



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

## SUNDAY - August 25, 2024 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, is the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings of this Sunday explore an idea that was shocking to people thousands of years ago and is still a challenging concept for us to accept today. The readings are about the unexpected intimacy that God offers us; an intimacy that is surprising, extraordinary, and beautiful. In the first reading from Joshua, we are reminded that everything with God is an invitation. He never forces himself on us. Whether God invites us to follow him or serve him or experience an intimate relationship with him; he always gives us a choice. *Choose this day whom you will serve, . . . as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.* Joshua also points out that if people reflect on their lives, they will recognize God's love, care, and protection. This awareness will lead them to grow in trust and intimacy with the creator.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul was not presenting a blueprint for husband-and-wife relationships. Paul was trying to describe, in the cultural context of the times, the deep love and intimacy that develops between spouses after living together for many years, sharing joys, sorrows and challenges. We all have met couples who are gray, wrinkled, and full of deep love for each other. We recognize that they have truly become one flesh, and it fills us with joy. This deep intimacy between a couple is what God desires with us. *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.* How unexpected and wonderful is this promise by our God.

In John's gospel, Jesus made God's desire for a deep relationship with all people explicit. *Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* People were so disturbed by these words that several of them turned away from Jesus and even *many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.* When Jesus asked the twelve whether they also wanted to leave, Peter responded with the memorable words: *Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.* Even though the twelve were also uncomfortable with Jesus' words, their hearts recognized that Jesus was the Messiah and that he loved them. They trusted him even though his words were a mystery. Thousands of years later, we still have trouble accepting God's offer of deep intimacy. We also push away and distance ourselves. But God's offer and invitation is always there. As we learn to trust and recognize God's constant care and protection, God never stops waiting for us. Then one day, we, too, will reply, *Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Tanya Taft

### OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC  
V8N 3X7  
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844  
office@holycrossvictoria.org

**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 by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit [RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://BishopReportingSystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

## 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>

### 2024/25 Sacramental Preparation Programs for Children/Teenagers of St Patrick's and Holy Cross

**Journey of Faith for Teenagers:** Learn about the Catholic Faith, what it means to follow Jesus, and how to receive the graces needed to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. This program is designed for teenagers to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in right relationship with God. Students may prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL STUDENTS AGED 13+ YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a sponsor.

**Journey of Faith for Children:** Does your child want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? This program is designed for children to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in relationship with God. Candidates may prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a parent.

**Together in Jesus First Reconciliation for Grades 2 and 3:** Children who are baptized are ready to prepare for First Reconciliation in the Year 1 group when they reach the minimum age of 7 years old. This program is suitable for children 7-9 years old. Lessons edify their imagination and sense of wonder through storytelling, interactive learning, and prayer rituals. Each student must participate with a parent.

**Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Communion for Grades 3 and 4:** Children who have received the sacrament of First Reconciliation are ready to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion in the Year 2 group. Candidates who were in the First Reconciliation Year 1 group at St Patrick's/Holy Cross are automatically registered into the Year 2 group. If your child is not registered and wishes to join this group, please contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow [mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org).

Please attend one of the Parent Info Sessions to be held on **Saturday Sep 14 at 3pm or Sep 21 at 5:15pm (30 min) at Holy Cross**. The First Reconciliation session for baptized candidates begins on Oct 5. Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion begins in January. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd) before or after the Saturday 4pm mass. For more information, contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow [mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org). Registration forms are available online: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cf/cf43cd4b-2408-4957-a83c-d18c6511d74a/documents/Registration\\_Form\\_2020\\_SP\\_-\\_Yrs\\_I\\_II\\_-\\_FILLABLE.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cf/cf43cd4b-2408-4957-a83c-d18c6511d74a/documents/Registration_Form_2020_SP_-_Yrs_I_II_-_FILLABLE.pdf)

### Become a Volunteer Catechist 2024-2025

Grow in and share your faith with children and youth of St Patrick's and Holy Cross parishes. Effective catechists are patient, responsible, confident and creative. You bring a generosity of spirit, respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion. We provide you with training in Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition to teach students and their families. Complete a [Ministry Volunteer Application Form](#) and submit it to the parish office. For more information contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator Michele Bristow [mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org). For volunteer screening procedures go to: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

### Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. The next sessions to choose from will be held on Saturday, August 31 from 10 - 12 and on Saturday, September 28 from 10 - 12.

