

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 9, 2018 Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

Jesus was a long way from his usual stomping grounds in today's Gospel reading. Mark says, "Returning from the region of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis." That puts Jesus in modern-day Lebanon, in a Gentile area of the region. He had gone 'to the fringes'.

Yet the people know who Jesus is. In an area this remote, there are people who have faith and they entrust the healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment to Jesus. Jesus takes the man aside and the deaf man has the private experience of Jesus' healing. In the depth of his love for this man, Jesus sighs as we might when feeling deeply the pain and struggles of one of our own children. He looks to heaven, to his Father, and prays for the man's healing. Mercifully, the man's hearing and speech are restored. And the people rejoice in amazement saying: "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." This is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah from the first reading today and their proclamation affirms that the Messiah has arrived.

What is the message for us? Perhaps we are to follow Jesus' lead and 'go to the fringes' too. If we follow the example of the people in today's Gospel, we will take the marginalized to God.

Pope Francis has reminded us of this mission by calling the Church a 'field hospital' for the wounded. Cardinal Cupich, in an interview with Pope Francis relates: "We already know this about ourselves, as Jesus gave us this truth at the very start of his ministry when he announced that he was sent "to bring glad tidings to the poor, sent to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord". That is Christ's challenge for us today: to be a field hospital for the needy. To bring those glad tidings, not to sit back and wait for those who need them to ask. To go out, to travel to the peripheries where the oppressed reside. To be with the wounded on the field of battle. This is what is acceptable to the Lord. It is radical. Mercy always is. And as Pope Francis continues to remind us of this truth, he takes us back to our Christian roots, helping us realize that this challenge has been with us all along."

But where are the fringes, and who are the marginalized in our lives? We may or may not be aligned with the homeless or prisoners or even the homebound; these may be what spring to mind when we consider whom the 'oppressed' are in Pope Francis' commentary. But what about those friends or family members (children or grandchildren, sisters or brothers) who are seemingly without direction? We probably all have one or two in our lives, right? Or, maybe we know a neighbour who has been alienated from the Church. Can we see ourselves going to that periphery, being courageous in stepping out to make an invitation to 'come and see'?

Go to the fringes. Offer the marginalized among us, with faith, to a God of mercy. Trust that He cares, that He will sigh in compassion and love. Trust that He will intercede.

He will do everything well. Rejoice in amazement!

Blessings on your week!

Sheila Wall

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)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL GROUP

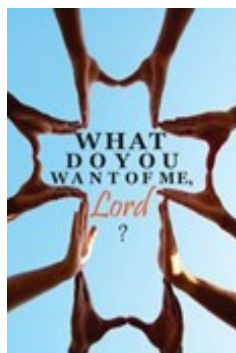
The Wednesday Afternoon Social group is up and running every Wednesday from 1-3pm in the parish hall. New members are always welcome. Come join the fun playing bridge, and other games and enjoying coffee/tea and baked goods afterwards. Contact Angie Speller (250 382 - 3908) or Veronica Rampon (250 477-1963) if you have inquiries.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to a new year of religious education at Holy Cross! If you would like to sign up your child for classes this year please drop by between the 8:30 and 10:30 mass next Sunday, September 16th. I will be available for questions and have registration forms on hand. Fees once again are \$30 for the year. You can bring cash or check made payable to Holy Cross Parish. Refreshments will be on hand! See you then!
Giacinta Bewley, Religious Education Coordinator

SOCIAL BRIDGE

The 36th year of this once a month social gathering at Holy Cross commences Sunday, October 7th, in the Parish Centre. The evening starts at 7:00 p.m. with social bridge followed by refreshments. If you enjoy Bridge in a hospitable and non-competitive environment you are invited to join the Group. All levels of Bridge are most welcome! Please contact Tony Southwell for more information at (250) 477-5738 or via e-mail: tsouthwell@shaw.ca or Mike Neal at (250) 477-1309 or via e-mail: mneal49@shaw.ca

**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

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE—VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Development and Peace group at Holy Cross needs a new co-ordinator. If you are interested or have any questions about the position might entail please feel free to contact Sheila Wall at 250-385-7007, or the office at 250-477-5321.

PRAYER REFLECTION

If poor people come in . . . make room for them wholeheartedly, O bishop, even if it means that you have to sit on the ground. You must not be a respecter of persons if you want your ministry to be agreeable before God. —The Teachings of the Twelve Apostles (c. 60-100)

But Satan is wiser than of yore, / And tempts by making rich, not poor.
—Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

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 mass at 5pm at Holy Cross.
- **ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Foundations of the Faith Part I, Eight Wednesday evenings beginning September 19th from 7-9 pm at Pastoral Center, Victoria Topics: Evangelization, Human Person, Introduction to the Bible. Foundations of the Faith Part II, Eight Wednesdays beginning September 19th from 7-9 at Queen of Angels, Duncan Topics: The Creed, Christian Morality, Sacraments & Prayer. Credible Catholic: Countering the New Atheism, Six Tuesday evenings beginning Sept 25th from 7-8:30 pm at St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. Register FREE online. Links on Diocesan website www.rcdvictoria.org or contact Glen Palahicky gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org or Gwen Jahelka gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org
- **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>
- **OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA:** *Join local Bicolanos and Marian devotees in a mass for Our Lady of Penafrancia! Sat. Sept 15 at 11 am at St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria (2060 Haultain Street). Stay for a simple potluck after mass in the hall. Questions: contact Aida Follero or Karen Borre Estrada at follero@shaw.ca or 778-426-2207.*

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, September 9th

8:30 am Mass: **Sid Joss +**
10:30 am Mass: **Jose Pacheco +**
4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, September 10th

No Mass

TUESDAY, September 11th

9:00 am Mass: **Maria Gonzalez (int)**

WEDNESDAY, September 12th

9:00 am Mass: **Alfredo Martins & Alfredo Jr. Martins +**

THURSDAY, September 13th

9:00 am Mass: **Richard Bogaert +**

FRIDAY, September 14th

9:00am mass—**CANCELLED**

5:30pm Mass: **Mary Paul (int)**

SATURDAY, September 15th

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Souls In Purgatory Martin Medeiros (+)**

SUNDAY, September 16th

8:30 am Mass: **Sid Joss +**
10:30 am Mass: **Agustin Medina +**
4:00 pm Mass
5:00 pm Welcome Back BBQ for

THANK YOU CORNER!

Thank you to Ed Boomars for organizing the quote for repairing the concrete sidewalk leading up to the church, as well as the many other hours of service you provide for any and all major maintenance projects around the church and rectory.

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 September 2, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3, 030.00
Loose	\$ 465.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 107.00
TOTAL	\$ 4, 602.00

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	250-477-5321
RCIA	Glenn Palahicky	250-479-1331
	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