

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 6
4PM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION: Pro populo

SUNDAY, September 7
9AM MASS:
Catherine Davis,
John Bartle-Clar, &
David Begg (INT)

TUESDAY, September 9
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

THURSDAY, September 11
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

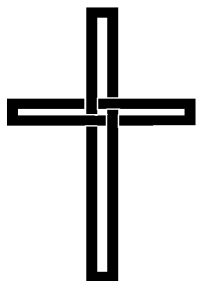
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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No scheduled events

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY, September 7,
11AM

<https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>



Today's gospel speaks of the cost of discipleship. *Whoever comes to me and does not hate their father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciples.* My friends, the radical demands of Jesus in today's Gospel may strike us as quite unreal and make us feel uneasy. Rather than pushing them aside or taking them with a grain of salt, let us allow them to challenge us. These demands are not meant to discourage us. They are meant to encourage us, to urge us to make our discipleship of Jesus count for something rather than allowing it to slide into a faceless and colorless mediocrity. These demands are not meant to have us drown in the impossible. They are meant to convince us of what can be done, if we take our discipleship seriously.

What Jesus reminds us of today is that it is not enough for us, as his disciples, to stay in the middle of the road. He tells us that we must make choices that make us recognizable as his followers. To see such choices through, we are not left to our own powers; rather we can be confident that the power of the risen Jesus at work in us will enable us to be artisans of God's new world. It is for that same new world that Jesus gave totally of himself. It is for that same new world of God, that Jesus in turn, empowers us. The issue here is our discipleship of Jesus. That is serious business, not allowing for compromises. There is something unconditional in our being claimed by Jesus. It has everything to do with going the path that Jesus himself went. That is not a particularly easy or smooth path. If we try to go the path of truth, the path of fidelity, the path of respect and care for others, the path of forgiveness in our kind of world, then we know that there is a cost to it. There is no way of avoiding that cost, if our discipleship of Jesus is to be authentic.

Throughout history people have had to make hard choices about following Christ, choices that involved sacrifice. During the early Roman persecutions, many Christians renounced their faith to save their hides. In today's gospel, Jesus offers some difficult advice: *"You have to carry a cross if you want to follow me."* Discipleship is demanding. There is a priority of relationships and commitments in life. The decision to follow Christ cannot be taken half-heartedly.

Christianity is about surrendering into the arms of God—and on God's terms, not ours. "Not my will" is not just a slogan in the spiritual life of Jesus or his followers. When 12th-century King Henry II appointed his roguish and playboy friend, Thomas à Becket, as Archbishop of Canterbury because he felt that such an appointment would guarantee his control over ...[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

Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that everyone is adjusting to the fall routines as students go back to school, vacations come to an end, traffic increases and the weather begins to change. Some of you have expressed a concern about whether we will ever have a Pastor again. I assure you that Bishop Gary is working on finding us a priest. He is aware that our community is grateful to all the clergy and many volunteers and staff that have kept our parish functioning and thriving, but we need a Pastor. Bishop Gary knows this and is actively working on finding us a spiritual leader. In the meantime let us all carry on building community at Holy Cross!

In gratitude for our beautiful Holy Cross Family, Tanya



Last Chance to Register – Pastoral Care Training

The Diocese of Victoria's free Pastoral Care Outreach Training begins Saturday, September 27, 2025 (via Zoom, 9:30 AM–12 PM). This nine-session series provides tools for accompanying the sick, lonely, and dying with Christ's compassion. Registration closes September 16, 2025. Holy Cross parishioners may join from the Parish Library (technology & Wi-Fi provided). For details or to register, contact the office (office@holycrossvictoria.org)



Attention Students at UVic and Camosun!

Students who want to connect with the Catholic community at UVic or Camosun College should contact Fr. David Shulist, S.J., the Diocese of Victoria Campus Chaplain. The community currently includes Catholic Student Association and Catholic Christian Outreach. Fr. David Shulist can be reached at dshulist@uvic.ca or 778-350-1002, or at the UVic Multifaith Centre at 250-721-8338.

