

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 24, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, August 23
4PM MASS: Martin
Fletcher+

SUNDAY, August 24
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

TUESDAY, August 26
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

THURSDAY, August 28
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION:
Marguerite Strand (INT)

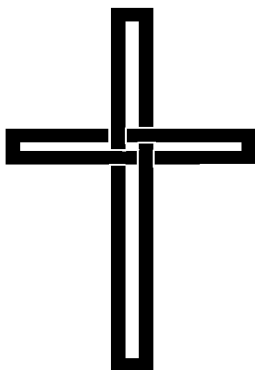
CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY, August 23,
3:30PM

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY, August 24,
11AM

[https://www.youtube.com/
@StPatricksHolyCross-
Church](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch)



The Gospel today invites us to consider what happens when we let our guard down and walk with vulnerability into the radical inclusivity of Jesus. When Jesus was asked if only a few would be saved, the question betrayed the answer anticipated. Jesus refuses to put a number on the saved or erect a fence around the possibility of salvation. Jesus does say the gate is narrow—but anyone and everyone are welcome to walk through it. God isn't putting restrictions on salvation. It's ours to choose. Jesus refuses to supply a number of the saved but does revamp the thinking of who qualifies. Isaiah reminds us that people outside the original covenant will acknowledge and participate in the glory of God. The Good News is not the private property of the few but belongs to the world. In today's world of whose in and whose out we need to remind ourselves of these biblical truths!

In today's Gospel, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where he is to face his suffering and death. For Jesus that is the narrow door by which he is to enter. If we, as disciples of Jesus, are to be worth our salt, then it is for us to enter by our particular narrow door. That is not a matter of seeking a path of suffering and death. Jesus did not seek that path either, but he was prepared to accept that path if it were the result of remaining faithful to what needed to be done in the circumstances. The same applies to us. What the Gospel message tells us is that we should not be concerned primarily with whether we or others will be saved in the end or not. What is more important, and what should concern us more, is whether what needs to be done in fact, now gets done. It is a matter of seizing the opportunities that present themselves to us in the present to make our unique contribution to the coming about of God's Kingdom in bits and pieces.

Jesus does not at all say that only a few will be "saved." The whole thrust of the gospel of Luke, is that Jesus came to bring God's love and freedom to the entire world. The message of that Gospel is that there is not a single person, not a single people, nation, race, or class, which is excluded from experiencing the love and liberation that God offers. The primary role then of a Christian community has never been simply to guarantee the "salvation" of its own members. It is not the function of the Church to turn all its energy into seeing that its members "save their souls" and sometimes pray for those in "outer darkness." What does it mean, "Being saved"? Realistically, to be "saved" means to live and to die in a close loving relationship with God, with others and with God's creation. All that is necessary to be "saved" is really to love each other in the name and the spirit of Jesus. When we enter the final and everlasting banquet, Jesus tells us, we will be surprised at those enjoying the feast...[continued 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

Pastoral Administrator Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your very warm welcome, kind words and encouraging support at the wonderful welcome parties that Joanie Bidlake, Catherine Davis and their team of helpers put on! What a great opportunity to celebrate our amazing community and reconnect after the summer months. We are so blessed to belong to Holy Cross Parish. My heart is full of gratitude for the opportunity to work with you in the coming months. May God continue to bless us all!

With gratitude, Tanya Taft



Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Fall 2025

"God calls us to touch the lives of our aging, lonely, ill, palliative and dying sisters and brothers with accompaniment, kindness and compassion as the hands and face of Christ. In these sessions, you learn basic tools necessary to accompany those who are in need of the healing ministry of Christ." – Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online this fall. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30AM – noon, **starting on September 27 and running until November 29, 2025** (with no session on October 11 for Thanksgiving). Missed session can be made-up, and a Certificate of Completion is provided to those who complete all nine sessions. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smart phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom.

Members of Holy Cross Parish, can attend the virtual training session from the Parish Library as a group (all technology & wifi will be provided)! **Please register through your parish by September 16, 2025.** For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca.

"I feel so graced to have been "called" to participate in these learning sessions. I feel wrapped in God's arms as He leads me to grow in compassion and awareness of the opportunities to serve as Jesus served." – A participant

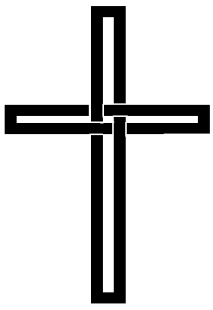


Register for RCIA to become Catholic

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Parishes in the city of Victoria are collaborating to offer an opportunity to come together to learn more about our faith through the RCIA program. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting. Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings at St. Joseph the Worker Parish beginning in the fall, starting September 18th. For more information or to register for the 2025–2026 year, please contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or office@holycrossvictoria.org.

New Website!

After an unexpected server crash, our old website was lost. But after a short pause, we're excited to share that our brand-new website is now live! Visit www.holycrossvictoria.org and take a look. We'd love for you to explore it!



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

I would rather have learning joined with virtue than all the treasures of kings.

—Saint Thomas More

True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by discipline.

—Mortimer J. Adler

It was for this world that Christ had died: the more evil you saw and heard about you, the greater the glory lay around the death.

—Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory*

Job Opportunity: Administrative Assistant

St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Cathedral is seeking a full-time Office Assistant to provide comprehensive administrative and clerical support to the parish in a professional, courteous and efficient manner. This will be for a 1-year term, with the possibility of moving into a permanent position at the end of the term. A detailed job description can be viewed here:

<https://www.standrewscathedral.com/post/office-assistant-position>

Salary: \$26.36 – \$27.88

Social Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

With the rising costs in academic studies and accommodations, media and on campus sources have reported that managing to survive as a student at UVic is becoming increasingly difficult. Education is essential but costs for purchasing basic food and personal care items can be prohibitive on a student budget.

With the assistance of our new UVic/Camosun Catholic Chaplain, Fr. David Shulist, S.J., our Social Justice committee (SEJC) has identified how our Holy Cross parishioners can help provide some basic relief for those students. At the Interfaith Chapel, nonperishable food and personal care items that have been donated from various sources are made available free to students in need. The need is growing.

Starting in September at Holy Cross, the SEJC will be organizing a collection of items in support of Food Security at UVic and will be appealing to the amazing generosity of our parishioners to purchase and donate these items by the last Saturday and Sunday of each month. Collection bins will be made available in the foyer at the entrance of the church. Delivery to the Interfaith Chapel will be arranged at the end of each month. Each new month will bring appeals for different items. The first appeal in September will be for nonperishable protein items. In consecutive months, on the 1st Saturday and Sunday, requests for new items will be made in the bulletin and included in the announcements at the Masses. Thank you in advance for your help and generous response as we minister together to our larger community.



[Continued from page 1...] God has a broad vision, and we will be surprised at those who “made it” through the narrow gate. Second chances and do-overs abound throughout Christian history. Saint Peter denies Christ three times and becomes the rock upon which the church is built; Saint Paul persecutes Christians and becomes its most vigorous and influential missionary; Augustine spends his early life as a profligate and later years as one of the greatest Christian thinkers; Saint Thérèse of Lisieux suffers obsessive guilt and then goes on to find unflappable calm and peace in her little way.

Live the joy of the Gospel,

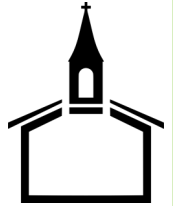
Fr. William

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) All young adults are invited to the Franciscan Festival of Tents Retreat at Our Lady of Victory Camp in Alberta, August 29–September 1. Experience a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun with Mass, reconciliation, talks, music, games, and more. The weekend cost is \$125, with the option of a bunk bed or bringing your own tent. Learn more and register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i8spQ56e1FF4a-wOzVYeb-bvxxfv2pqfAgYLAZLF9nQ/viewform?edit_requested=true

Help Us Build Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford is nearing completion—but rising post-COVID construction costs have left us \$2.8 million short. Father William Hann has written a letter inviting your support. Please take a moment to read the poster on the Bulletin Board located in Church entrance foyer. Prayerfully consider helping complete this vital space for worship, learning, and community. Donations can be made at www.buildmychurch.ca. One-time or monthly contributions are welcome. Tax receipts will be issued. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Home Visits

Would you or someone you love benefit from a friendly visit? Our Pastoral Care Ministry offers in-person visits to those living at homes, in care facilities, or in hospitals. These visits provide the comfort of companionship, a listening ear, and the ministry of presence, bringing warmth and encouragement to those who may be feeling alone or disconnected. When requested, Holy Communion and time for prayer can be included as part of the visit. To arrange a visit, please call 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

Hearing Loop System & Headphones

If you wear hearing aids, switch your hearing aid to T-Coil and you will be connected to the hearing loop system. See: www.advancedlistening.ca If your hearing aids can't support this looping system, we have two headsets available in the Church kitchen wired to the microphones to allow you to listen to the readings, homily and the music.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Joanie Bidlake and Catherine Davis and their team of numerous helpers for the wonderful welcome party they organized after the 4:00 pm and 9:00 am masses last weekend to welcome the new Pastoral Administrator :) . There was an abundance of delicious food and drink, great conversation and lots of laughter. What a lovely celebration!

COLLECTIONS

August 17, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,155.00
Loose	\$ 350.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,110.13
Total	\$4,615.13

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

office@holycrossvictoria.org

4049 Gordon Head Rd

Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

www.holycrossvictoria.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Saturday-Monday: closed

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am



CONTACT US

Pastoral Administrator: Tanya Taft

ttaft@rcdvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

office@holycrossvictoria.org

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761

Pastor: Position not filled at this time