

St. Patrick's Parish

2060 Haultain Street, Victoria BC, V8R 2L7
Phone: 250-592-7391 • Email: StPat190@telus.net
www.stpatsvictoria.com



Mission:

We gather as a welcoming community to worship,
grow in faith and serve as Jesus served.

DECEMBER 18, 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For the past four Sundays we've heard the visions and dreams of God proclaimed from this pulpit. We've been told to "keep awake" for we do not know what day your Lord is coming. We've heard Isaiah proclaim in the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house be established as the highest mountain, and all nations shall stream to it. We've dreamt about the peaceable kingdom where God has ordered every high mountain and valley to be made low... and we heard John invite us to repent and share what we have even in moments of doubt. And this week, we finally meet Mary and Joseph!

Today's Gospel reads like a fairy tale! Joseph loves Mary, and Mary loves Joseph, and they're planning their wedding. When Mary appears with the news that she is pregnant we can't possibly begin to know the thoughts that went through both Joseph's and Mary's mind. On the one hand, Mary is pregnant by a spirit that is holy and Joseph, based on the honor code of his world he is entitled to return Mary to her father. How close was Joseph to abandoning his choice and putting Mary aside? How did Mary feel about all the possible labels and judgments that would be directed at her? How was she to explain that she was pregnant by the power of God? Who would believe a story like that? The gospels never talk about village gossip or scandal surrounding Mary and Joseph. The gospels do not fill in all the juicy details so beloved by today's readers. But let us picture for a moment what the gospels do say: God has a plan for the salvation of all humankind, and the instruments God is going to use are an ordinary young woman and her beloved.

Joseph was a stand-up guy, a regular Joe, a by-the-book rule follower, a good Jew. But like any faithful person, he let his conscience be his final guide. By feeling compassion for Mary and taking her into his home despite her unlawful condition, he was being obedient, not to the laws of his religion but to the spirit of his faith in a loving and merciful God. It takes special courage for rule followers to bend and stretch as Joseph did. The Josephs of this world, with their simple empathies for others, keep us open to life-giving possibilities and alert to the presence of God among us as we work and play and go about our daily tasks.

On the verge of Christmas and the end of Advent, now is a suitable time to reflect seriously on the meaning of the Son of God's coming into the world and your life. We work so hard at Christmas. We spend time and money to make it beautiful, enjoyable, tasty and memorable, so it's easy to think of it as something we do rather than something **God does for us**. Why not bend the cultural rules a little and show compassion towards someone? Ignore the messages to buy more and spend less time shopping. Enjoy the company of your family, and, like Joseph, take others into your home with no other expectation than to share the good tidings of God's love. Strange things at this time of year: like random acts of kindness; like gentle surprises; like a keener appreciation of generosity and an increased ability to let ourselves be surprised by joy. Allow ourselves to be surprised by God's graciousness, love, and unpredictable mystery in our lives. Strange things are supposed to happen, just ask Mary and Joseph!

To say "they shall call him Emmanuel" means nothing else than they shall see God among us. Admittedly God has always been among us, but never before so openly. —*Saint John Chrysostom*

Ponder such a wonderful mystery

Father William



We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory St. Patrick's Parish stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Weekend Mass Times

Sunday - 11:00 am

Sunday - 4:00 pm

Weekday Mass Times: - Wednesday & Friday 12:10pm

CONFESSION

Friday: 11:30am to 12:05pm - no appointment necessary

SACRAMENTS of INITIATION: BAPTISM,

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:

Please contact the parish office: 250-592-7391

HOSPITAL VISITS - RJH/VGH

Hospital Emergencies: 250-889-3761

Chaplain - Fr. Sean Flynn

Other health concerns, non-emergency: call 811

After hours Parish Emergencies ONLY: 250-294-9615

EURCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

24/7 Adoration in our side Chapel

Call or visit the office for an entry code

FUNERALS: Please contact the Parish Office

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

Administrative Assistants:

Deborah Mackay

Brian Zawacki

Office: 250-592-7391

Email: stpat190@telus.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday to Friday 11:00am to 3:00 pm

