

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9, 2025

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, March 8,**  
4PM MASS: Doug  
Sullivan+

**SUNDAY, March 9,**  
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

**MONDAY, March 10,**  
7PM MASS

**TUESDAY, March 11,**  
11 AM MASS: Luigi  
Gagliani+  
7PM MASS

**WEDNESDAY, March 12,**  
7PM MASS

**THURSDAY, March 13,**  
9AM MASS: Shanti  
Persaud (INT)  
9:30 STATIONS OF THE  
CROSS  
7PM MASS

**FRIDAY, March 14,**  
7PM MASS

—  
CHAPEL  
Open 9am-12pm  
**TUESDAY to FRIDAY**

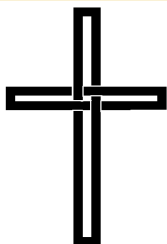
RECONCILIATION  
**SATURDAY, March 8,**  
3:30pm

As Lent begins, we continue in this Jubilee year of hope to celebrate, pray, bless, learn, inspire, and challenge. Lent presents us with a golden opportunity each year to practice life in a new way. It invites us to let old habits die and allow new ones that stretch and strengthen us to form. How is the season of Lent different from other seasons? This is the season in which we tend to the spiritual tasks of penance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to deepen our experience of God's presence and strengthen our faith. Lent 2025 is not a place you have ever been before, so keep your eyes open. The path is not the same, nor is the person walking it. It is Lent 2025; the time is right. Let us look at the Scripture on this First Sunday of Lent!

Hearing the story of Jesus' temptation on the First Sunday of Lent, we are left to our imagination. Tradition says that Jesus was tempted with every temptation known to humankind. This was to assert his total humanness. Otherwise, he could not have been so totally identified with our human lot. But temptations are not sins. What we call "temptation" is not meant to make us sin; it is meant to enable us to conquer sin. It is not meant to make us bad; it is meant to make us good. It is not meant to weaken us; it is meant to make us stronger through the ordeal. That is why Jesus had to win his test-so he could be our victory and salvation as we meet, head on, the Satan's that tempt us to choose the lesser good. And he had to win the test of being tempted away from the cross because he knew that we could not save ourselves.

That is what I love about today's Gospel. Having difficulty-letting God, be the center of his life was not foreign to Jesus. That is the beauty and realism of today's Gospel story! It is a daring move on the part of the early Church to give the story of Jesus being tempted such a prominent place in the Gospel. It is also a very comforting move. Here is Jesus who, as no other, was tuned in to God, and whose daily bread it was to do the will of God. Here is Jesus being tested. You, Jesus of Nazareth, where do you stand? What are you prepared to live for and, if necessary, to die for? How committed are you? What is it worth to you that God's kingdom come? What is your life full of?

This grace filled time is an opportunity for us to let Jesus take over our lives. Lent means "spring." New life grows in springtime. Through our temptations God will bring new life to us. Lent is a gift from the Church to us. We receive it gratefully to face both our gifts and our limits, to look in a spiritual mirror to face ourselves, our demons, and our God. We go together, with Jesus, into the desert of our souls. [continued on page 3...]



*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.*

**Report Sexual Abuse**

To report sexual abuse at  
[RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)  
or call 1-800-968-3146.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## Hanging Flower Baskets for St. Mary Hospital: A Message from Ellis

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE! Everything is growing including the list for hanging baskets for Mt. St. Mary Hospital. Only 10 baskets left so don't be disappointed, order now. I'm also preparing for lettuce in 6 packs, large and cherry tomatoes (red and yellow) and cucumbers. Green and yellow zucchini, three colors of regular geraniums plus scented geraniums and mauve hardy daisies for ground-cover. BEST OF ALL FREE PUMKINS for younger family members. Pick up lettuce end of March - ALL THE REST MID TO END OF MAY.

Place orders by phone - ELLIS - 2504776754

*Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital*



## 2025 Diocesan Youth Retreat: Living for Greatness

We invite youth in Grades 7-12 to join us for the 2025 Diocesan Youth Retreat (DYR)! This transformative weekend will help deepen their faith, build community, and encounter Jesus. This year's theme, Living for Greatness, promises an unforgettable experience. Event Details:

- **Dates & Location:** May 9-11, 2025 at Camp Imadene, Mesachie Lake, BC
- **Cost:** \$199 (includes meals, activities, accommodations, and t-shirt)
- **Speakers:** NET Ministries
- **Transportation:** Complimentary bus from St. Andrew's High School and Langford
- **Mother's Day Brunch:** Complimentary for families on Sunday at 11:15 am

To Register: Complete the Google Form by April 15: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE7LAFIuZRtzFGt5cVtJobf59gAMjXEcUoQ1LfMpOyIpZYRQ/viewform>

Google Form Link To Pay: <https://bit.ly/3WWgGvJ>

For questions, contact Joelle Dressler at (250) 479-1331 or [jdressler@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:jdressler@rcdvictoria.org).

## Week 1: A Pilgrimage of Hope

2025 is a Jubilee year, a year to take a pilgrimage of hope. A year in which Pope Francis invites us to walk along with our sisters and brothers to urge countries and corporations to "forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them." Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is responding to this call through the global **Turn Debt into Hope** campaign.

