



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 December 2nd, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

Reflections from the Gospel Gals

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in the love for you. (1 Thessalonians 3.12)

This Sunday, as we begin a new liturgical year, we will light the first candle on our Advent wreath. The lights on the candles bring light into the shorter and darker days of December and they remind us that of the light of Christ that we anticipate during this season. The Advent candles readily demonstrate the contrast between darkness and light. Christ is referred to as the 'light of the world' contrasted with the darkness of sin. As his Advent, or "coming" draws near another candle is lit, dispelling the darkness a little more.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. (CCC524)* Just as Israel eagerly awaited the coming of the Messiah, we now await his second coming.

The origin of Advent can be traced back to the 4th century. The church in France used the period before Epiphany as a time of preparation for Baptism. Advent as we know it today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory I in the late 6th /early 7th C composed many of the prayers, antiphons, and psalm responses. Advent is the time of preparation before Christmas. The first two weeks of Advent are anticipating Christ's second coming, which is particularly reflected in the Mass readings from the Old and New Testaments. Then on the third Sunday, called "Gaudete" (Latin for rejoice) Sunday, the emphasis shifts to Jesus' birth.

The Advent wreath is a popular tradition that originated in Germany. An Advent wreath consists of four candles (three purple, signifying penance, and one rose, signifying joy), surrounded by evergreen branches. The 4 candles represent the 4 weeks of Advent. A tradition that each week represents one thousand years, to a sum of the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding the Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. For thousands of years, the world has waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and save the human race, restoring mankind's relationship with God.

We light the first candle, to remind us of the hope the people of Israel had for the coming Messiah.

We light the second candle to remind us of the peace that enters our lives as we experience the presence of Jesus Christ. We light the third candle to remind us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. And we light the fourth candle to remind us of the love that God shares with us through the birth of his son.

Let this be a time when we are grateful for God's presence, that we let his light shine upon us and that we be the light onto others. His Love is the gift that we have been given.

Journeying with you, *Debby Pietraszek*

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

HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Join us at 12 noon on **December 7th** for our Christmas Luncheon. All are invited to attend this parish luncheon. Sign up sheets are in the foyer and registration is required. You can also call the office to register. Registration deadline: Tuesday, Dec. 4th **before noon.**



NEWCOMER FAMILY

It is good to report that the newcomer family is happily settling into their new life in Canada. Martin and Sandra are busy learning English and Aneeta and Aytala are enjoying school. The family's apartment is furnished and their needs have been largely met. We are happy to let you know that, at this time, they do not need apartment things or clothing. So, donations are not needed right now. We thank you for your support and generosity. Refugee Cttee.

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WELCOMEFEST — Please come and meet our newcomer family — Martina, Sandra, Aneeta, and Aytala on **Saturday, December 1st** in the parish hall, 2:30—4:30. Light refreshments will be served.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The Advent Reconciliation service will be held at Holy Cross Catholic church on **Thursday December 6th at 7pm**. All are invited to take part in this sacrament as we prepare our hearts for Christ.

ANAWIM HOUSE



Anawim House welcomes your financial donations and also Christmas gifts of new clothing for the poor to be placed in the Christmas box at the entrance of the church during the Advent season. Christmas trees will be available at Anawim House during the Advent season. Thank you for being partners with us in caring for God's precious poor, the anawim.

DECEMBER GREEN TIP

Think **green** this Christmas! Reduce your waste production by avoiding tea lights and tinfoil wrapping paper (both not recyclable). Use reusable or recyclable gift wrap (eg. gift bags, fabric wrapping, newsprint...).

BIRTHRIGHT FUDGE SALE

Birthright Victoria, which has been helping women facing unplanned pregnancy for more than 20 years, is having their annual fundraising fudge sale! Their delicious fudge (Macadamia Madness, Black Forest, and midnight Mint to name a few) will be for sale after all masses on the weekend of December 8 and 9th.