Please email [hcsfbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsfbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org) with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.

### Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

### Prayer Reflection

“We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become.”  
*St. Clare of Assisi*

I am not afraid. I was born for this. —*Saint Joan of Arc*

“I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to be Christian.”  
*St. Ignatius of Antioch*

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Or perhaps were you baptized Catholic as a child, but have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Parishes in the city of Victoria are collaborating to offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, beginning in the fall. For more information or to register for the 2024–25 year, please contact the parish office.

### OFFICE HOURS AUGUST 27 - 30

Office hours will be reduced from Tuesday, August 27 - Friday, August 30. Please call or make your visits between 9 and noon.

### DAILY MASS - THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 9AM!

Daily Mass will be celebrated on Thursdays and Fridays at 9am starting August 29. We welcome Friar Edward Anthonipalli to Holy Cross Parish for these daily Mass times.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

Holy Cross Catholic Parish is seeking a part time administrative assistant to support the Pastor/Executive Committee and parish. This is a front office position for 26 hours a week, from Tuesday to Friday, complete with a benefit package. Applicants must be well organized with exceptional time management skills and proficient with computer skills including working in Publisher. Please see the office for a job description. Preference may be given to active members of a Roman Catholic Parish.

Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org), or in person during office hours, by August 30. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, August 24, 2024

4PM MASS: Frank Lawrence+

SUNDAY, August 25, 2024

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, August 26, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, August 27, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion  
Josephine Laughran+

WEDNESDAY, August 28, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THURSDAY, August 29, 2024

9AM MASS: Joe Hilario+

FRIDAY, August 30, 2024

9AM MASS:

**The Chapel will be open this week Tuesday to Friday 9 - 12**

**Masks are optional at this time**  
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**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 3:00- 3:45 on Saturdays**

### COLLECTIONS , August 18, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 3,570.00
Loose	\$ 400.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,293.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,263.75</b>

### Thank you!

Thank you to our army of volunteers that make things happen around here when a request comes up! You're amazing, and you're appreciated!



## **News from the Chancery**

1) Holy Cross Parish in Victoria is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. For more information about the position and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. The posting will remain open until the position is filled.

2) The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will be celebrated on Sunday, September 1, 2024. This year's theme, "*Hope and Act with Creation*", is inspired by the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:19-25). To read Pope Francis' Message for the Day and for more information, please visit <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2024/messaggio-papa-francesco-giornata-mondiale-di-preghiera-per-creato.html>.

## **CWL Fantastic Fall Bazaar will be held on October 5, 2024**

Donations to the Fall Bazaar at St. Patrick's Parish will be accepted **beginning August 1st and continuing until October 4**, Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am - 3pm. Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the foyer at Holy Cross Parish for more details re accepted items, or if you wish to have your donation picked up.

## **REGULAR MASS TIMES**

### **Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:**

4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday;  
9am Thursday and Friday,

**Liturgy of the Word with Communion:** 9am Tuesday and 9am Wednesday

### **Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:**

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday;  
12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

**Confessions:** 3:00 - 3:45pm Saturdays, Holy Cross Parish; 11:30am on Friday at St. Patrick's Parish

## **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.

**Pastor:** Vacant

### **Executive Team:**

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, Dave Begg

**Hospital Chaplain:** 250-889-3761

**Administrative Assistants:** Phil & Sheila Wall  
250-477-5321 [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake  
250-477-5321 [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**University Chaplain:** Vacant

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

**Sacramental Preparation:** Michele Bristow  
[mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org)

**Baptismal Preparation:** Beverly Pulyk  
[hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org)