

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

Mission Statement: Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY - December 5, 2021 Second Sunday in Advent

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christ to dwell more deeply within. We are called to slow down, to read, reflect and meditate with Scripture, to sit in silence so our ears can tune to God's voice, to take time out so our hearts can open to receive and BE with the One we love. The Church in her wisdom gifts us with Advent-time, sacred space to melt stony hearts so we can become God's living Word in the world.

We are called to *prepare the way of the Lord*. Some of us may ask, 'how do we do that?' Well, how do we plan and prepare special celebrations with family and friends such as Christmas dinners, birthdays, weddings, funerals? We book a specific date, time, and place; we create a guest list and send special invitations; we choose favorite foods for the one being celebrated; we prepare the food and drink with special love and attention, letting the aromas entice and draw us in; we decorate, creating a beautiful visual space so people feel welcomed, warm, and comforted; music lifts our hearts with joy; our thoughts, words and prayers are specifically crafted to honour, humor, share memories, and gift the other with all good blessings. The planning takes time, commitment and dedication, a concerted effort to details and timing. Our desire is to create a special place filled with grace, hope, peace, joy and love for the other. Do we not desire all of this and more for our relationship with God?

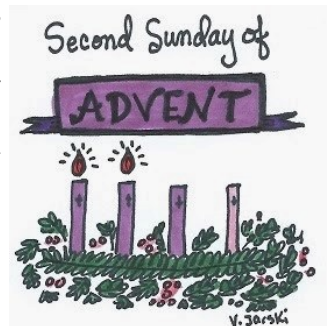
We are called to *make God's paths straight*. How are we able to create a straight path to our hearts so God can quickly and directly dwell within? Through a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. John's baptism of repentance goes beyond regret, beyond saying 'I'm sorry, please forgive me'. Repentance goes beyond feeling; it requires action. It means a complete immersion, a complete metanoia, a complete change of mind and heart, an inner and outer transformation that bears visible fruit. It's our commitment to God, our 'yes', our desire to be of service to God in the world.

We wear threadbare cloaks of grief, despair, hopelessness that keep us on edge wondering if we're good enough or have enough. Fear and scarcity trap us and we spin out of control; peace is nonexistent. We are called to cast off this cloak of captivity and put on the cloak of *righteousness that comes from God*. It means living in the freedom of salvation that God's love gave us. We are called to share the Good News to the world. Our world needs to hear about hope, love, freedom and peace! When we live out of God's peace and joy, praise and rejoicing flows forth as we become Good News to the world!

Set specific time aside over the next three weeks to be with God. What addictions, desires, expectations, fears, grudges, 'what ifs' create obstacles in our relationship with God? What keeps us enslaved? Let God humble whatever is proud and self-satisfied in us, and let God heal and lift up what is shattered and broken in us. God desires our hearts and anoints us with royal robes!

Just as the word of God came to John in the wilderness, so to God calls us in our wilderness to fulfill God's plan. John knew his purpose; God was his focus. That's all he needed to know, and he served in love, hope, justice and mercy. God has a purpose for each one of us as well. Ask God, "what do you want me to do, to be?" then wait. Come Lord Jesus, come!

Happy Advent, Mona



OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm
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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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.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish on Saturday at 6pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Reconciliation Service has been cancelled. In lieu of this Father William will be making himself available for **private reconciliation on December 18th from 10am to 12noon at St. Patrick's Parish and 1pm-3pm at Holy Cross Parish.***



Christmas Schedule 2021

FRIDAY December 24th, Christmas Eve: Holy Cross Parish Mass - 4pm;
(livestreamed)

St. Patrick's Parish Mass - 6pm

SATURDAY, December 25th, Christmas Day: Holy Cross Parish Mass - 9am;

St. Patrick's Parish Mass 11am.

LIBRARY CORNER

Advent readings: the Divine becoming Human --- on our Parish Library Suggestion Shelf and on the internet websites:

Advent and Christmas by A Chiffolo

Illuminated Life by Joan Chittister

Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations

<https://padrepiodevotions.org/prayers-of-padre-pio/>

http://www.thisischurch.com/prayer_worship/intercession/advent3yearb2008.htm

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent>



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Write for Rights on Sun. Dec. 12 (10 – 11:30 am, Parish Hall) The Holy Cross Social and Eco. Justice Committee is inviting all parishioners and friends to join the **annual Amnesty International letter-writing campaign**. Come over right after 9 am Mass for refreshments, and write a letter or two in defense of human rights. First time participants welcome! Covid-19 protocols will be observed. Visit www.writeathon.ca to learn more about this world-wide event. Please register.

SCAM ALERT

There is a scam going around the Diocese of Victoria. If you get a text message or an email from "Fr. William" asking for a "favor" which usually leads to gift cards and/or cash please **IGNORE** this message. If you get an email, look carefully at the email address, and report all suspicious emails and texts to the office.