Custodian: Dean Riches

COLLECTIONS - DECEMBER 4TH

Envelopes	\$2,582.00
Loose change	\$ 375.15
PAD	\$1,383.00
E-transfers	\$ 240.00
Canada Helps	\$ 96.00
Capital Fund	\$ 220.00

Grand Total \$4,896.15

Anawim Women's House	\$ 250.00
Adoration Chapel	\$ 35.00

Candles \$ 54.00
Gift - Estate of Cecilia Bourgeois \$40,000.00

FINANCIAL NEWS

	Dec. 11th	YTD
Received	\$4,896.15	\$225,643.78
Needed	\$4,403.00	\$220,150.00
Difference	\$493.15	\$5,493.78

2022 COLLECTIONS RECEIVED

Thank you for your continued financial support this past year of St. Patrick's Parish

PARISH CONTACTS:**Parish Council Chair:**

Mark Redchurch
250-370-0558

Finance Chairman:

Peter Bray
peterbray@telus.net
250-382-4209

Knights of Columbus:

Michael O'Neill
mikepmoinvest@gmail.com
WWW.KofC.org

Catholic Women's League:

Theresa Smith
250-213-3304
theresasmith1225@shaw.ca

St. Vincent de Paul:

Colin Scott

ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**CATHOLIC SCHOOL - KG TO GRADE 7**

For information on registrations for 2022/2023 school year, please contact the school.

Patrick Card - Principal
Angela McLeish - Vice Principal

Phone: 250-592-6713
Email: sp@cisdv.bc.ca
www.stpatrickselem.ca

**FROM OUR PARISH:**

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

—*Maya Angelou*

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

—*Charles Dickens*

To say "they shall call him Emmanuel" means nothing else than they shall see God among us. Admittedly God has always been among us, but never before so openly.

—*Saint John Chrysostom*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday December 17th - 4:00pm - Holy Cross Parish

Sunday December 18th - 9:00 am - Holy Cross Parish

Sunday December 18th - 11:00am - St. Patrick's Parish

Sunday December 18th - 4:00pm - St. Patrick's Parish

Live Stream Mass Sunday at 4:00 pm from St. Patrick's Parish

Click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>



Fr. William welcomes Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey to lead our Sacramental Preparation 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 spnhsacramentalprep@rcdvtoria.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.

Changes in the office: We are sorry to say goodbye to one of our administrative assistants, Brian Zawacki who will be changing from part-time to on-call casual relief starting in the new year. We are grateful to Brian for his 3 ½ years of dedicated and hard-working commitment to provide the most caring service to our parish. We will miss seeing Brian on Thursdays and Fridays, but look forward to his return to help out periodically. Brian's last regular day will be Friday December 23rd. Starting in January Deborah Mackay will take over the position full-time. We also thank Deborah for her ongoing service of caring and dedication.

African Aids Angels On Sale this Sunday December 18th - 11am Mass & 4pm Mass

African Aids Angels was started by two Victoria couples in response to a need to help children orphaned due to the HIV virus. The angels are all made by volunteers who use donated fabric, jewelry and ribbon to make beautiful creations which in turn make very meaningful gifts. All proceeds raised by these sales go directly to help an orphanage in South Africa and one in Zambia. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile cause.

MARLON NARCIS, 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 St. Patrick's Parish office or from Leila Narciso. USB packages will also be available soon. To inquire, please email her at leilannarciso17@gmail.com or phone 250-217-9904.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec. 18 - 11am	+ Gorge MacMinn
Sun. Dec. 18 - 4pm	+ Joe & Jose Delima
Wed. Dec. 21	+ Una O'Connell
Fri. Dec. 23	Int Gregoria Rosario
Sat. Dec 24 - 6pm	All Parishioners
Sat Dec 24 - Midnight	All Parishioners
Sun. Dec 25 - 11am	All Parishioners

FROM THE DIOCESE & OUR PARISH

Bishop's 2022 Appeal

PLEASE consider pledging to this worthwhile endeavour. This goal assigned to St. Patrick's Parish this year is 65,000. Any monies raised up this amount will generate 20% for the parish to use for a particular project. This year your gift will support our St. Patrick's School for continued opportunities for the children of Saint Pat's to grow in faith. Money raised will support building projects and formation for students such as supporting your ministry.

