5321
Christmas Project	Coordinated by the Parish Office	
D&P/Share Lent	Sheila Wall	250-385-7007
Refugees	Trudy Holden	250-472-1079
St. Vincent De Paul	Martin Fletcher	250-592-9297
Univ/Camosun Bursaries	Tony Southwell	250-477-5738
Uvic/Camosun Outreach	John Oleson	250-477-6455