

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2025

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, January 3**  
**4PM MASS: Pro Populo**

**SUNDAY, January 4**  
**9AM MASS:**  
**Isabel MacAulay**

**MONDAY, January 5**  
**7PM MASS**

**TUESDAY, January 6**  
**9AM LITURGY OF THE**  
**WORD WITH**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**7PM MASS**

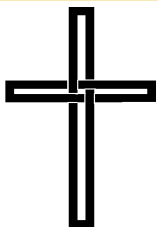
**THURSDAY, January 8**  
**9AM LITURGY OF THE**  
**WORD WITH**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**7PM MASS**

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**CHAPEL**  
Open 9am-12pm  
**TUESDAY-FRIDAY**

**RECONCILIATION**  
No Scheduled Events

**LIVESTREAMING**  
Find the livestreaming  
here:  
[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
@StPatricksHolyCross-  
Church](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCross-Church)



Christmas is over, and Epiphany has arrived. The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, thirsting for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem. Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. These seekers of wisdom were men of conviction, with enquiring minds and adventuresome spirit, in a word, intellectuals. The way Matthew puts the story together makes it of lasting significance to us. Are we prepared, like the shepherds and the wise men from the East, to leave the familiar and set out in search of God, in whatever unfamiliar and even unsettling ways he may make himself known to us? Are we prepared to let him change our lives? Or are we like Herod, the chief priests and the scribes, so protective of our own little world that we do not hesitate to put up "No Trespassing signs", anxious to keep God effectively out of our lives and our world or church view. The men in the East are wise because they asked themselves questions, important questions. They are not so sure of themselves and allow themselves to be led by a star, by a sign of hope that is being tested in the book of hope, the scriptures.

Isaiah tells us to pick ourselves up and be aware that the Lord, new-born, shines with a radiant light in our world. The same light that led the Magi to Jesus illuminates our world and leads us out of the darkness, helping us to see the beauty of God's light and love. We live in that light. This is the true gift of the Epiphany. We must follow the star through the gloom of prejudice, stereotypes, political spin, personal comfort zones, and self-interest. We must risk the danger of change, as those intriguing Magi did, crossing borders that kept them safe and heading into territory that was unfamiliar and potentially unwelcoming. We must bring our resources with us, prepared to set them down and walk away. Sometimes we need much more than our eyes to see rightly. Too often our lives slide into darkness brought on by our being so busy, disappointed, angry, jealous, or confused. And, sadly, we often are not even aware of the darkness enveloping us. If we are not careful, we can get lost in it.

It is in the ordinary day-to-day life unfolding where meaning and majesty awaits us. It is words spoken, gestures received and actions taken that make us the magi of today. The darkness that hides the mystery of humanity's oneness begins very locally, in your heart and mine. If we want to find our way out of that darkness, we must take the journey toward Epiphany: that is, to bow before the Real Presence of God for ourselves. What star will you follow this year? A wise man Basil the Great in the early church said: *words guide us still... stars cross the sky...wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race!* Always look up!

Let us light fires of fraternity around which people can warm themselves,

Fr. William Hann

*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.*

**Report Sexual Abuse**

To report sexual abuse at  
[RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146.

### Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

As so beautifully explained by Father William in his reflection, we are celebrating Epiphany this Sunday. The story of the Magi following the star to Bethlehem is part of the Christmas story and most nativity scenes include three kings. But was there really a star? Astronomers believe that in 2 BC there was an astronomical event that might explain the presence of a bright star in the Epiphany story. In June of 2 BC a planetary conjunction (close approach) occurred which involved Venus and Jupiter. The two planets approached each other so closely that they appeared as one bright light from earth. Ancient astronomers would have interpreted this event as indicating a significant happening on earth.

May we all continue to find the way to Jesus, Tanya

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents.

—*The Gift of the Magi*,  
O. Henry

### Prayer in the Style of Taizé

The ecumenical practice of Taizé will be practiced at Holy Cross Church for three months in the new year. It is observed on the third Friday of each month at 6:00 pm. Please make a note of the dates, January 16<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> of 2026. There will be scripture, music, prayer and silence. Everyone is welcome to this evening of prayer.



### THANK YOU

It is during feasts and special events that we become aware that many people contribute to our beautiful celebrations and share the Good News of God's love with others. Thank you to all the liturgical ministers, coordinated by Joanie Bidlake, the environment team, coordinated by Ann Francis and the pastoral care team, coordinated by Mary-Anne Tinney. Thank you to Bob Francis for the Advent/Christmas lights, to Phil and Sheila Wall for the outside creche, to Sloane Secord for putting together four different bulletins, to Pete and Evelyn Vijandre who keep our church and centre sparkling. Thank you to our Liturgy of the Word team and to Bishop Gary, Father Marco and Father Mark Parent for celebrating our Liturgies of the word and masses during the past two weeks. We are grateful!

### HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

[office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

4049 Gordon Head Rd

Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

[www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Saturday-Monday: closed

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

### CONTACT US

Pastoral Administrator: Tanya Taft

[ttaft@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:ttaft@rcdvictoria.org)

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

[office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

[officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

[dshulist@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:dshulist@rcdvictoria.org)

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761

Pastor: Position not filled at this time