

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 1, 2026

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 31

4PM MASS:  
Romeo Zabala+

SUNDAY, February 1

9AM MASS:  
Carmen Rose+

MONDAY, February 2

7PM MASS

TUESDAY, February 3  
9AM LITURGY OF THE

WORD WITH  
HOLY COMMUNION:  
Lyle Needham+

7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, February 4

7PM MASS

THURSDAY, February 5  
9AM LITURGY OF THE

WORD WITH  
HOLY COMMUNION

7PM MASS

FRIDAY, February 6

7PM MASS

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY,  
January 31, 4PM

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

Today's readings show the special place the poor and the just have in God's heart.

Over the last few Sundays, the Gospel readings focused on Jesus, on his appearance on the world scene. Today the tables are turned. The spotlight is on us, the disciples of Jesus. What does a disciple of Jesus look like? What is the lifestyle of those who want to be counted among his followers? For that is what the Beatitudes are all about. They give us a character sketch of the disciples of Jesus.

Remember that two weeks ago we reflected on that strange and paradoxical, almost impossible, character sketch that John the Baptist gave to Jesus and that the Christian tradition has given a privileged place: the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Beatitudes summon us to a similarly paradoxical and impossible lifestyle. For let us face it, the lifestyle that is presented here goes against the grain. What is advocated as a lifestyle becoming of a disciple of Jesus is not exactly a blueprint for what, by human reckoning, is considered success and accomplishment. In many ways, it represents a topsy-turvy world, for it is not the strong and the rich, the well fed and the powerful who are the real achievers in God's eyes. In God's kind of world, other criteria are used to measure success.

Our gospel this weekend is one of the most important passages in all of scripture. The Beatitudes are the totality of the meaning of salvation that Jesus came to share with us. They were destined to become the guideposts of who we are, even more than what we do, as Christians. They are radical in their outlook, challenging those who hear them to look at the world and all they value in new and different ways. The Beatitudes serve as an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, of which we will hear more, in the next few weeks. It is a strange piece of Good News. It is fascinating and disturbing at the same time; it attracts and it irritates.

The Beatitudes are quite a program! The Beatitudes call for a very special relationship with God and with the people around us. They involve not merely a personal observance of some ethical rules but a deep concern to be involved in the building up of the world we live in, helping to make it a place of truth, love, compassion, justice, freedom, and peace. This is what the Kingdom is all about. It is a completely different ball game. Are you ready for it? So, do you want to inherit the earth? The monk Thomas Merton wrote, "...The right of another...is the expression of God's love and God's will." Why follow this crazy-sounding advice? "Because Christ emptied himself...he humbled himself" (Philippians 2:7). As he did, and does, so we are to do give of ourselves for the good of others.

On another note, this will be my last bulletin reflection. It has been a conduit of grace for me to maintain connection with you in both our transitions. I need you to know that our shared ministry has been a graced blessing in my life. I share your joy as you welcome a new pastor. The forever memories of our shared ministry are golden for me. The good work you have done in living the Beatitudes have made the world a better place. Eyes on Jesus and may our hearts and hands continue to bring forth the Kingdom.

I love you and miss you,  
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,

As many of you know I taught at St. Andrew's Regional High School for thirty years. It still feels unbelievable that those thirty years passed so quickly. This Sunday is the beginning of the yearly Catholic Schools' Week. During this week we recognize the wonderful contributions that the Catholic Schools in our Diocese make to the Catholic Community. We also recognize the wonderful support from Bishop Gary, the clergy and the parishioners on Vancouver Island for the Catholic Schools. Without the support the schools would not be able to exist.

When I retired in June 2024, I was filled with gratitude that I had been given the amazing opportunity to work in our Catholic high school. I loved my job so much! The students were wonderful and inspiring; many staff members became good friends and every day I was thankful that I could pray with the school community and was allowed to share my faith. I felt immensely blessed by my call to work in the Catholic Schools.

To all of you who have and continue to support Catholic Education, thank you!

