

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 15,
4PM MASS: Deborah
Dillon+

SUNDAY, March 16,
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, March 17,
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, March 18,
9AM MASS: Josephine
Loughran+
7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, March 19,
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, March 20,
9AM MASS: Thanksgiving
for Fr Joseph Yuson (INT)
9:30 STATIONS OF THE
CROSS
7PM MASS

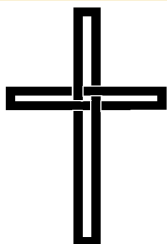
FRIDAY, March 21,
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY to FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY, March 15,
3:30pm

The story of the transfiguration of Jesus is quite a story. It is also a very important story because it shows a side of Jesus that is both comforting and encouraging. The story is very strategically placed in the Gospel. It comes just at the time in his life when Jesus must take a second look at where he is going. It comes at a time when the conflict between Jesus and his opponents is coming to a head. It is also the time when his disciples do not know what to make of Jesus anymore. So, Jesus goes up the mountain. In the Bible, that means the place of God's presence. And two important figures of the Old Testament appear on the scene: Moses and Elijah. Jesus has a lot in common with them. Jesus is at a critical point in his life journey, and they have been there before him. As for Elijah: he is the man who, very much like Jesus, had only one passion: the kingdom of God. But all Elijah met was resistance, so much so that it got to him. He went into the wilderness, sat under a tree, and said: "God, I have had enough. Let me go to sleep and please don't let me wake up again." But he wakes up and then something drives him to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God's presence. And there Elijah has an overwhelming experience of God that energizes him anew and he can go on again. And as for Moses: he had a similar experience. He met all sorts of difficulties with the people he was supposed to lead resistance, skepticism, stubbornness; enough to be tempted to throw in the towel. So, Moses pleads with Yahweh to show him the way. Moses goes up the mountain, this time the mountain of Sinai. And he too experiences the presence of God, which enables him to get over his crisis. He regains his confidence. He can hope again; he can move on. It is no wonder then that precisely at this critical moment in Jesus' life, Moses and Elijah appear on the scene. They have been there before. Talking things over with them, it becomes clear to Jesus that he is on course. He is encouraged by their story. But above all, he finds strength in God's presence to him.

The Bible tries to describe this with the image of his face changing and his clothes becoming brilliant. And from the cloud that covered them comes the voice: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!" These same words had sounded at an earlier decisive moment in Jesus' life, at his Baptism in the Jordan, the moment that it became clear to Jesus what path he would have to follow. Here too the voice coming from the cloud confirms Jesus. Now he is equipped to go on his way to Jerusalem, where in laying down his life he will become a source of life for us. The moment Jesus was transfigured before the disciples their lives were changed. They, too, became transfigured. Never again would they look at their friend, their teacher, their Messiah in the same way. That moment made them different forever. What do we need to change us, to make us different, to help us see the presence of Jesus with the clear eyes of faith? Lent can lead us to the answer. God's presence to Moses, Elijah, and Jesus pulled them through their difficult moments. They could pull themselves up on him. That same God has also made himself into our God when we were baptized in Jesus' name. It is important that we bring that home to us in the season of Lent. ...[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.rcd.victoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

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.



Music Bingo Night For St. Patrick's School

Come to the Fernwood Inn, Thursday April 10th, 6:00-9:00pm. Get ready for a fun night to raise money for a new school bus for St. Patrick's School. Great tunes, big laughs, meet other parents, and awesome prizes. \$20 gets you into both rounds of music bingo, all funds going towards the bus. Doors open at 6:00pm and bingo starts at 7:00pm. There are a limited number of tickets which can only be purchased <https://www.showpass.com/st-pats-parents-music-bingo/>, so get yours now before they're gone. Full food and drink menu will be available for you to enjoy!

40 Days for Life Campaign

Join the 40 Days for Life campaign to support mothers and children by praying and fasting for an 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>

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. An evening recollection for men will be held on Tuesday, March 18th from 6-8pm at Sacred Heart Parish.

Share Lent Week 2: Turn Debt into Hope, for the Sake of Justice

Knowing that 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on foreign debt repayment than on health or education, we must act to **Turn Debt into Hope**. Rich countries continue enriching themselves by exploiting the resources of the poorest countries. We each can act on Pope Francis's call to "*forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them.*" As he says, "This is an appeal for solidarity, but above all for justice."

