



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - December 4th 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

As we light the second candle, let's take the time to ponder, to reflect, to open our hearts to the small still voice of God. Advent is a favorite time of waiting, of sitting in the flickering softness of candlelight, letting the light of our Messiah lead us to a rebirth. There is a growing sense of being enveloped by a profusion of love. We are called to enter our hearts where repentance and preparation are essential in order to emerge into a renewed sense of harmony and new life.

The stump of Jesse is a good image to reflect on during this second week of Advent. It tells the story of Israel's destruction in the 8th century B.C. Israel was cut down by the Assyrian invaders. War, devastation and death left nothing but a dead decaying stump. Their pride and reliance on their own strength caused this annihilation. The sin of arrogance and self-reliance continues to flourish in our world today. It pulls us away from God and creates a barrier to God's healing grace. What 'stump' is rotting our hearts today? Advent offers us time to recognize, confess, and repent our sinfulness. Take the time to lean into the promises of God and rest in God's continuous flow of mercy.

Repent isn't a "feelings" word. It is an *action* word. John the Baptist tells us to change the direction of our hearts, our lives, not merely 'to feel sorry' for what we have done. The Messiah King is coming and repentance is our response. Real repentance will show itself in life. It has to be a matter of *living* repentance, not just *talking* repentance. God does not want us to passively receive the Word; God wants us to live the Word in the world today!

With God, anything is possible, and from this barren stump, a tender, vulnerable shoot emerges from the house of David. Through Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, through their humility and obedience, the lineage is restored. Just like our hearts, with humility and obedience to God's will, we come before God and rest in God's nurturing tenderness, allowing the continuous outflow of mercy and grace to transform us. Let us renew our commitment to the possibilities God has in store for us.

God promises us a new order, a new way of being, a restructuring of priorities. The new 'king' of the world will be endowed with *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord*. This king will rule with the Word of God, with justice and faithfulness; God's righteousness will flourish. All of creation will live in harmony and *full knowledge of the Lord*.

The Spirit of the Lord rests on us as well. Do we let the Spirit of God direct our hearts? Lord, help us to speak and act with integrity; help us to bring peace in the world to all our relationships – with others, with the animals, with the whole of God's creation. As the Advent light increases, may our hearts burn with the desire to embrace ever more fully the Christ child – *Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.



Come Lord Jesus, come!

Happy Advent, Mona

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.

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

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St Patrick's Parish at 11am Sunday. 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

Marlon Narciso, the VOX choir director of the Saturday 4pm Mass is proud to announce the release of his self-titled **Christmas CD album, Marlon/ Christmas Through The Year**. This true solo project is the culmination of a whole year's work of arrangement, performance and recording from the ground up to the final master. It features 13 tracks including two that Marlon has himself written. Marlon describes the CD as one that has something for everyone while infusing new life to old favourites with some modern twists. CDs can now be purchased for 20.00 and can be picked up at the office or from Leila Narciso. USB packages will also be available soon. To inquire, please email her at leilanarciso17@gmail.com or phone at [250-217-9904](tel:250-217-9904).

Boxes of **envelopes for 2023** are ready to be picked up. Please have a look in the foyer to find yours.

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.

Library Corner The Library table in the church foyer has a small display of books appropriate for the Advent season of Christmas. They are "Advent Retreats" with such notable Spiritual Directors as St John the Evangelist, Julian of Norwich, St Frances of Assisi, Catherine of Siena and several others. Please use the sign-out book and return when finished. **At the other end of the Table**, our Parish Justice and Environment Committee has acquired some excellent books on the climate-change crisis. Pope Francis has led the way in our obligation to take care of God's nourishing earth.

Prayer Reflection

The God who creates justice for those who suffer violence . . . that is the God of hope for the new world of righteousness and justice and peace.

—*Jürgen Moltmann*

John the Baptist was supposed to point the way to the Christ. He was just the voice, not the Messiah. So everybody's calling has dignity to it and God seems to know better than we do what is in us that needs to be called forth.

—*James Green Somerville*

Advent is patience. God has made us a people of promise in a world of impatience.

