



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - January 8th, 2023

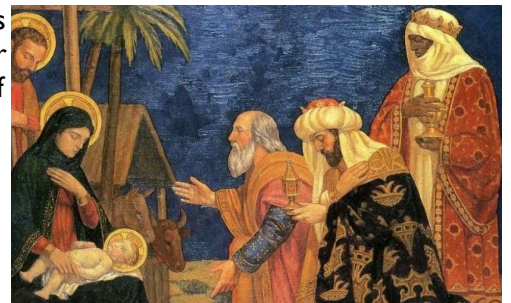
The Epiphany of the Lord

In the Gospel this week, it is Matthew's turn to give us a hint about the significance of Jesus born in Bethlehem. The device that Matthew uses is the story about a few wise men coming from the East, who inquire about Jesus. The issue for Matthew is that people, of whom you never would have expected it, are inquiring about Jesus. They are open and receptive to him. Of all people, this time it is the pagans who are prepared to acknowledge Jesus for who he is. The story of how the wise men from the East recognize Jesus for who he really is full of irony. There are other actors in the story that we too easily overlook. The men from the East, like the shepherds, are supposed to be ignorant in religious matters. They are the last ones you would consult when it comes to things about God. The scribes and the chief priests, on the other hand, are the religious experts. They know all there is to know about God. They know from the Scriptures where Jesus is to be born, so they have no difficulty telling pagans where Jesus can be found. But then they stalled. They refuse to draw, from what they know so well, the consequences and practical implications for their own lives. They refuse to go along to Bethlehem; they cannot get themselves on their knees for this Jesus. They remain at a safe distance from him. In fact, they begin to plot against him, and devise ways to get rid of him, because he upsets their little game and exposes their hunger for power.

The story invites us to recognize ourselves either in the wise men from the East or the wise men living in Jerusalem. The men in the East are wise because they ask themselves questions, important questions. They are not so sure of themselves and allow themselves to be led by a star, by a sign of hope that is being tested on the book of hope, the scriptures. The way Matthew puts the story together makes it of lasting significance to us. Are we prepared, like the shepherds and the wise men from the East, to leave the familiar and set out in search of God, in whatever unfamiliar and even unsettling ways he may make himself known to us? Are we prepared to let him change our lives? Or are we like Herod, the chief priests and the scribes, so protective of our own little world that anxious to keep God effectively out of our lives and our world or church view.

There is an interesting, not insignificant detail at the end of the story. When the wise men had found Jesus Christ, when they had acknowledged and adored him, they returned to their own country by a different way. Their encounter with the Lord, their leader and shepherd, had changed them. It had made new people out of them. We need to, "depart... by another way." Our journey re-routed by the One we have seen. I want to focus on what it means to be wise! We are the wise and we are the foolish, we are Herod and we shepherds... saint and sinner! So, what makes a person wise? What star will you follow this year? More than anything, being able to see into the future is essential for our faith lives. Our thirst for justice requires us to imagine a better world where peace reigns long before the fighting stops; our hope for salvation assumes a vision of our best selves long before we set selfish and foolish ways aside. And finally, as the Magi discovered, our search for wisdom calls us to listen to our dreams and follow the star that will lead us to where love—the light of the world—lies waiting for us. Epiphany blessings.

Father William



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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

CWL NEWS: Annual Membership Renewal/Registration Time: Holy Cross ladies are invited to join or renew their membership in St. Pat's Catholic Women's League. Forms have been mailed to current members. There is also a form and more information in the link found in this week's bulletin letter. Please return forms by Jan 31st. Whether returning or new members, we are happy to welcome all ladies! Meetings held 1st Wednesday of the month at 1pm after daily Mass. We hope you will join us. Questions? Call Theresa Smith 250-213-3304.

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.

A Note of Thanks from Anawim House

Thank you so much for your continued support. The care and compassion you have shown for those seeking acceptance and support at Anawim is overwhelming. As we are all aware right now there is an even greater need for help for those that are living with poverty, mental and physical health issues and not being able to find appropriate housing. With your help Anawim was able to provide a special meal and special gifts for the guests and residents. Once again you have demonstrated to God's "precious poor" the Anawim, that they matter.