Here are two ways you can join in this important work:

- **Talk to others** about the unrecognized ecological debt owed to the southern parts of the globe. The Mini-magazine and videos on the Development and Peace website have some information to kickstart our understanding.
- **Read and sign the petition available online** supporting forgiveness of foreign financial debt. devp.org/debt



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

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.

LIVESTREAMING

**SUNDAY, March 16,
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)

QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:

In my deepest wound I saw Your glory, and it dazzled me.
—*Saint Augustine, Confessions*

Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words.

—*Saint Ignatius Loyola*

Office Update: Additional 7:00pm Masses will be held during Lent in the Chapel— Monday to Friday!

Tax Receipts: All tax receipts that have not been picked up will be mailed next week.

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. Baskets almost all gone 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 PUMPKINS for younger family members. Pick up lettuce end of March - ALL THE REST MID TO END OF MAY. If you wish bring me your patio pots by end of March and I will plant same as basket.

Place orders by phone - ELLIS - 2504776754

Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital



[continued...] Lent is the privileged time in which we are encouraged to expose ourselves more intensely to God's presence in our lives. I would think that this season of Lent is meant as an opportunity to sort out whether we are still on course as disciples of Jesus, an opportunity to ask ourselves honestly: Do the Gospel values that Jesus embodied still turn us on? Or have we possibly lost the taste for them? Lent reminds us every year that our lives are journeys, ultimately through death to new life. It also challenges us to deep experiences of prayer and a sense of God's presence that equip us for the daily, mundane, and often tedious journeys of our lives. Peter, James, and John witnessed the Transfiguration. Peter, overwhelmed, blurts out the first thing that comes to mind, and is rendered silent by God's voice. Then it's over. They head back down the mountain to face "the real world." Maybe you've had experiences that made it hard to face day-to-day life again - an inspiring retreat or vacation, a special event or a significant loss or disappointment. We feel let down if we're not able to "transfigure" ourselves to find God in all things- joyful and profound, and sorrowful and mundane. It takes willingness to live fully in all aspects of our lives. It's a life-long journey of courage, awareness, and faith - a journey that begins now. "Whatever our initial vision of spiritual life, to be authentic, it must be fulfilled here and now, in the place where we live." And that in the words of Thomas Merton is a light of supreme brilliance that it dazzles our mind and darkens all its visions and other realities... but in the end, we gain a new view of all reality transfigured and in doing so, live in the presence of the Lord... the light of our world! That is where our faith lies! Bernard Lonergan once suggested that faith is God's brand on us. God has seared our souls, as by a great fire, in a way that goes beyond what we can conceptualize, imagine, and even consciously feel. Real faith then, it would seem, takes root beyond thought, imagination, and feeling. I like that... faith beyond our thought, imagination and feeling! Is that not a good definition of transfiguration? Faith, properly understood, is precisely a trust beyond betrayal, a surrender beyond despair, a love beyond fear, an intimacy beyond human intimacies, and a spiritual sinew and communion that holds beyond all disruption. As you read this, I am leading weekend masses in Marystown, Newfoundland leading a Lenten retreat in my hometown. Pray for us!

Love and prayers
Fr. William

FOR OUR YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

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.

2025 Diocesan Youth Retreat: Living for Greatness

We invite youth in Grades 7-12 to join us for the 2025 Diocesan Youth Retreat (DYR)! 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

To register complete the Google Form by April 15: <https://bit.ly/4kErwki> &

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

Questions: Please contact Joelle Dressler at (250) 479-1331 or jdressler@rcdvictoria.org

2025 Illuminate 2025

Youth in Grades 4-7 are invited to Illuminate 2025! Event Details:

- Dates & location: May 3, 2025, St. Joseph's School, Victoria
- Cost: \$75 (includes snack, lunch, activities, and t-shirt)
- Speakers: NET Ministries

To Register: Complete the Google Form by April 7: <https://bit.ly/4ioAujB>

To Pay: <https://bit.ly/4hs3RAR>

Questions: Please contact Joelle Dressler at (250) 479-1331 or jdressler@rcdvictoria.org



THANK YOU BOX

Thank you to Sean McKeown and Phil Wall who have been working especially hard to get our livestreaming cameras all set up. Another thank you to Bob Francis for helping with building maintenance!



COLLECTIONS March 9, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,675.00
Loose	\$ 465.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 525.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$1,330.40</u>
Total	\$4995.40

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