Sacramental Preparation Classes for Children (7-17 yrs old)

Please attend the 11AM Mass at St Patrick's on Sunday September 14th. A Parent Info Session will follow after mass in the St Ann Library for both Holy Cross and St.Pat's parents. 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_-



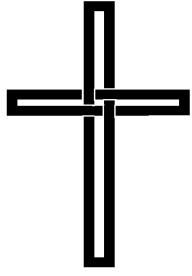
Care: Communion Visits

Do you know someone who cannot attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion at home or in care? Through our Outreach Ministry, trained volunteers bring the Eucharist to those who are homebound, in long-term care, or recovering from illness or injury. This is a sacred opportunity to share Christ's healing love and spiritual nourishment with those unable to attend Mass. To request a Communion Visit, contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org. For urgent sacramental care for someone who is sick or dying, please contact the Hospital Chaplain at 250-889-3761.

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.





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Our possessions are not ours—God has given them to us to cultivate, that we may make them fruitful and profitable in his service.

—*Saint Francis de Sales*

If you would know strength and patience, welcome the company of trees.

—*Hal Borland*

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 available to take a Baptismal Prep course is Sat, Sept 27 (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@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.

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.

Taizé Prayer Group

TOGETHER AGAIN! Prayer in the style of Taizé resumes FALL 2025 at Esquimalt United Church, 500 Admirals Road, 6pm on Friday, September 19th, October 17th and November 21st. 'Prayer gives strength to stand firm in the face of the most complex situations.' www.taize.fr

Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

Starting this weekend, collection bins will be made available in the foyer at the entrance of the church for our UVic Food Insecurity Project to support our local struggling students. Our Social & Ecological Justice Committee invites parishioners to bring **nonperishable protein items** and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. If you happen to forget this weekend, donations can still be dropped off throughout the month. 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 for your generosity!



[Continued from page 1...] the church, Becket prayed in his chapel "Oh, God, I am yours now. Give me the grace to stay that way." Bicket was later murdered by the king's henchmen. Not a bad prayer for anyone whose eyes are fixed on Jesus.

Greetings from Champney's West

Fr. William

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) All women 19+ are welcome to join the Beloved Women's Retreat from November 14–16, 2025 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island, a weekend of rest, prayer, and renewal. This year's theme, "Restore," invites women to experience God's healing, find joy, and reconnect with Christ through talks, Mass, adoration, and fellowship. Registration opens September 12 at 10:00 am—space is limited, so reserve your spot early: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/beloved-catholic-womens-retreat-2025-restore-registration-1559869895849>

2) St. Andrew's Cathedral is hosting the "Not in My City!" seminar, sponsored by Respect Life Ministry, on Saturday, September 27th in Seghers Hall. What does "Not in My City" refer to? The fact that Canada is a child sex trafficking destination; and most Canadians and members of Churches cannot believe it. Courageous speakers will include John McCormick and Robert Deacon of St. Andrew's Cathedral's Break Free Ministry; Cathy Peters, our featured speaker and author of "Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop it"; managing director Kathryn Lacerte of Moose Hide Campaign (Highway of Tears); and Brian Rae of Wilber. This seminar aims to create awareness and provide hopeful education. This seminar is for everyone—to increase protection and safety amongst vulnerable children. Registration is \$25 per person and will include a light lunch. To attend, please register via the St. Andrew's Cathedral parish office: <https://www.standrewscathedral.com/contact-us>

4) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada have co-sponsored a new article from the Dialogue exploring how their communities have historically engaged with Indigenous believers—First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Titled Roman Catholic–Evangelical Dialogue Proposes Path to Building Relationships Towards Indigenous Reconciliation, the article reflects three years of mutual learning and reflection. Read the full document here: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Roman-Catholic-Evangelical-Dialogue-proposes-path-to-building-relationships-towards-Indigenous-reconciliation.pdf>

5) The Star of the North Retreat House in St. Albert, Alberta, is seeking a Program Coordinator for its retreat ministry. This role is entrusted with nurturing the heart of the ministry—providing spiritual formation and retreat opportunities that deepen faith and foster community. Please see the job posting on the Bulletin Board in the Foyer.

COLLECTIONS

August 31, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,065.00
Loose	\$ 495.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,307.90
Total	\$3,867.90

THANK YOU

During the Season of Creation (September 1st to October 4th) let us thank our dedicated Garden Team of John Seale, Russ Delaney and Hans Terstappen! They are outside in our Holy Cross gardens every week watering, weeding and planting. Their cheerful and industrious care of our lovely grounds adds so much to our experience as we gather in our beautiful church! Thank you!

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

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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

Pastor: Position not filled at this time