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>.

Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program The annual British Columbia and Yukon Bursary program known as the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program is underway. The 2023 program is now receiving applications. We are privileged to offer fourteen bursaries of \$1,000.00 each to Catholic students across the Province of British Columbia. These bursaries are made available on a one-time only basis to young practicing Catholic students who are in post secondary education at a recognized institute of higher learning within the Province of British Columbia. Applications are accepted from January 1, 2023 until June 30, 2023 with the bursaries being awarded in the fall. The Terms of Reference may be found on our web site (kofcbc.org) after Jan 1, 2023. **Requests for application should be addressed to:** Knights of Columbus BC & Yukon, 2809 Mara Drive, Coquitlam, BC V3C 5T9 Attn: Herb Yang, Bursaries Chairman Or email: herbykofc@gmail.com
Deadline for requests for application is June 1, 2023.

Prayer Reflection

One true king knew when to step aside and give up the reins of power—to remove his crown and relinquish his kingdom—all for the sake of glimpsing, just once in a lifetime, the face of a holy child.

—Vera Nazarian

We returned to our places, these kingdoms, / But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, / With an alien people clutching their gods.

—T. S. Eliot, Journey of the Magi

Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, Earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race.

—Basil the Great

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 8, 2023

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him

homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ’s name? If God is calling you 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@rcd victoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcd victoria.org

Please note that the 9am Mass planned for Thursday, January 12th will be cancelled. The funeral for Lourdes Celeste will be held at 10am that day. In addition, the 12:10 Mass planned for Friday at St. Patrick’s Church is also cancelled. There will be a Mass at 10:45 am for the children of St. Patrick’s School. All are welcome.

Keep the date! A special 40th Anniversary celebration will be held at Holy Cross Parish on Monday, February 27th. Details will follow soon.

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 or sign up on the sign up sheets in the foyer.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 7th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: John Newberry Family (Int)

SUNDAY, January 8th

9am Mass: Deceased members of the Galvao Family+

MONDAY, January 9th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, January 10th

9am Mass: Joe Laturmus+

WEDNESDAY, January 11th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, January 12th

10am: Funeral Mass Lourdes Celeste

FRIDAY, January 13th

10:45am: St. Patrick’s School Mass

St. Patrick’s Parish

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

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 January 1, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS	
Envelopes	\$ 1,101.00
Loose	\$ 305.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,345.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,751.00

COLLECTION for Dec. 25th, 2022

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS	
Envelopes	\$9,890.00
Loose	\$1,282.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,382.50
TOTAL	\$12,554.50

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.

Opus Dei One of these activities of Opus Dei is a recollection, which provides an opportunity to assess and refocus our life, renew resolutions, and make new ones. It offers periods of directed prayer, silent prayer and a talk. A priest of Opus Dei will be available for spiritual direction and/or confession.

An evening **recollection for women** will be held at **Our Lady of Fatima** Parish, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Saanich, on **Monday, January 16th** from **7pm to 9pm**. It will be preceded by Mass at 6pm and confessions at 6:30pm. An evening **recollection for men** will be offered on **Tuesday, January 17th** at **Sacred Heart** Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Saanich from 6pm to 8pm. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm. For more information on the women's recollection, contact M. Elizabeth Boyd at melizboyd@gmail.com; for the men's recollection, contact Brent Boyd at od-men@boydfam.ca.

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/>

Mass Times: Holy Cross Parish - Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9am, Daily Mass Tuesday and Thursday, 9am.
St. Patrick's Parish - Sunday 11am and 4pm. Daily Mass Wednesday and Friday at 12:10pm.

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

12 Missals for 2023 are still available for purchase in the office. These are \$5.00 each.

2023 Envelopes will be available in the foyer again this weekend and can be picked up in the office after that.

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.

Sunday Social Bridge will be held on the Sunday, January 8th 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.