Here are two ways you can join the campaign:

- **Donate** online at [devp.org/give](https://devp.org/give) or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on April 6, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 79 projects in 34 countries around the world!
- **Pick up the Mini-magazine** after Mass and follow the **Solidarity Calendar** with your family. Discover all the resources at [devp.org/lent/resources](https://devp.org/lent/resources).

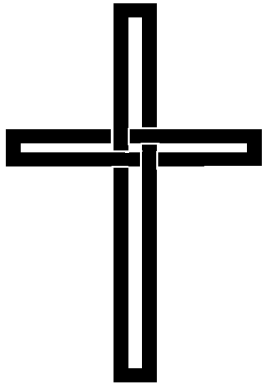


For more information, contact Barb McKrow or other members of the Holy Cross Development and Peace – Caritas Canada team.

## Opus Dei Reconciliation Events

An evening recollection for women will be held on **Monday, March 17th** from **6:15-8pm** at **St Joseph the Worker** Parish, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:30pm. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE AND TIME.

An evening recollection for men will be held on **Tuesday, March 18th** from **6-8pm** at **Sacred Heart** Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm.



### **QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:**

During this sacred season, let us look upon ourselves as on the Mount with Jesus—learning his love and his fear—unlearning ourselves, and growing up unto him.

—*Saint John Henry Newman*

The whole of our life should be a season of prayer.

—*St. Basil the Great*

### **Marriage Preparation Event**

Are you getting married in 2025? The Diocese of Victoria is offering a two-day, in-person marriage preparation course on April 5 and 12, from 10:00 am–4:00 pm in Ladysmith (venue TBD), with a remote Zoom option available. Open to all, this course provides essential guidance for couples preparing for marriage. A joint Certificate of Completion will be issued upon completion of all sessions. Please register by March 19 here: <https://in-person-marriage-prep-april-2025.eventbrite.ca>



### **Office Update**

For the season of lent, Holy Cross Parish will have 7:00pm Masses — Monday to Friday!

Are you a Holy Cross M-Key Holder? We are looking for volunteers able to come to open and close the church for Bishop Gary. Please contact the office if you are available.

### **Prayer for the Children Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at Holy Cross and St Patrick Parish**

We have 24 children who are catechumens and candidates. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

*Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them. May it be the beginning of a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.*

### **LIVESTREAMING**

**SUNDAY, March 8,  
4PM MASS:**

Find the link here:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**MONDAY-TO-FRIDAY  
7PM MASS**

Find the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boV1CA>

[continued...] In doing so, so that when Easter comes, the renewal of our being baptized will not be an empty formula. But there will be some substance to it, so that we may come out of this Lenten season as re-cycled and reborn Christians sharing more fully in the new life of the risen Jesus. What spiritual progress do you hope to make this season of Lent? What steps are you prepared to take toward that end?

A blessed Holy Lent  
Fr. William

# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

- 1) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is hosting a series of videos for Lent titled Journey Through Lent. This series is meant to offer spiritual inspiration and guidance on how to prepare well for the Easter season. New videos will be released each week, you can watch the series here: <https://www.cccb.ca/lent/>
- 2) The Rite of Election Mass will take place on March 9th at 1:30 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral. During this liturgical rite, catechumens—those preparing to join the Church through baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist at Easter—are presented to the Bishop. All are welcome to attend in person or via the livestream at: <https://youtube.com/live/dEASwsogC0o?feature=share>
- 3) Listening Circles are now being held across the diocese as part of our Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod journey. All are invited to participate—please contact your parish office to sign up for a Circle. If you're unable to participate in a Circle in person, facilitators are hosting online Listening Circles on various dates beginning March 16. Please sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dpps-online-listening-circles-tickets-1263055064699>
- 4) March 16, the Second Sunday of Lent, marks the Jubilee 2025 Day of Action. As people of faith, we are called to act justly and work for change (Micah 6:8). Join the movement for economic and ecological justice by signing the petition to turn debt into hope: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/jubilee-2025-canada>
- 5) St. Joseph the Worker Parish is seeking a part-time Secretary to join their team. This role includes working closely with the pastor, staff, and volunteers to create a welcoming environment for visitors while managing administrative tasks and confidential office functions. View the full job description here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

## THANK YOU BOX

*Thank you so much to Betty Leitch and Trish Westwood for volunteering to support the Mardi Gras Pizza Party this past Tuesday!*

*And for Pete Vijandre for helping set up tables and chairs this week!*



## COLLECTIONS March 2, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,390.00
Loose	\$ 337.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 25.00
Social & Ecological Justice	\$ 20.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$1,330.40</u>
Total	\$5,102.40

## CONTACT US

**Pastor:** Vacant

**Executive Team:** Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar & David Begg

**Administrative Assistant:** Sloane Secord  
250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake  
250-477-5321 / officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

**Hospital Emergency Chaplain:** Fr. Sean Flynn  
250-889-3761

## OFFICE HOURS

**Saturday, Sunday, Monday:** Closed  
**Tuesday-Friday:** 8:30am-3:30pm  
4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7  
www.holycrossvictoria.org  
250-477-5321

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays:** 9AM  
**Saturday** 4PM  
**Sunday:** 9AM