

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 30, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 29,
11AM FUNERAL MASS:
Bill DeShaw
4PM MASS: Leslie
McAdams+

SUNDAY, March 30,
9AM MASS: Thaddeus
Anglin+

MONDAY, March 31
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, April 1,
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION:
Klaus Schmidt+
7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, April 2,
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, April 3,
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION
9:30AM STATIONS OF
THE CROSS
7PM MASS

FRIDAY, April 4,
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY to FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY, March 29,
3:30pm

This Sunday, March 30th, is the fourth Sunday of Lent. In today's Gospel by Luke, Jesus shares with us the parable of the prodigal son, one of the most well-known parables in the New Testament. The story of the forgiving father and the repentant son touches everyone's heart, Christian and Non-Christian alike. Forgiveness is not easy; it is not easy to receive and not easy to give. Didn't the father have every right to deny his returning son? The son had rejected the father's way of life and his community, had disrespected his values and dreams. It would have been the human and understandable response if the father had refused to see his son. But in the parable, the father unexpectedly rushes out to greet his son, rejoices at his return, forgives him, and celebrates. How much the father must love his son, to forgive him with his whole heart! This is how God loves us, with a love that is not limited by human pride and resentment, with a love that is beyond our comprehension! When we turn to God with a repentant heart, he throws his arms around us, holds us close and rejoices. This is the Good News that Jesus shared! This is our God of infinite love! And this - is what we are called to do! In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he explains, [God] has given us the ministry of reconciliation . . . , entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. What a formidable responsibility! How can we do this? Certainly not on our own. Only with God's help can we even attempt this holy work. God sends his Spirit to fill our hearts with grace, love, and compassion. He trusts us to carry the message of reconciliation and peace into our troubled world because he is at our side.

What about the older brother who makes a scene? Why does Jesus tell us about the older brother and his bitterness? Maybe because Jesus knows that many of us identify with the older brother. We live quietly, trying to do what is right, and would not dream of disrespecting our family or community. We would never squander our material gifts in such an extravagant way as the prodigal son did. Like the older brother, we get caught up in doing what we think is right and become angry and resentful when we see the prodigal son or daughter being forgiven. The older brother worked at his father's side, but he was blind. He did not realize the abundant love his father had for him, nor did he recognize his father's infinite generosity. When we are blind and overcome by how unfair life is, then let us remember the words of the father. You are always with me and all that is mine is yours. Let our eyes be open! Let us appreciate the countless gifts that God gives us. Let us recognize that we are at His side, helping to bring love and reconciliation into the world.

Tanya Taft

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.rcdvtoronto.org/Responsible-Ministry)
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Lenten Retreat: Meeting Jesus Along the Way

On April 1 and 2, 2025, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Mass will be at 6:00 pm, followed by the retreat at 6:30 pm on both days with Dr. David Pitt. A liturgical scholar and musician, Dr. Pitt will offer insights on Christian initiation, the Eucharist, and liturgical music, inviting us to deepen our faith and journey with Christ—all are welcome!

Island Catholic Schools Showcase: The Joy of Music Concert



Come celebrate springtime joy! Island Catholic Schools invites you to a Feast of the Fine Arts featuring the work of Island Catholic Schools and our special guests, The Avalon Singers on Tuesday, April 15, at 6:00 pm at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium. Get your tickets by phoning the UVic box office (250-721-8480) or visit: <https://tickets.uvic.ca/>

Disaster Readiness Kits Now Available!

Knights of Columbus: Disaster Readiness Kits Available Now! In response to recent floods and wildfires, the Knights of Columbus are supplying communities with survival kits and essential preparedness information. Helping our communities be ready for emergencies is more urgent than ever. Order your Disaster Readiness Kit online using the link below and use code 13356 to identify to the company where the sales are coming from. <https://72hours.ca/pages/emergency-survival-kits>

Remembering Your Loved Ones At Easter

The Floral Committee welcome your donations for the Easter Floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one or a special occasion, please pick up a marked envelope in the foyer. When you have filled it out, it can be placed in the collection basket or dropped by the office. Thank you.



Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a Baptismal Prep registration form and participate in a Baptismal Prep course. Please note that the next session to take a Baptismal Prep course is Sat, April 5 (10:00 am - 12 noon). Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information.

Share Lent Week 4: This Lent, a Pilgrimage of Hope in Solidarity

Solidarity Sunday is next Sunday, when the Development and Peace – Caritas Canada Lenten campaign invites us to give generously in Pope Francis's Pilgrimage of Hope for the forgiveness of debt in the Global South. Our donations will transform the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. The Most Rev. Jorge Izaguirre, Bishop of Chosica, Peru, gives his message to us this way: "Your generosity is a testament to the boundless compassion that unites us all as one human family. May we continue to walk together in faith and action, creating a brighter future for all." Help fulfil the dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to our Share Lent parish collection or online at devp.org/give. Thank you for your solidarity!



Alastair & Dorothy Maclsaac's Funeral has been scheduled on April 12, at 11am at Holy Cross Parish.

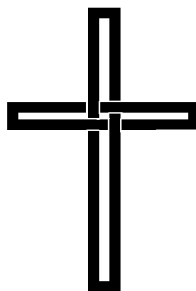
QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:

God will not deny mercy to anyone.

—*Sain Faustina*

One of the qualities of a leader is mercy.

—*Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde*



LIVESTREAMING

**SATURDAY, March 22,
4PM MASS:**

Find the link here:

[http://www.youtube.com/c/
StPatricksHolyCrossChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch)

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

Find the link here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boV1CA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boV1CA)

Holy Cross Parish's Easter Mass Schedule

- April 17, 2025 - Holy Thursday - 7pm
- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday - 3pm
- April 19, 2025 - Easter Vigil - No Mass
- April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday - 9am & 11am Mass

Find other parishes services here: [https://
www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-lent-easter-mass-times](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-lent-easter-mass-times)

St. Andrew's High School: How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery

St. Andrew's High School is performing, "How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery" from April 24-26. Tickets are available on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-high-school-presents-how-to-get-away-with-a-murder-mystery-tickets-1230782947929

MT ST MARY HANGING BASKETS!: A Message from Ellis

I made come extra baskets for you all. Still have lots of geraniums veggies, tomatoes and basket stuffers for sale, at the pre tariff prices and as usual all proceeds to the Hospital. Place orders by phone - ELLIS - 2504776754

Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital



Library: Lenten Books and New Changes

Did you know Holy Cross has an extensive library? Come to the office building during office hours to take a look at some books you may be interested in. Thanks to Martha and John Oleson, we have an updated labelling system and easy access shelving! Specific Lenten books have been placed in the foyer to encourage your Lenten reflections, please take one and return it when you are finished!

Library **Corner**

Easter Food Fair at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall

Come enjoy Baba's best home made perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, Ukrainian Easter breads and pastries, beet horseradish, and Ukrainian kobassa. HOT LUNCH provided. Wheel chair accessible. Please bring your own bags! When and Where: 1110 Caledonia Ave (Cook & Caledonia), Saturday, April 5, from 11 am - 2 pm.

Volunteer Opportunity: Ecological Restoration

Are you looking for a way to be involved in Diocesan community? Join our ecological restoration team! The group meets every second and fourth Saturday of each month until November from 1-4 pm just outside the Diocesan Pastoral Centre which is adjacent to Sacred Heart Church. Tasks include removing Scotch broom, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry in preparation for planting/seeding a native wildflower meadow. Please bring gloves, water and safety glasses. Tools will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own if you want/can.