*** Volunteers are still needed to help sell fudge after 5pm mass on Dec. 8 and 10:30 mass Dec. 9th. If you can help please call or email Connie McKenzie at: 250-658-1415 or connietmckenzie@shaw.ca**

IN THE LIBRARY

(Library is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am-2pm)

Santa is just 29 sleeps away! Readings for the Advent of Christmas:

"He's making a list and checking it twice --- So --- is it naughty or nice?"

- Advent and Christmas by A Chiffolo
- Meditations on the Incarnation: Advent Readings by B Groeschel
- Illuminated Life by Joan Chittister
- Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen by G Uhlein
- Through the Years with Francis of Assisi by M Bodo



First Sunday in Advent

PRAYER REFLECTION

See, days are coming . . . when I will raise up a righteous branch for David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land.
—*Jeremiah 23:5*

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.
—*Dorothy Day*

AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **UKRANIAN FOOD AND CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Saturday, Dec. 8 from 11 am to 2 pm at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic hall, 1110 Caledonia Ave. Featuring sale of Baba's best perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, sauerkraut, Ukrainian breads & pastries, preserves, kobassa rings, AND hot Ukrainian lunch. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. To pre-order for pick up before Friday, Dec. 7 call 250-384-2255.
- **CELEBRATE A FRENCH CHRISTMAS:** at St. Jean-Baptiste Parish! Join Fr. Rolf Hasenack O.P. on Christmas Day, beginning with Caroling at 1pm followed by Christmas Mass at 1:30pm. Then stay and enjoy a Christmas Potluck after Mass. Continue the festivities on January 1st, 2019 at 1:30pm with a New Year Mass, followed by another sumptuous potluck. Will you join us? Venez nous voir et partager un repas avec nous.
- **"AS THE PROPHETS FORETOLD":** Advent carols and readings at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Friday, December 7th at 7:30pm. All are invited to join the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary, the Mother of Jesus in waiting for the Christ Child.... "Emmanuel, God With Us" *a free will offering will be taken at the door for the 9-10 club serving meals to those in need.
- **JENNY DANIELS MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Wednesday December 5th at 7:30pm at St. Joseph the Worker. Admission by donation with proceeds going to the Thembaletu Children's Shelter in Anerley South Africa.

Going into Hospital? If so, please be certain that when registering you tell the registration staff that you are Catholic so your pastor and hospital visitors will know how to find you. Or, have someone call the parish office and share the necessary information. For those up island and transferred to a hospital in Victoria this is especially important. The VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager is **250-889-3761**.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SUNDAY, December 2nd

8:30 am Mass: **Lina Fedrigo Family (int.)**

10:30 am Mass: **Mary & Cliff Anderson +**

4:00 pm Mass

MONDAY, December 3rd

No Mass

TUESDAY, December 4th

9:00 am Mass: **Patrick Woodsworth, int.**

WEDNESDAY, December 5th

9:00 am Mass: **Maria Duartina Soarest +**

THURSDAY, December 6th

9:00 am Mass: **Darrell Wick int.**

7:00pm Advent Reconciliation

FRIDAY, December 7th

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

SATURDAY, December 8th

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Martinho Medeiros +**

SUNDAY, December 9th

8:30 am Mass: **Silvio Fedrigo +**

10:30 am Mass: **Dan Taft +**

4:00 pm Mass

2018/2019 MISSALS

The 2018/2019 missals and Children's Missals can be purchased from the office during office hours.

THANK YOU CORNER!

To the Holy Cross Family, thank you for the awesome send-off!

From Steve and Janita McHugh

Thank you to everyone who attended and generously donated to the Adea Smart benefit concert. Nealy \$10,000 was raised through this event! Adea had her bone marrow transplant a few days ago. Please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.

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
Children's Rel. Ed.	Giacinta Bewley	250-652-0204



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

COLLECTION November 25, 2018

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,462.00
Loose	\$ 397.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,095.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,954.00



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		
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