

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 26, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, October 25
4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, October 26
9AM MASS: Mark Poy+

TUESDAY, October 28
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION:
Laverne Reid+

THURSDAY, October 30
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

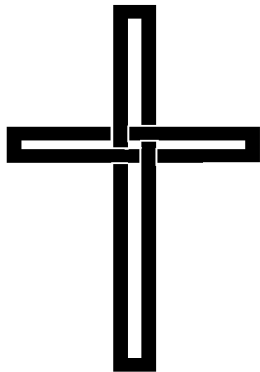
CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING
SATURDAY, October 25,
4PM

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



This Sunday, October 26th, is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today's Gospel by Luke continues the discussion on prayer that was started last Sunday. Last week Jesus recommended that we pray unceasingly. This week Jesus reminds us that a humble attitude when praying is essential. He used a parable to illustrate what he meant. In the parable two men were praying in the temple. One was a Pharisee, and he thanked God for how wonderful he was and told God all the great and good things he was doing. The other was a tax collector asking God for mercy, obviously distraught by his sinfulness. After describing the scene in the temple, Jesus made it unambiguously clear. The tax collector *went down to his home justified rather than the other; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted*. The listeners of this parable must have been surprised, maybe even uncomfortable. Tax collectors were scorned because they acted on behalf of the enemy, the Romans.

None of us think of ourselves as terrible people and we are probably not. But we are sinners. We are not always generous with our time and wealth. We have moments of anger, hold on to grudges and ignore the needs of people right in front of us. But this is not the impediment to prayer. When we acknowledge that we have failed to love, Jesus is always ready to forgive. The problem is thinking of ourselves as better than others. Yes, we are not *thieves, rogues, adulterers*, but this is not of our own doing. It is God's spirit which has enabled us to make good choices and helped us to live in harmony with others and creation as best we can. Like the Pharisee we have been gifted with education, people who care about us and guide us, good jobs, and enough wealth to live comfortably. We have no idea what others have suffered that has led them to make poor choices. We never have the right to judge. *There but for the grace of God go I* (John Bradford). If the Pharisee had prayed with a humble heart, he might have said: "God, I thank you for all the beautiful and wonderful things you have given me. I am full of gratitude for your love and mercy. Help me to see what I can do to love you more and grow closer to you. Help me become aware of how I can help your people and build your kingdom. I am deeply sorry for anything that I have done that hurt you, your people, and your creation. I know that *the poor one called and the Lord heard*. I am one of your poor ones."

What if we have caused a serious hurt to another person or to creation? Then, like the tax collector, we approach God with a humble and contrite heart and ask for forgiveness. And like the tax collector we will go *home justified* and forgiven. *The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and it will not rest until it reaches its goal.*

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
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the last month of the liturgical year there are two special feasts that are right at the beginning of November, All Saints Day and All Souls' Day. These feasts remind us as Roman Catholics of the beautiful belief we have in the communion of saints. Ron Rolheiser (OMI) states that: "This doctrine, so central and important that [it is] enshrined in our creed, asks us to believe that we are still in real community of life and communication with those who have died. To believe in the communion of saints is to believe that those who have died are still alive and are linked to us in such a way that we can continue to talk with them, that our relationship with them can continue to grow." Father Ron continued further in his reflection with: "Our communication with them is now privileged...This is not the stuff of fantasy, but of solid dogma."

Wishing you all a beautiful weekend, Tanya

Carols of Hope - Together We Build

On Sat Nov 22nd, Our Lady of the Rosary parish will be hosting a Fundraising Music Concert to support the building of our new church. This special event will bring together choirs and musicians from parishes across our diocese, uniting us in song, fellowship, and faith. Please buy tickets at <https://carolsofhope.com/>, or purchase them at Holy Cross Parish's office. Tickets are by donation with a minimum donation of \$25. Please feel free to forward to family and friends.

Theological Dialogue

The Diocese of Victoria is proud to host this year's in-person meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Dialogue/Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishop's Dialogue (ARC/ARC-B). As part of the meeting, all are invited to the launch of ARC/ARC-B's "Theology of Apology" resource on Thursday, October 30 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Victoria (4635 Elk Lake Drive). The evening will start at 7:00 pm with prayer, followed by a panel discussion. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

UVic Food Insecurity: October Breakfast Foods

Your donations to the UVic Multifaith Centre Food Bank help support students by giving them access to food whenever they need it - no tracking, limits, or judgment. This open and welcoming approach ensures that even the most vulnerable students can find help when they need it most. Thank you for making a difference! If you haven't had a chance yet, breakfast food donations are still being collected until the end of October.

Baptismal Prep

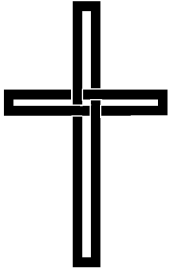
To prepare for the baptism of your child, you must complete a Baptismal Prep course, which includes the registration form and a 2 hour in-person course. The next courses are Sat, Nov 15 or Sat Dec 13 (10 am - 12 noon). Contact the office to register.

