



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 25th 2022
Christmas Day

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

The profound beginning of John's Gospel was written many years before people had any understanding of the astounding story of the universe. We now believe that 13.8 billion years ago our universe was an incredibly super massive, super small, super-hot structure. It burst forth at an unparalleled speed, expanding at just the right rate that allowed protons, stars, galaxies and eventually life to form.

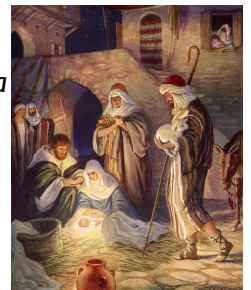
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of the human race. Two thousand years ago, another astounding event took place. Into the evolving universe, God, source of all creation, chose to send his son to be born of a virgin Jewish woman. Incredible! At the beginning of Advent, Father William posed a question. Why was Jesus born? John's gospel says . . . *and the life was the light of the human race.* We are beginning to understand that God wanted to be with us, wanted us to know his infinite love, and out of that love calls us to care for each other, care for creation, be his visible love.

Instead of coming to earth as a supernatural hero, Jesus came as a baby, vulnerable and small, completely dependent on the care of others. Instead of gathering and leading an army to expel the Romans, the son of God preached about forgiveness and loving your enemies. Crucified as a criminal, rejected by his people, a poor citizen of a small and insignificant country, the memory of his birth and life should have dissolved and disappeared. But that is not what happened! Jesus' message of love and mercy has spread across the earth. Today we join millions of people in all parts of the world to celebrate with great joy the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, God stepping into our history, stepping into our story, and never ever leaving us.

Christmas is one of the greatest celebrations of the liturgical year. No words can truly express the miracle of that holy night, when two thousand years ago the 13.8 billion year history of the universe was changed by the birth of a tiny baby. We celebrate this phenomenal event every year, trying to grasp a little more deeply the significance of the Incarnation. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the stable, the angels and the shepherds, the kings and the star. We remember the holy night with wonder and gratitude when God touched the universe and spoke his word of love. Nothing was ever the same.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only-begotten son, full of grace and truth.

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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office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

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

SATURDAY, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Choir/Music

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	Taft
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	Taft
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

News from the Diocese

New information has been added to the Diocesan [Indigenous Relations](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous) page about the Diocese of Victoria's responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The page may be viewed online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous>.

James Bay United Church is offering a free six session on-line study on Indigenous and Treaty Rights on Vancouver Island, focusing on the Vancouver Island Treaties (formerly known as the Douglas Treaties and the Fort Victoria Treaties). This will combine a book study of "To Share Not Surrender", videos from the 2017 Songhees Conference on the treaties, guest speakers, and small group discussion. The sessions will be held every second Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, starting January 5, 2023. For more details and to register, visit <https://www.jamesbayunited.com/events/to-share-and-not-surrender/2023-01-05>.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released *Burying the Dead, Grieving Well: A Guide for Catholics on Bodily Disposition and Grief*. This guide reflects on how we treat the bodies of the deceased and how we live out our grief when faced with the death of a loved one. It deals with death and the various forms of bodily disposition, as well as the Catholic liturgical and pastoral practices that accompany the grieving process. The guide is available on our website at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/funerals-and-burials>.



There are a limited number of missals available again. These may be purchased from the office. \$5.00 each



2023 Envelopes are available for pickup in the foyer. If you have not already done so, please have a look for yours.

The **office will be closed from December 23rd until January 2nd inclusive**. Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 27th, and Thursday, December 29th at 9am as usual.

Prayer Reflection

We have spouses and children and parents and colleagues and friends, because someone has to know us better than we know ourselves.

—Richard Russo

"Virtue," as the ancients called it, is defined on the level of "that which depends on us."

—Simone de Beauvoir

Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. - _

--Paul Claudel

Christmas - The Birth of Our Lord - December 25, 2022

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called 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

Pastoral Care Training Sessions

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 28, 2023, and running until April 1** (with no session on March 18 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the **Diocesan Appeal**. Contributions to date are \$54,349.29. 125 families have participated. Our goal is \$80,000. Contributions continue to be accepted either online or by using the Bishop's Appeal envelopes found in the Church.

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. Please register by emailing Holy Cross office@holycrossvictoria.org; or St. Patrick's Parish stpat190@telus.net.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, December 24th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: For the People

SUNDAY, December 25th

9am Mass: For the People

MONDAY, December 26th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 27th

9am Mass: For the People

WEDNESDAY, December 28th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 29th

9am: For the People

FRIDAY, December 30th

NO MASS

The Church will not be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon as the office will be closed

**Adoration in the Mercy Chapel -
9am First Friday of the Month**

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 Dec. 18th

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 4,612.00

Loose \$ 150.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,382.50

TOTAL \$ 6,144.50

Thank you Corner

Thanks to Ann Francis and team for creating such a wonderful Christmas display in the Church. It is beautiful!



NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Mass times for the Christmas Season for all Parishes will be posted on the Diocesan website at the following link:
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/christmas-and-new-years-masses>

A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR & a new SACRAMENTAL PREP COORDINATOR! Fr. William welcomes Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey to lead our Sacramental Prep Program at St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Parishes. Simona comes with an abundance of enthusiasm and a strong faith. She looks forward to working with staff, volunteers, parents, and their children who will prepare for Confession and/or Confirmation & Holy Communion.

Preparing your child for Confession, Confirmation & Holy Communion? Please download a registration form from <https://bit.ly/3hegxSM> and send a copy to sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org by January 3rd as we hope to begin classes in the second week of January, starting with a meeting for parents of children for First Confession and First Communion/Confirmation on Sunday January 8, 2023 at 10am at Holy Cross Parish. Interested parents are very welcome to volunteer in helping with the sacramental preparation.

ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for a work environment that makes for a great day? Look no further ~ Island Catholic Schools is recruiting! We are in search of enthusiastic people who are certified, talented, love what they do and wish to work in vibrant school environments!

If **YOU** are interested in joining one of our teams, please use this link:

<https://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities/>

"SAVE YOUR EMPTIES! The graduating class of 2023 is having a bottle drive to fundraiser for their After Grad celebrations! Please support our grads by dropping off your empties at St. Andrew's Regional High School on Saturday, January 7th between 10 and 4pm. *If you can't make it we will send someone to pick up from your location.* Contact: vining.jen@gmail.com"

Camp Homewood - Application forms and information is available by calling the office 250-477-5321. This event is open to ALL Diocesan Youth in grades 7 through 12.

Dishes: There are many dishes in the kitchen, left over from the UVic supper. Please collect these if they are yours

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

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org



Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10pm in the Parish Hall.

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.