The 2022 Appeal website, including the Bishop's Appeal video may be found at: rcdvictoria.org/growing-together-2022

Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

St. Patrick's Goal \$65,000. Pledges to date: \$43,775.00 which is 67% of our Goal

Christmas 2022 at Anawim House

Your continued generosity in support of Anawim Companions Society for so many years is very much appreciated. You have always answered the "cry of the poor" and helped us provide a safe environment for those seeking to make positive changes in their lives. We are asking for your help with donations of NEW warm winter clothing. **There is a decorated donation box in the entrances to St. Patrick's Church until December**

Envelope Reminder: At the beginning of January 1, 2023, please ensure that you use your new envelopes; do not use envelopes from previous years as they may now belong to someone else. Also, please note any address changes on your envelopes for the first few weeks so we can update our records. To receive a 2022 tax receipt, **donations must be received in 2022. Donations received at the 6:00pm Saturday Mass on December 31st (unless otherwise dated) will be treated as a 2022 donation.**

If you are not currently using envelopes or if you are not enrolled in the PAD program, please consider doing so, your donation enables our parish to continue to prosper. If you would like to receive envelopes please contact the parish office; or if you are interested in making a donation through Pre-Authorized Debit Program, please complete the blue form, found at each entrance of the church, and drop it in the mailbox outside the parish office. **Thank you for your kind support!**

Write for Rights

"A BIG THANK YOU"

25 parishioners sent 37 letters and

4 messages of solidarity for Amnesty International letter writing last Sunday. These letters do make a difference

Have a wonderful Christmas.

"SAVE YOUR EMPTIES! The graduating class of 2023 is having a bottle drive to fundraiser for their After Grad celebrations! Please support our grads by dropping off your empties at St. Andrew's Regional High School on Saturday, January 7th between 10 and 4pm. *If you can't make it we will send someone to pick up from your location.* Contact: vining.jen@gmail.com"

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Mass times for the Christmas Season for all Parishes will be posted on the Diocesan website at the following link:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/christmas-and-new-years-masses>

NEXT WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday Dec 19	Tuesday Dec 20	Wednesday Dec 21	Thursday Dec 22	Friday Dec 23	Saturday Dec 24	Sunday Dec 25
St. Patrick's Parish Church & Parish Office Closed Every Monday	No Mass Celebration	12:10pm Mass	No Mass Celebration	11:30am Confessions		
	Church Open for Prayer & Visitation	Church Open for Prayer & Visitation	Church Open for Prayer & Visitation	12:10pm Mass	4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass Holy Cross "Live Streaming"	9:00am Christmas Day Mass Holy Cross
	Parish Office Open 11:00am to 3:00pm	Parish Office Open 11:00am to 3:00pm	Parish Office Open 11:00am to 3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer & Visitation		
	7pm Toastmasters	7:30pm to 8:30pm Arbutus Singers Christmas Concert St. Patrick's Church Admission by Donation - Proceeds Supporting the 9-10 Soup Kitchen	7:30 pm Choir Practice	Parish Office Open 11:00am to 1:00pm	6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass St. Patrick's	11:00am Christmas Day Mass St. Patrick's
7pm AA Peace	7pm AA Clue	7pm AA Peace	7pm AA Peace	7pm CA	Midnight Mass St. Patrick's	



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: rcdvictoria.org

MEMO

Date: December 15, 2022
To: Clergy, Religious, Parishes, Schools and Staff
From: Bishop Gary Gordon
Re: Recent news of sexual abuse lawsuit

The CBC published a story today¹ regarding a woman who recently settled a lawsuit over alleged childhood sexual abuse by Fr. Gerhard Hartmann, while he was a priest serving at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo in the 1970s. This news is undoubtedly distressing for victim-survivors of sexual abuse, whom we want to assure of our support.

This news also affects all members of the clergy, parishioners, and indeed the whole Diocese, causing reactions of pain, anger, and perhaps shame, as Catholic followers of Christ. We recognize that this information may be difficult for people to hear, but may also provide an opportunity for other victim-survivors to come forward so that, in the light of truth, there may be healing and justice.