Have a wonderful week, Tanya



## Development & Peace Workshops



Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is hosting two workshops in the Diocese of Victoria for the upcoming 2026 Share Lent Campaign. This year's theme is "On Track for Justice," focusing on a project in Brazil. Raphael Freston, the animator for British Columbia and the Yukon, will lead the workshops. All are welcome, and please feel free to bring friends and spread the word.

The South Island workshop will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Sacred Heart Parish (4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria) from 9:30 am–12:00 pm. A light lunch will follow.

## Lenten Study 2026

A 5-week, small-group seminar titled "*When Mass Was Young: Origins of Christian Worship in the New Testament Church*" will be held Tuesdays from 12:30–1:45 pm at the Franciscan Friary. The series explores how early New Testament practices shaped today's Christian worship—covering creeds, hymns, prayers and blessings, homilies and healing, and liturgies. Sessions run from Feb 24 to March 31. Discussion-based, with texts provided; registration is limited to 12 participants (contact Kem Luther to register).

## Calling all University and Camosun Students: Mass and Supper for UVic students

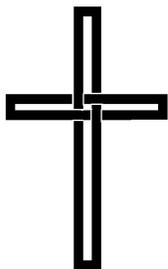
Are you a student at UVic or Camosun? If you are, please join us for mass on Jan 31st at 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church. Father David Shulist, the campus chaplain, will be celebrating the mass. The liturgy will be followed by a supper for the students in the Hall. Come meet other Catholic students and the wonderful Fr David! You're very welcome!



## Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity



SEJC invites parishioners to bring nonperishable protein items and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. 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!



### QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Becoming a child is living the Beatitudes and so finding the narrow gate into the Kingdom.  
**Henri Nouwen**

Agape, the love of each one of us for the other, from the closest to the furthest, is in fact the only way that Jesus has given us to find the way of salvation and of the Beatitudes.  
**Pope Francis**

We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us.  
**Pope Francis**

### **Catholic Schools' Week – Feb 1-7, 2026**

Today marks the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week (CSW). The theme this year is *Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith*. Each and every year, Catholic schools join together to share a



Living,  
Celebrating, &  
**PROCLAIMING  
OUR FAITH**

message about the importance and value of Catholic education to the Church and society as a whole. For those that are not aware, there are five Catholic Schools in the Diocese (4 elementary and 1 high school) educating approximately 1610 students in the communities of Port Alberni, Duncan and Victoria. On behalf of all the Catholic schools in the diocese, thank you for your ongoing support whether that be through prayer, time, talent or treasure. This week also marks the beginning of registration time for the 2026-2027 school year. We invite you and your family to consider registering your children in one of our Catholic schools. We remain grateful for your prayers as we live our faith through this dynamic ministry.

### **Taizé Prayer**

We will continue next month on Friday, February 20th at 6pm. All are welcome to come pray. [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)



### **Coldest Night of the Year Walk - Feb 28**

It's that time of the year and it's cold out there. The Coldest Night of the Year Walk is fast approaching. On February 28, together with thousands of Canadians across the country, some Holy Cross Parishioners will be walking and fundraising to support people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the Victoria community. We would really appreciate your support in helping others that are in need in Victoria. Please consider joining our Holy Cross Team and walk with us, or maybe you would rather support the team by donating to this worthy cause. Either way you are invited to join the team or donate by going to the following link <https://cnoy.w-ith.me/HolyCrossParish-Victoria>



### **Baptismal Prep**

Do you want to have your infant 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 is Sat, Feb 21 (10:00 am – 12 noon).

Email [hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org) with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details.

# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) Pope Leo XIV has released a message for the 34th World Day of the Sick, which will be celebrated on Wednesday, 11 February 2026. His message offers a reflection on the theme "The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain."