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

- 1) Join us for the next Women's Breakfast on April 12 at the Horseshoe Club (620 Kenneth St, Victoria), with guest speaker Maria Arsenault, who will share about her vocation as a consecrated virgin. Doors open at 8 am, cost is \$20 (cash at the door), and space is limited to 40—please email victoriawomensbreakfast@gmail.com by noon on April 10 to save your spot!
- 2) Bishop Gary Gordon has designated four pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Victoria for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope: Our Lady of Assumption (Alert Bay), St. Ann's (Duncan), St. Andrew's Cathedral (Victoria), and Holy Family (Ucluelet). Visiting these sites offers a unique opportunity to journey as Pilgrims of Hope and to receive a Plenary Indulgence. Learn more about these pilgrimage sites here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/jubilee-2025>
- 3) Join the 40 Days for Life campaign to end to abortion. All are welcome to participate in the local vigil at the Helmcken Road Overpass from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm daily. To learn more or sign up for prayer times, please visit: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/victoriabc>
- 4) The Diocese of Victoria is now accepting applications for the position of Chancellor. The Chancellor coordinates the internal operations and administrative affairs of the Diocese, and fosters the communion essential to the Catholic faith through dialogue, communication and relationship building. A job posting is attached to this email, and may also be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter by April 21, 2025. We reserve the right to shorten or extend the deadline for applications depending on interest; please apply early to ensure your application will be considered.

THANK YOU BOX

A huge thank you to Martha and John Oleson for organizing and updating our library in the Parish office! Another thank you to the funeral planning & hospitality teams, especially Barb McKrow and Anna Mendonca.



COLLECTIONS

March 23, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,510.00
Loose	\$ 335.00
Canada Helps	\$ 404.00
Gifts of Securities	\$ 1,000
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,330.40
Total	\$ 6,579.40

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



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

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

March 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great joy, I announce the designation of four pilgrimage sites within the Diocese of Victoria for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. This sacred year is a time of renewal, reflection, and, above all, hope—a call for us to deepen our faith and embrace the boundless grace of God.

Be a Pilgrim of Hope

A pilgrimage is more than a journey to a holy place; it is a journey of the heart, a moment to seek spiritual renewal and draw closer to the Lord. As we walk in prayer and contemplation, may we be strengthened in faith, unburdened by past struggles, and inspired to bring Christ's light into the world.

To facilitate this sacred journey, four special pilgrimage sites have been designated within our diocese, representing the four directions and guiding us on a path of spiritual renewal. I invite all the faithful to take part in this pilgrimage of hope, trusting that each step will lead us into a deeper communion with God and one another.

Our Lady of Assumption, Alert Bay

A place rich in history and deep faith, Our Lady of Assumption in Alert Bay welcomes pilgrims to experience its sacred space. This parish does not have a pastor in residence, but visitors can email pilgrimsalertbay@rcdvictoria.org to arrange their pilgrimage.

St. Ann's, Duncan

St. Ann's in Duncan stands as a vital place of worship, honouring its deep-rooted connection with the Cowichan Tribes and a history of Indigenous-Catholic collaboration. Please visit www.rcdvictoria.org/parishes/st-anns-duncan or call 250-709-8731 to learn more about the church's visitation schedule.

St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria

Located in the heart of Victoria, St. Andrew's Cathedral stands as a beacon of faith and a place of profound beauty. Pilgrims visiting the cathedral are encouraged to spend time in prayer, reflecting on the blessings of the Jubilee Year. Please check the cathedral's website at www.standrewscathedral.com for opening hours and Mass times.

Holy Family, Ucluelet

Nestled in downtown Ucluelet, Holy Family Church is embraced by open green space and forest, which offers a peaceful refuge for all of God's creatures. This parish does not have a pastor in residence, but visitors can visit www.rcdvictoria.org/parishes/holy-family-ucluelet or email pilgrimsucluelet@rcdvictoria.org to learn more about the church's visitation schedule.

I invite all the faithful to take part in this pilgrimage of hope, trusting that each step will lead us into a deeper communion with God and one another.

In Communion and Hope,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria