



# Holy Cross Catholic 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 9th, 2018**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

## Reflections from the Gospel Gals

On the Second Sunday of Advent we continue to prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ. John the Baptist's call to conversion is an invitation to open our hearts and welcome the Son of God. We light the second purple candle which represents Love. This candle also reminds us of the Peace that enters our lives as we experience the presence of Jesus Christ. Here are some of the reflections of Advent I would like to share with you.

Advent is our season of spiritual preparation for remembering Christ's first coming as a human baby, but also for His continued presence with us today through the Holy Spirit and in the anticipation we have of His final return. We reflect on the mystery of the incarnation. It is not just that God became man, as I quote... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Advent is a time of waiting. Are we not always waiting? Even God waited for Mary's answer. I now see that waiting is actually a prayer. Our active waiting can come in so many forms; asking for help, guidance, gifts, jobs, answers and graces. Thus, the customs of Advent help to open our hearts and celebrate the season through our spiritual reflection and joyful expectations.

The Advent wreath symbolizes eternity. Lighting the candles represent the coming of the Light of Christ. Excitedly, children light more candles as the winter season evolves. There is more and more light! Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can really experience the presence of Jesus on our earthly journey. What is God forming in us? Do we see the light shining through all our physicality and materialism?

Our journey as Christians is one of Hope. As the divine radiant light of God touches the human heart, we are encouraged to be actively, courageously, and intellectually receptive. Growing our spiritual awareness takes us away from ordinary thoughts by means of observing differences and drawing distinctions and belonging to the whole by an innate perception of kinship. To me this speaks of kindness to one another. So, as we turn off the "ordinary" thoughts, let our hearts stay open and know that we are all part of God's heart forever.

It was St Francis of Assisi who opened our eyes to embrace the wonderful celebration of Christmas. This is a time of feasting and is basically saying: it is good to be human; it is good to be on this earth and to be of flesh and emotions. This is what God Loves. Our hearts are always waiting for new apparitions in which the Spirit is revealed. Whenever that happens we are celebrating Christmas!

May the radiance of God's Love shine on you.

**Marian Duke**



## 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

**NEWCOMER FAMILY—MARTIN, SANRDA, ANEETA, AYTALA**

We are fast approaching that time of year when we prepare for Christmas. It's the time when many of us attend church and/or community Christmas events. If you plan to take-in a community Christmas event that you'd like to invite the Newcomer Family to attend with you that would be nice. Contact information for the family can be obtained from the office. Thank You, Refugee Cttee.

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

We welcome donations for the Christmas floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Christmas flowers and remember a loved one, please pick up an envelope at the back of the church. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside and drop it in the collection basket.



**ANAWIM HOUSE**



Anawim House welcomes your financial donations and Christmas gifts of new clothing for the poor. Place your gifts 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.

**AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS**

African AIDS Angels will be on sale after mass Sat. Dec. 15 and Sun. Dec. 16. All proceeds go directly to the support of children affected by HIV aids. Our two remaining projects are the orphanage in South Africa and the school program in Zambia.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES**

The mass schedules for the Christmas masses and the New Year's mass are in the foyer. If you are attending these masses and would like to help out with the liturgical ministry please sign up for the mass that you will be attending.

**4th Sunday of Advent:**

Saturday, December 22nd: 5:00pm

Sunday, December 23rd: 8:30am, 10:30am

**Christmas Masses**

Monday, December 24th: 6:00pm, 8:30pm

Tuesday, December 25th: 10:00am

**New Year's Day**

Tuesday, January 1st: 10:00am



**IN THE LIBRARY**

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

***Advent Readings***

- *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

**SOCIAL LIFE AT HOLY CROSS**

**Joint Wellness**—Monday and Thursday 10am

**Wednesday Social group**—1-3pm: cards, tea and cookies!

**Duplicate Bridge**—Wednesday 7pm.

**Social Bridge**—First Sunday of every month.

### **PRAYER REFLECTION**

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

—George Bernanos

John was called a voice and not a word, because, through John, God ... was planning to do something great through human history.

—Anon. early Christian homily on Matthew

### **AROUND THE PARISH AND DIOCESE**

More information and details on bulletin board or parish office

- **MEN'S SUPPER:** New event coming to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford! Join us for our first annual "Men's Supper" on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The evening will consist of dinner, drinks (Your favorite beer!). Guest Speakers Fr. Dean Henderson and Danny Brock, prizes! and car show! Call or email Tyson Babcock for tickets (\$20 each, dinner included) 250 818 1503 or [tyson.babcock@gmail.com](mailto:tyson.babcock@gmail.com). You don't want to miss it!
- **ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY ADVENT CONCERT:** Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00pm. This school concert will take place at St. Andrew's Cathedral downtown. Everyone is warmly invited to join the St. Patrick's school community for this seasonal event.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

*Did you miss the Holy Cross Advent Reconciliation Service? Fear not, there are still other opportunities to attend in our community:*

Sacred Heart: December 11 at 7 pm

St. Patrick's: December 12 at 7 pm

St. Joseph the Worker: December 13 at 7 pm

Our Lady of the Rosary: December 18 at 7 pm

### **CONDOLENCES**

Heartfelt condolences to the children and family of Debbie and Mark Underhill. Debbie passed away peacefully last week. A funeral for Debbie will be held on **Wednesday January 2nd at 11am**. We keep their family in our prayers during this time.

### **OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

#### **SUNDAY, December 9th**

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

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

4:00 pm Mass

#### **MONDAY, December 10th**

No Mass

#### **TUESDAY, December 11th**

9:00 am Mass: **Heather Witzel +**

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 12th**

9:00 am Mass: **Ignacio de Jesus Diaz Gomez +**

#### **THURSDAY, December 13th**

9:00 am Mass: **Kent Steele +**

#### **FRIDAY, December 14th**

9:00 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro +**

#### **SATURDAY, December 15th**

3:45pm to 4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass: **Carlos Remedios +**

#### **SUNDAY, December 16th**

8:30 am Mass: **Amaro Martins +**

10:30 am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro & Jose Pacheco +**

4:00 pm Mass

### **THANK YOU CORNER!**

Thank you to the Wednesday Afternoon Social Group who so generously donated \$500 to go towards the Christmas trees, flowers and decorations that will beautify our church this Advent and Christmas season.

Many thanks to the many hands who helped out at the Christmas luncheon on Friday, And a special thank you to Philip O'Reilly and the students who came from St. Andrew's High School to share their beautiful gift of song with us.

**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**.

## 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 December 2, 2018

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 6, 540.00
Loose	\$ 450.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1, 095.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8, 085.00</b>



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