

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 5, 2025

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, October 4**  
4PM MASS: Pro populo

**SUNDAY, October 5**  
9AM MASS: Jose Pacheco+

**MONDAY, October 6**  
7PM MASS

**TUESDAY, October 7**  
9AM LITURGY OF THE  
WORD WITH  
HOLY COMMUNION:  
Colim Powell+  
7PM MASS

**WEDNESDAY, October 8**  
7PM MASS

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

**FRIDAY, October 10**  
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL  
Open 9am-12pm  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION  
**SATURDAY, October 4**  
3:30PM

LIVESTREAMING  
**SUNDAY, October 5,**  
11AM

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

Increase our faith, the disciples ask Jesus in today's Gospel and Jesus answers that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will be able to do incredible things. I am wondering why the disciples asked Jesus to "increase our faith." Wasn't it enough that they were walking with him? Wasn't it enough that they saw the miracles he was performing? Wasn't it enough that they heard him speak of God in new and wonderful ways? They had witnessed the wonders and heard the words and still they were asking for an "increase" in faith. The disciples, you, me, us...we know it can be hard to have faith. We might waver sometimes or feel our faith is not as strong as it should be. I think Jesus' example of the mustard seed might invite us to shift our thinking about our wavering and fears about our faith struggles. Jesus invites us to think "big" and to think "small." Faith is a dynamic life force that enables us to see the world in a unique way, with the eyes of God. And to do that we have to engage God with all our hopes, dreams, and fears too. Faith requires vulnerability and unrelenting honesty.

Franciscan Richard Rohr says that for many people, modern life has become a hall of mirrors. We have no external reference point for our lives. Without putting God at the center of our lives and our "cosmos," we have nothing and no one to set our direction by. In the age of the individual, many people put their own wants at the center of their existence, which Rohr likens to trying to live our lives in a hall of mirrors. And many of us are having trouble trying to find our way out. In our first reading, Habakkuk offers a remedy: Wait on the Lord. He says that those who fail to focus on the Lord will inevitably lack integrity. They're like people looking at themselves in a shattered mirror. Their lives are fragmented and disconnected. It may seem hard to wait—in prayer, meditation, or simple awareness. Yet Habakkuk promises that God "will not disappoint."

When the apostles ask for an increase in faith it is likely that they were really asking for insights, or a clearer understanding of their lives as followers of Jesus. Jesus insists that if we dare look at ourselves and the world around us with a life of faith, we will see a different kind of world than the one we have been able to build thus far. It is that faith that enables us to change and turn. C.S. Lewis said it best when he said: *faith is the art of holding on to things in spite of your changing moods and circumstances.* Now that is faith you can rely on!

Faith is like that. We get up; we fall; and we wonder, how long Lord? But faith is the vision in God's eye that can uproot trees, and move mountains, and burst into flame in the most unlikely times and places. So, with our fellow traveler in faith, Gerard Manley Hopkins, let us also, "Greet him on the days we meet him, and bless when we understand." Hopkins also said. "Their lives the dearest freshness deep down things". It is the "Deep within of God's life in us" that enables us to see the world differently. The vision will come.... *Do not be afraid, the vision will come in time. It might be slow but come it will.* Patience, love, self-control, and steadfast love are the themes of today's readings. Let us sit with these words and trust.

Joy,  
Fr. William

*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 Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast Day of our beloved Saint Francis of Assisi. We all know the amazing story of the wealthy and pleasure-seeking young man who heard God's call to serve the poor and recognize the value of creation. Francesco Bernardone chose to live in poverty, serving the poor and preaching the Good News of God's love for all people and creation. Saint Francis is recognized as the first to teach that the earth itself is holy. He died in 1226 and almost 800 years later Pope Francis titled his Encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be To You) in honour of Saint Francis. This Encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home" reflects the appreciation of creation that started with Saint Francis. "Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator." (# 83) "Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (#92)

*Praise be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, Tanya*

## The Bishop's Appeal begins today!

The 2025 Bishop's Appeal theme is Love and Unity. Inspired by Pope Leo's words, "I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world". This year our parish projects will support a remote parish and the Jesuit Refugee Service. Every gift strengthens our parishes and reaches far beyond, bringing the love of Christ to our communities and the world. Watch Bishop Gary's video and learn more about the 2025 Appeal here: [www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal)

Parish Financial Goal: \$70,000. Parish Participation Goal: 250 participants.