The Bishop's Appeal!

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

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





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Pride makes us artificial, and humility makes us real. – *Thomas Merton*

Humility is preserved when I give credit where credit is due – to God. – *Mother Angelica*

Do you wish to be great? Then begin by being. Do you desire to construct a vast and lofty fabric? Think first about the foundations of humility. The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation. – *Saint Augustine*

Give Old Jewelry New Life

If you have earrings, brooches, pendants that you do not wear please consider donating them to African Aids Angels. These items will be used to beautify hand crafted angels which are sold to raise funds for an orphanage in South Africa. Jewelry can be dropped off at the office or placed in the labeled box in the foyer. Thank-you.



On **Saturday November 15th** the Greater Victoria Green Team is partnering with the **Gorge Waterway Action Society** to **plant native species** in the Gorge Salt Marsh and connect with friends and neighbours! We'll provide **tools, gloves, guidance, and snacks**. Just bring your enthusiasm and wear weather-appropriate clothing. Meet us at [Gorge Waterway Nature House in Esquimalt Gorge Park](#) on Sat. Nov. 15 at 9:45am-1:00pm. You can find details or sign up to help at: bit.ly/gvgt-nov15-2025 or email Kaitlin@GreenTeamsCanada.ca



All Souls' Day Mass

You are invited to celebrate All Souls' Day Mass on Saturday, November 1st at 9:00 am at Holy Cross Church. Father William very kindly offered to celebrate this special mass with us. You are welcome to bring photos of your loved ones that have passed into eternal life, and they will be placed on the steps in front of the altar. Both All Saints Day and All Souls' Day fall on the weekend this year, but Sunday mass always takes precedent. Therefore, we are celebrating All Souls' Day Saturday morning. Everyone is welcome!

IT'S ALMOST HERE...St. Patrick's CWL 2025 Fall & Winter

A Simply Smashing **GOOD USED CLOTHING SALE**

St. Patrick's CWL will be holding the Fall & Winter Good Used Clothing Sale with Three Special Kiosks on Friday, Nov 14 & Saturday Nov 15, 9:30am - 2:00pm. We are now gratefully accepting donation of men's, women's, children's clothing and shoes along with household linens, and jewellery. Items can be left on the marked carts in the hall closet area of St. Patrick's Parish. Please note we are **NOT accepting any other items at this time**. Thank you for your ongoing support!



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.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) On the evening of October 30 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Victoria (4635 Elk Lake Drive), join members of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Dialogue and the Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops' Dialogue (ARC/ARC-B), together with local representatives from the Anglican, Catholic, and Lutheran communities of the Victoria area, for a thoughtful panel discussion on the soon-to-be-published text "Theologies of Church Apologies". The evening will begin at 7:00 pm with prayer, followed by a panel discussion exploring key themes from the document and an open conversation with participants. A reception will follow.

2) Youth in grades 7–12 are invited to the annual Diocese of Victoria Camp Homewood Retreat, taking place from January 30 to February 1, 2026, at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. This year's theme is "Blessed Are You." The cost is \$195 per participant, which includes all food, accommodation, and activities. Registration opens November 1, 2025, at: <https://camp-homewood-2025.eventbrite.ca>. For more information, please contact: stpatrickhw@gmail.com.

3) Rachel's Vineyard on Vancouver Island offers safe and confidential retreats for women and men seeking healing and peace after abortion. To learn more, please email rachelsvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com or visit <https://www.rachelsvineyardvanisland.org/>.

4) The Serra Club in formation, a Catholic lay organization dedicated to promoting and supporting vocations, meets every last Tuesday of the month in different parishes. Their October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28th at Our Lady of Fatima (4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria). Mass for vocations will start at 6:00 pm, and will be followed by a talk by Fr. Eduardo Santos. After the talk, all are invited to stay for treats and fellowship, a chance to connect, share, and learn more about how you can encourage and support vocations in the Church. For more information about Serra Club, please email: victoria@serrainternational.org.

COLLECTIONS

October 18, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Envelopes | \$3,230.00 |
| Loose | \$ 255.08 |
| World Missions | \$ 370.08 |
| Social & Eco Justice | \$ 10.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$1,227.90 |
| Total | \$5,093.06 |

THANK YOU

Thank you to Darlene Southwell for organizing a visit by Constable Berle Zwaan last Thursday morning. There was an audience of thirty-eight parishioners who listened attentively to 1.5 hours of does and don'ts around possible frauds. We all learned that the most important tips are to slow down, breathe and check with someone dependable. If something seems too good to be true, it usually is! We all went home with the firm resolve to increase the robustness of our passwords. Thank you, Darlene, thank you! This presentation was so worthwhile!!!

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