Read Pope Leo's message here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html>

Find resources for World Day of the Sick from the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishop's here: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/pope-leos-message-for-the-34th-world-day-of-the-sick-11-february-2026/>

## Join us for 7pm Mass in the Chapel!

Bishop Gary is back from Retreat. He will be saying mass for us at 7pm for 1.5 weeks anticipating the arrival of Fr Silvichan to our Parish. Please see all the updates on the website. Updates will continue on the Liturgical life ribbon on the front page as well. Any last minute cancellations will be emailed out to our subscribers. <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

## 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).

### COLLECTIONS

January 25, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,265.00
Loose	\$ 355.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$1,354.33</u>
Total	\$3,974.33

### THANK YOU

For years Sally McAuley arrived every week at the parish center to take care of the tax receipting. Aside from carefully making sure that each parishioner received their tax credit she radiated a positive spirit and good humour throughout the parish center. Sally McAuley is retiring from this volunteer work and we want to thank her for her nearly 20 years of quiet, invisible and caring service. She assures us that she is leaving the work in good hands. Sally trained Teresa Thom, John Oleson and Phil and Sheila Wall. We are grateful that the work of tax receipting will continue. Thank you, Sally, for your faithfulness. The office staff is going to miss your cheerful presence. May God continue to bless you and your family!

### 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)

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

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

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



# ST. JOSEPH'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Open House

FEBRUARY 3RD

11-12:00

757 BURNSIDE RD. W.

COME EXPLORE THE INDOOR  
SPACES AND OUTDOOR PLACES  
WHERE OUR CHILDREN THRIVE.  
LEARN AND GROW!

Please call 250-479-1232  
to confirm attendance.



# St. Patrick's School Open House



Step inside our classrooms, see learning in action, and discover what makes St. Pat's such a welcoming and special community to be part of.



Join us  
Tues. Feb. 3rd  
10-12  
or 3:30-6pm



RSVP  
@ the link in  
bio.  
or on our  
website



# Catholic Diocese of Victoria

*Office of the Bishop*

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 - Tel: 250-479-1331 - Fax: 250-479-5423 - Web: [rcdvictoria.org](http://rcdvictoria.org)

*February 2026*

Dear People of the Diocese of Victoria,

With a grateful and joyful heart, I write to you to share the good news of our 2025 Bishop's Appeal: Love & Unity. Through your prayers, generosity, and love for the Church, we have not only reached our goal of \$900,000 but have been blessed with over \$1,000,000 in gifts. I am deeply moved by this response. It speaks of your faith, your trust in God's providence, and your desire to care for one another in Christ.

The 2025 Appeal was rooted in the simple but profound truth of the Gospel: If God has loved us so deeply, we also must love one another. Your generosity puts this message into action. Each donation helps to strengthen our parishes, support our clergy, and assist those who are vulnerable or in need. Behind every gift is a prayer, a sacrifice, and an act of love, and I want you to know how much this is appreciated.

I want to give special acknowledgment to the thirteen parishes that met or exceeded their individual goal. Thank you for the witness of love that you give to our wider diocesan family. Your leadership, generosity, and unity in faith are a blessing for us all.

This year, your kindness also stretches beyond our own diocese:

- \$45,000 of the funds raised will help the religious sisters in the Diocese of Odesa-Simferopol, through Aid to the Church in Need, as they bring compassionate care, hope, and the love of Christ to people suffering the effects of conflict and hardship.
- Another \$45,000 will support our twinned Diocese of Whitehorse, assisting pastoral ministry in remote northern communities where distances are great but faith remains strong.

To each one of you who prayed, encouraged others, or contributed in any way to this year's Bishop's Appeal, I offer my sincere thanks. Please know of my prayers for you and your families. May the Lord, who knows the quiet generosity of your hearts, bless you abundantly, and may we continue to walk together in love and unity.

With deep gratitude and prayer,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria



ST. ANDREW'S  
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

## INFORMATION NIGHT FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES

**FEBRUARY 4, 2026 6PM**

Explore academic programs  
and Student Life

Meet students, parents, teachers,  
and leadership

Tour the facility

Learn about our community,  
admissions & next steps

- Rich extracurriculars
- Safe & nurturing environment
- Faith-based approach

### CONTACT US



250-479-1414



sarhs@cisdv.bc.ca



[www.standrewshigh.ca](http://www.standrewshigh.ca)

