

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 28, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY,
September 27

4PM MASS: Pro populo

SUNDAY, September 28
9AM MASS: Ken Carroll+

MONDAY, September 29
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, September 30
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION:
Health and Peace of the
Twine Family (INT)

7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY,
October 1
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, October 2
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION
7PM MASS

FRIDAY, October 3
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No scheduled events

LIVESTREAMING
SATURDAY, September 27
4PM

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

This Sunday, September 28th, is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus tells the wealthy Pharisees the parable of the rich man and the poor man. The rich man had many possessions and lived a self-indulgent life, ignoring the needs of people around him. The poor man, named Lazarus, starved and suffered from diseases. When the rich man and Lazarus died, their circumstances changed dramatically. The rich man was tortured in Hades and Lazarus joined Abraham in peace and comfort. Distressed, the rich man asked Lazarus to warn his brothers to not live selfishly as he had done, so that his brothers could avoid being sent to Hades.

The rich man was convinced that he would have changed his ways if a dead person had brought him a message from God. But that is hard to believe. Lazarus had been lying at the gate of the rich man, begging for food. It would not have been possible for the rich man to go in and out of his property without seeing and hearing Lazarus. But he chose to close his eyes and ignore the suffering he could have relieved. Would a messenger from the dead really have moved his heart? Abraham did not think so and denied the request of the rich man.

We know that from time to time we all slip up. Sometimes, we are blind to the needs of people around us. What does Abraham's decision, not to help the rich man, imply about an all loving and forgiving God? Does it mean that if we do not follow all the commandments perfectly, we will suffer torment and not be forgiven? No, that is not what Jesus is saying! The purpose of the parable is to highlight that God respects our freedom! God gives us everything! Anything good that we do, we can only do through His grace! But we always have a choice! We choose to open our hearts to hear His voice. We choose to respond to His love and mercy by loving and forgiving others. When we lack the strength and will to be caring, we choose to ask God for that needed strength and will. We choose to follow the God that loves and forgives. Following this loving God helps us become aware of the needs of the people of the world. We become aware of what we can do to alleviate the suffering of creation. We were given free will and every moment of every day, we have the freedom to choose love and compassion.

Father Ron Rolheiser (a Canadian Oblate Priest and Theologian) wrote: "Unlike most everything else that's trying to get our attention, God never tries to overwhelm us. God, more than anyone else, respects our freedom. For this reason, God lies everywhere, inside us and around us, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored, a quiet, gentle nudge; but, if drawn upon, the ultimate stream of love and energy."

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

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

This Tuesday, September 30th, is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Even though this federal statutory holiday feels quite new, this is now the fifth year that we are honouring the survivors of the residential schools and remembering the suffering and injustices that our Indigenous brothers and sisters experienced. It is good to pause in our busy lives to consider what happened to innocent children and families. By recognizing the deep destruction to the Indigenous culture that occurred and standing in solidarity with the survivors, we help to bring healing and reconciliation. Remembering this history can cause us to be sad, but we choose to recall the terrible injustices because this will help us become aware of suffering and discrimination that occur right now. Let us open our eyes and hearts and discover what we can do to change suffering and unfair circumstances.

We stand in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of the world, Tanya



New Session Coming: Register for Horizons of Hope

The Holy Cross Facilitators invite you to participate in learning sessions on Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care. The program will help parishioners, caregivers, and family members who may be facing a terminal illness to learn more about palliative care.

Throughout the four modules, the learning and discussion sessions address themes such as understanding the dying process, discernment and decision-making at the end of life, accompaniment, and the importance of building Compassionate Communities. The four-module program will take place Wednesdays Oct. 22, 29th, Nov. 5th and 12th. We are offering morning sessions from 10 am to noon, OR afternoon sessions 2 to 4 pm. To register, call or email the parish office by October 17th. Please provide your name, email address, and your preferred time.



Save the Date: Scam Awareness Seminar

You're invited to Holy Cross Parish on October 23, at 10:00 am for a FREE Seminar offered by Constable Berle Zwaan educating our community on the sophistication of scammers. Learn strategies and tools to best protect yourself and your loved ones. Registration and more information to follow.

Sunday Bridge Starts Back Up

The Holy Cross Bridge group invite your participation in their Monthly Sunday afternoon Social Bridge sessions. The first of the season is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5th in the Parish Centre at 1:30 p.m. for two hours. Please contact the office at Holy Cross at office@holycrossvictoria.org if you would like to join.



Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

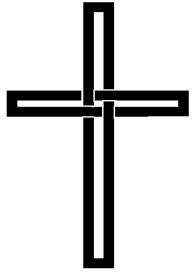
The Social & Ecological Justice Committee and the UVic Chaplain Father David would like to thank everyone for the wonderful start to the food drive for the UVic students. The food drive will continue with collecting breakfast food for the month of October. For example, cereals, grains, jam and nut butter. Please bring **nonperishable items** and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. Donations can be dropped off throughout the month.



What's New In Our Library

Several issues of *Near Eastern Archaeology Magazine*, which discusses archaeological excavations around the Holy Land, have been donated to the HC Library. For those who wish to read something a bit different, you will find the magazines under Periodicals.





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Don't forget the poor.

—*Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, to then newly elected Pope Francis*

Every person who has more than is indispensable for material and spiritual well-being is a millionaire, and thus a debtor of those who have nothing.

—*Léon Bloy*

Abraham was hospitable, and so the sight of Lazarus with Abraham was meant to reproach the rich man for his own inhospitality.

—*John Chrysostom*

Pastoral 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.

Serra Club

The Serra Club in formation meets every last Tuesday of the month in different parishes. Their September meeting will be on Tuesday, September 30th at St. Joseph's the Worker Parish (753 Burnside Rd W, Victoria). Mass for vocations will start at 6:00 pm, and will be followed by a talk by Fr. Alfie Monacelli. For more information about Serra Club, please email: victoria@serrainternational.org

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Pow Wow

On September 30th the 4th annual South Island Powwow will take place at Royal Athletic Park (1014 Caledonia Ave, Victoria). This event offers a powerful opportunity to honour Residential School Survivors and their families in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. Through song and dance, this celebration uplifts the cultures, strength, and resiliency of Indigenous Peoples while remembering those who never made it home. All are welcome, and admission is free. Find out more here: <https://www.songheesnation.ca/south-island-powwow>

CWL Bazaar: Get your tickets!

CWL's Fantastic FALL BAZAAR being held on Saturday, October 4th, 2025, 9:30 am—2:30 pm at St. Patrick's Church, 2060 Haultain Street. Come and experience all the fun of a CWL Bazaar with this year's large variety - Something for everyone! Proceeds will support CWL Charities.

Taizé Prayer Group

Prayer in the style of Taizé resumes FALL 2025 at Esquimalt United Church, 500 Admirals Road, 6pm on Friday, October 17th and November 21st. www.taize.fr

COLLECTIONS

September 14, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,440.00
Loose	\$ 320.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,227.90
Total	\$2987.90

THANK YOU

Let us thank all the wonderful priests and our Bishop Gary who support and sustain our community by celebrating mass with our Holy Cross Parish throughout the week. They nurture our faith and hope in the love and mercy of our God. They provide us with the opportunity to participate in the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist. We are very grateful!

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released the Day One video update from the annual Plenary Assembly. We invite you to view the update here and follow along as additional daily videos are published throughout the week: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/the-2025-ccc-b-plenary-assembly>

2) September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to mourn the painful legacy of the former Indian Residential Schools and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. On this day, we reaffirm our commitment to walk with them on the journey of healing and reconciliation, listening with open hearts, honouring the stories shared, and embracing the path of truth and hope for the future. Find resources to learn more about residential school experiences here: <https://nctr.ca/>

3) Join Development & Peace – Caritas Canada to learn about their “Turn Debt into Hope” Fall Campaign, focusing on partners in Peru and Ethiopia and inviting Canadians to stand for debt justice in this Jubilee Year.

- Victoria area – Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:30 am–1:30 pm (lunch included), St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, 2060 Haultain St., Victoria
- Nanaimo area – Sunday, Oct. 19, 11:00 am–3:00 pm (brunch included), Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 6234 Spartan Rd., Nanaimo

4) Join the Sacred Heart Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser supporting their Downtown Food Pantry, which has seen an 18% increase in visits this year. Enjoy an authentic Italian meal, connect with fellow parishioners, and share in a spirit of compassion and community on October 4 at 5:00 PM in the Sacred Heart Church Hall (4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria). Reserve your spot by emailing isme.svdpvictoria@gmail.com; donations will be accepted at the door—your presence makes a difference!

5) You are warmly invited to the Jubilee 2025 Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Bishop Gary Gordon, on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 12:10 pm at St. Patrick’s Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria). Consecrated men and women from across Vancouver Island would be delighted to have you join them for this celebration Mass, which is part of their day-long gathering on the theme: “Pilgrims of Hope on the Path to Peace.” All are welcome.

6) Join the Victoria 40 Days for Life Prayer Fall Vigil at the Helmcken Road Overpass Park & Ride from September 24–November 2, 2025, daily from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated campaign that seeks to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil. Learn more or sign up for prayer times by visiting 40 Days for Life – Victoria: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/victoriabc>

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