Although we are not able to discuss the details of this case, several years ago the Diocese of Victoria began concrete steps to provide a victim-based approach when allegations come forward. The Diocese has instituted an independent reporting process² and a Responsible Ministry program³ to screen all members of the clergy, volunteers, and employees, and create protocols to ensure safe environments for children and the vulnerable.

The decision to come forward and report sexual abuse by clergy, religious, employees, or volunteers may be difficult and often requires considerable courage. To assist with this process, the Diocese of Victoria provides an Independent Reporting Agency service managed by a team of psychologists, counsellors, and social workers.

If a person decides to involve the Diocese in their healing plan, the Church will welcome and respond to the person with trust, charity, and compassion. The process for a pastoral encounter includes compassionate listening, acknowledgment of the person's courage in coming forward, affirmation and recognition of the hurt caused, reassurance that it is never the victim-survivor's fault, expression of deep remorse and sorrow on our part, and ultimately, empowerment. The Diocese will, at the victim-survivor's direction, provide pastoral support, and healing resources for that person and their family.

In the spring of this year, an independent agent was contracted to conduct a review of historical clergy files to identify known allegations of misconduct to better respond to victim-survivors and allegations.

The Advent season heralds the dawning of the light of Christ which dispels all darkness, and is always an invitation to draw ever closer to Christ for healing and peace. We pray that those who have suffered sexual abuse and their families will find some peace and healing from past wrongs, and that all of us may experience and participate in God's mercy this holy season.

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-woman-settles-lawsuit-over-alleged-childhood-sexual-abuse-by-catholic-priest-during-confession-1.6686647>

2. *Sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious brother or sister, or Church employee or volunteer, may be reported to the independent reporting service Boyd & Associates at 1-800-968-3146. Sexual abuse or cover-up by a Bishop may be reported to the independent professional ethics firm ClearView at 1-866-892-3737.*

3. <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>



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M E M O

DATE: December 15, 2022
TO: Clergy, Religious, Parishes, Schools, Support Staff
FROM: Bishop Gary Gordon
RE: Chancellor Retirement and Appointment

After years of faithful and dedicated service, Cynthia Bouchard, is entering a well-deserved retirement, effective January 15, 2023. Cynthia began her career with the Diocese in 1994 and joined the team in the Bishop's Office at the Pastoral Centre in 2003, and was appointed as Chancellor in 2012. I extend my deepest gratitude for her diligent, pastoral and wise guidance, and leadership over the years and wish her God's abundant blessing in the next chapter of her life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that Gwen Jahelka, Vice-Chancellor, will be appointed as Chancellor effective January 16, 2023. I am confident that Gwen's long-standing service to the Diocese will be an asset to the Chancery Office.

Your continued prayers and support for all those in positions of leadership in our Diocese, who continue to humbly serve the People of God, are greatly appreciated.

ARBUTUS SINGERS

25th Anniversary

Christmas Concert

**Wednesday, December 21, 2022
7:30 to 8:30 with no intermission**

Come join Jack Boomer, Director; Robyn McKinnon, Pianist; and the other 60 members of the Arbutus Singers for a fun-filled start to the Christmas season. The choir will present old favourites such as Carol of the Bells, Gloria, and I'll Be Home for Christmas. *You won't want to miss this fun evening.*

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church
2060 Haultain Street, Oak Bay**

Admission By Donation

**Proceeds to support:
9-10 Club Serving
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www.arbutussingers.com





CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

2022 / 2023

St. Patrick's & Holy Cross 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	Tafts
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	Tafts
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



61st ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL

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PRIZES

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Total Prizes \$100,000

Sales Oct 1, 2022 to Jan 28, 2023, 8pm

Early Bird Draws

Oct 31 (2x\$1000), Nov 28 (4x\$1000), Dec 19 (4x\$1000)

Main Draw Saturday January 28, 2023, 8:01pm

*An annual charity appeal of the Knights
of Columbus (BC) Charity Foundation*

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER

Thank you for your Support!

For general inquiries call 604-216-7272 BC Gaming Event License #: 135276
Chances are 1 in 250,000 (total tickets for sale) to win a grand prize. Actual odds depend on number of tickets sold. 19+ to play.

Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-795-6111 www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca Know your limit. Play within it.

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