PRAYER REFLECTION

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it. —Pope Francis

To find joy in another's joy, that is the secret of happiness. —George Bernanos

To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So is to trust that something will happen to us that is far beyond our imaginings. —Henri J. M. Nouwen

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream. Celebrate Mass on-line with Bishop Gary.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

A DECEMBER SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

A new article has just been posted on the Diocesan website about the 2021 Advent Mission - all people of the Diocese of Victoria are invited to participate via Zoom or YouTube. The text of the article is copied below, or you can find the article online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/2021-advent-mission>. Please share with your communities!

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

As 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 their name.

Please pick up an envelope in the foyer of the church or in the Parish Office. Once you have filled it out, please drop it off at the office or in the Sunday Collection. **Deadline will be December 19th.**

ANAWIM HOUSE DONATIONS

We will be collecting non-perishable foods throughout the month of December. Please feel free to drop food donations into the Anawim shopping cart in the foyer of the church or directly to the parish office during office hours. *Taking care of our brothers in need.*

UPCOMING FUNERALS

There will be a funeral Mass for **Dr. John Calder** on **Saturday, December 11th at 11am**. There will be a reception to follow in the church. *Please rsvp if you plan on attending the reception: calderoolca.ca@shaw.ca*

There will be a funeral for **Steve Wallace** at St. Patrick's Parish on **Friday, December 10th at 12:10pm**.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, December 4th

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession
4pm Mass: Catherine Millar Helgason,
Norman Millar +

SUNDAY, December 5th

9am Mass: John & Mary Doyle +

MONDAY, December 6th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, December 7th

9am Mass: Vanderstappen Family Int.

WEDNESDAY, December 8th

9am Mass: Dorothy MacIssac +

THURSDAY, December 9th

9am Mass: Eve Cayer +

FRIDAY, December 10th

9am Mass: Prasanna Peries +

In-person Masses have resumed now with no restrictions on numbers.

Masks are now mandatory for everyone in the Church and the parish centre.



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

COLLECTION for Nov. 21, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,190.00
Loose	\$ 215.00
Donation of Securities	\$ 5,100.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 10,182.00



CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

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: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshenton@rcdvictoria.org

NOTE FROM THE UVIC/CAMOSUN CHAPLAIN LYDIA FOCH

This Sunday, December 5th is the final student Mass of 2021. Mass is at 4pm, followed by a festive meal and a special guest in the parish hall. Please join us for this year-end event.

Welcome Fr. Lester! There is a new Priest on Campus and starting January 11th, 2022 he will be offering confession every Tuesday in the Multifaith Center at 10:30 followed by Mass at 11:30. He will also be offering Adoration every second Thursday of the month starting January 13, 2022 at 11:30 in the same location. *Parishioners are always welcome to join the students and to help build out Community in Christ!*

RECONCILIATION CORNER

Shortly after the discovery of 215 unmarked graves near the Kamloops Indian Residential School, the Tye published an article on **Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce**, Canada's first chief medical officer. "[The Story of a National Crime](#)" tells of Dr. Bryce's persistent efforts, over a period of 15 years (1907-1921), to warn the Canadian Government that residential schools had become tuberculosis death camps. He was repeatedly ignored, and eventually forced to retire from federal service. Dr. Bryce deserves to be remembered as the original "whistleblower" and the moral conscience of the nation.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY APPEAL



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights are now selling tickets. Starting this year all tickets are sold online – there are no more paper tickets. \$30 for 10 tickets, single tickets are only \$3. Tickets can be purchased through this link: <http://kofcdraw.net/C7934>

Proceeds support our local charities. When you buy tickets we're working together to make our communities better. Thank you for your support!

[Early Bird Draws Dec 4, Main Draw Jan 29, 2022 : BC Gaming Licence #130037]

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Fr. Harrison Ayre is hiring an office manager/coordinator for his parish, St. Peter's, in Nanaimo. A full job description is available upon request from the Holy Cross parish office. The competition will remain open until the position is filled. For specific questions regarding the job or to apply please contact: hayre@rcdvictoria.org

Island Catholic Schools is also hiring for several positions. Find out more details at: <https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

St. Patrick's Elementary School Updates!

Energetic parent volunteers are busy canvassing for our annual major fundraiser, the online auction. Please support our school and join us for this fun event, **Feb. 27th to Mar. 13th, 2022.**

Donations of items, services and money will be gratefully accepted at: sp@cisdv.bc.ca

MORNING ROSARY

Please join the rosary group that gathers in the Church every **Tuesday to Friday morning at 8:30** (before morning Mass) to pray the rosary together.

All are welcome.