—*Stanley Hauerwas*

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? If God is calling you, 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

African Aids Angels

Thank you to all who have donated bling and other supplies for angel making. You have helped to enable volunteers to create beautiful angels which will be on sale before and after mass on Saturday Dec 10 and Sunday Dec 11th.

All funds raised go directly to help support an orphanage in South Africa and one in Zambia. Many thanks and blessings to you for your generous support.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the **Diocesan Appeal**. Contributions to date are **\$38,644.29**. 88 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.

Arbutus Singers Concert

The Arbutus singers will be putting on a concert at St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday, December 21st from 7:30 - 8:30pm. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to support the 9-10 Club Serving Soup to the Hungry.



REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISMAS

In past years we have welcomed donations for the Christmas floral display. Let us remember a loved one by contributing towards a Poinsettia that will bear your name. Please pick up an envelope in the foyer of the church or in the office. Once you have filled it out, please drop it into the collection basket or take it to the office. Thank you.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE SATURDAY, December 3rd

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Karl Huber and Isabelle Maclsaac

SUNDAY, December 4th

9am Mass: Joseph Szikora+

MONDAY, December 5th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 6th

9am Mass: Dorothy Maclsaac+

WEDNESDAY, December 7th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 8th

9am: Joyce Beattie+

FRIDAY, December 9th

NO MASS

The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon

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 Nov. 27th

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,075.00
Loose	\$ 400.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,331.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,806.00

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.

Thank you Corner

Thank you to Trudy Holden for keeping the office running last Friday while we were at the Staff day in Duncan. Thanks also to Dave Duke and McCalls for the donation of Calendars, available now in the foyer.

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Starting on Monday, November 21st, the Mass will be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Church in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe St), and will also be open to those who wish to attend in person. This change has also been posted at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

Together in collaboration, Catholic Campus Ministry (CSA) and CCO would like to invite UVic and Camosun students to our last event of the year: Winter Formal! Wear your best and join us for 4:00 PM Mass followed by a delicious meal, testimonies, entertainment, and fellowship! Saturday December 3rd at Holy Cross. Cost is \$10.00: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjr0tfIEe0yKFDVSAvC35_FNQIdAxXK7VQXiI3-fZ0GzSvw/viewform

UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS FOOD FAIR & HOT LUNCH

Saturday, December 10 from 11 am - 2 pm. at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall, 1110 Caledonia Ave., Victoria. Featuring: Sale of Baba's best handmade perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, Ukrainian Christmas breads, sauerkraut, preserves and assorted baking and Ukrainian kobassa. Stock up on your favorite Ukrainian food or just come to enjoy a hot Ukrainian lunch. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. Proceeds in support of St. Nicholas Parish.

Camp Homewood Diocesan Retreat is back in-person for 2023!

We will be sending out more information next week with registration details. This event is open to ALL Diocesan Youth in grades 7 through 12.

New Year's Eve Taizé at St Philip Oak Bay is back this year! Please join us for a quiet time of reflection, music and prayer in preparation for the New Year. Saturday, December 31, 2022, 7:00 - 8:00 pm St Philip Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Rd We would like to hear from singers, musicians and readers interested in helping to lead this music-rich service by the end of November: Peter Parker, email incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca More details: <https://www.stphilipvictoria.ca/events/new-years-eve-in-the-style-of-taize/2022-12-31>

Are you doing Christmas baking? Please make a little extra and donate it to the Soup Kitchen at St. Andrew's Cathedral. All cookies and squares welcomed, including store-bought, but especially those that can be frozen! Please place donations in the labeled box in the foyer. Many thanks for your help!



Thank you to the Gospel Gals

from the participants of the gathering on Thursday morning after Mass. The crafts were great fun and the fellowship and goodies appreciated so very much!



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

The Social and Eco. Justice Committee is once again inviting all parishioners and friends to join the **annual Amnesty International letter-writing campaign** at our Parish Hall on **Sun. Dec. 11 (10-11:30 am)**. Last year, Holy Cross and St. Patrick's parishioners collectively wrote over 60 letters, urging world leaders to protect individuals whose human rights have been denied. These letters can save lives! Visit <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/> for more info. Writing materials and postage will be provided at the session, and instructions given to first-time participants. If you are planning to come, **please contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca or 250-385-8322)** so that the Committee can plan for refreshments.