## Taizé Prayer Group

Prayer in the style of Taizé resumes FALL 2025 at Esquimalt United Church, 500 Admirals Road, 6pm on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

## Beat the Fraudster

You're invited to Holy Cross Parish on Thursday, October 23rd at 10 a.m. to attend a presentation on the prevalent frauds and scams currently coming at us given by Constable Berle Zwaan. With AI, fraud attempts have increased. Learn how to recognize and escape these crimes. For more information and to register please call the Holy Cross office at 250-477-5321 or Darlene Southwell at 250-477-5738.



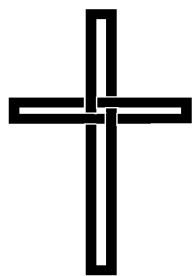
## SEJC Collections!

For Oct. 12, you will find a special collection envelope marked "Social Eco Justice Committee Offering." Please support generously the work of the Social & Ecological Justice Committee, active since 2016. Last year, your contributions covered mailing costs for the annual Amnesty International Write for Rights session, and a \$500 donation from our Parish to support the Shelbourne Community Kitchen. Please visit our webpage to learn more about the mission and actions of this committee.

## 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, and even coffee and tea. Please bring **nonperishable items** and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. Donations can be dropped off throughout the month.





### QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. - Thomas Aquinas

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. - Saint Augustine

### **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 will either run a morning session from 10 am to noon, OR afternoon sessions 2 to 4 pm, based on preferences of the registrants. To register, call or email the parish office by October 17th. Please provide your name, email address, and your preferred time.

### **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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org).

### **Memorial Mass for Jack Ponsioen**

**Your are invited to attend the Memorial Mass on Tuesday, October 21 at 2:30 pm** at Mount St. Mary Hospital's Blessed Marie Esther Blondin Chapel (861 Fairfield Road, Victoria BC V8V 5A9), honouring the memory of residents, including Jack Ponsioen, who passed away during the months of May, June, July, and August To help us prepare, please RSVP by replying to this notice or by calling **250-480-3118**.

### **Development and Peace Fall campaign Workshop,**

"Turn Debt into Hope" will be held at **St. Patrick's Parish Hall**, 2060 Haultain St. on **Sat. Oct. 18 from 9:30-1:30**. We will be offering a light lunch at the end of the workshop, to give time to socialize and exchange ideas for your parish activities. Our animator, Raphael Freston, will lead the workshop. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Nancy Stuart at [nancystuart7@gmail.com](mailto:nancystuart7@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



### **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.



# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) Following the conclusion of the 2025 Plenary Assembly, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is pleased to announce the results of its biennial elections for new members of the Executive Committee and Permanent Council. The full list of elected members and the official press release can be found: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops-elects-new-members-of-the-executive-committee-and-permanent-council/>

2) All are invited to the Atrium Blessing & Open House, celebrating the opening of the first Catechesis of the Good Shepherd site in the Diocese of Victoria, on Sunday, October 19, 2025. The day begins with 9:30 am Mass at St. Edward's Parish with Father Roger, followed by a blessing from Bishop Gary, an open house, and an appreciation tea at Queen of Angels School (2085 Maple Bay Road, Duncan).

3) A reminder that on Thursday, October 9, 2025, all are invited to attend Mass at St. Patrick's Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria) at 12:10 pm for our Diocesan Celebration of the Jubilee of Consecrated Life. Bishop Gary Gordon will preside, and consecrated men and women from across Vancouver Island look forward to welcoming you to this special Mass, part of their day-long gathering on the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope on the Path to Peace."

4) All are invited to join the Public Square Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 12 noon at the corners of Belleville and Government Streets (same location as last year). Parishioners of St. Andrew's and the Diocese are encouraged to take part in this prayerful witness; for details, contact Paul J. S. Beaubien at 250-384-6047 or [pauljsbmaps@telus.net](mailto:pauljsbmaps@telus.net).

## COLLECTIONS

**September 28, 2025**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,035.00
Loose	\$ 435.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,227.90
Total	\$4,697.90

## THANK YOU

This weekend, our community of Holy Cross thanks Father William for sixteen months of generous support. From the time he was transferred to Our Lady of the Rosary, he has provided us weekly with reflections, prayers of the faithful, quotes and homilies to be used for Liturgies of the Word. Father William's care for our community did not end in June 2024 and we all are so grateful. Even though he is extremely busy at his new parish, Father William will always keep an eye on us. May God bless him abundantly.

## HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

[office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

4049 Gordon Head Rd

Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

[www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://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](mailto:ttaft@rcdvictoria.org)

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Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

[officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

[dshulist@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:dshulist@rcdvictoria.org)

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

Pastor: Position not filled at this time

