

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 18 , 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 17
4PM MASS: Dan Taft+

SUNDAY, January 18
9AM MASS:
Hedvigés Pacheco+

MONDAY, January 19
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, January 20
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION:
Thaddeus Anglin+

7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, January 21
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, January 22
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION:
Claudio Huerta
De La Torre+

7PM MASS

FRIDAY, January 23
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING
SATURDAY,
January 17, 4PM

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

In today's gospel, John the Baptist testified and witnessed to Jesus' identity to reveal Jesus to the world. This took place along the Jordan River where people came to listen to John preach about the need for repentance of sin and to be baptized by him, in a baptism of water. Many of the people there were John's followers, seekers waiting and hoping for the coming of the Messiah. As well, there would have been the curious, the doubters and the deniers among the people. Earlier, John had baptized Jesus at Bethany beyond the Jordan (Al-Maghtas) to fulfill all righteousness. Through the revelation of the Spirit to John, John declared that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the divine one whose divinity is from eternity to eternity. He testified that during Jesus' baptism the spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove and remained there and that Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. He testified that Jesus is the Son of God. John's witness offers a message of "hope, love and salvation" which continues in every heart, in every age. Thus began Jesus' public ministry; the mystery of Christ unfolding.

What does this gospel reading mean for us today? Well, right now, our world is in chaos. Recently, Pope Leo XIV speaking to Vatican diplomats warned that "war is back in vogue and a zeal for war is spreading.". He warned about "threats to human life, free speech and global peace". Our daily lives challenge. In this context John's gospel brings us the hope that we so desperately crave and a different way of living in this world. We are graced to understand John's testimony in light of the full gospel message, the 'big picture', as it were. The full gospel message is the good news of the kingdom of God; it is God's reign of love come to the world. God's kingdom stands in stark contrast to the world Pope Leo described and it leads us away from fear into a life lived in God's spirit. You see, the kingdom of God's love is alive within us, in our midst and among us. It is a kingdom rooted in grace, formed by the sacrificial love of Jesus on the cross, by the resurrected Christ who overcame death and by the Holy Spirit 'advocate and guide' living in us. Everyday, God's kingdom grows in us from the depth of the Christ's love. It grows quietly through patience, gentleness and humility. It grows into lives of holiness and grace, justice, love and peace; of service and charity; of the grace of strength in our suffering. In God's love we see our woundedness, and the woundedness of the world but the darkness of the world does not defeat us. God's kingdom, which for us begins in this world, will find its fullness and glory in eternity.

The Jesus witnessed to by John, God's plan of love for all of humanity, resides in every single heart. There are no exceptions. Jesus never gives up on any of us and patiently waits for us to come to him.

As we ponder today's gospel there are a few questions that we may want to think about - What does John's witness about Jesus mean for us in our lives today? Do we live the Kingdom of God's reign and could anyone tell?

Jesus invites us out of darkness into the wonderful light of his kingdom (1 Peter 2. 9). Do we accept?

Trudy Holden

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.rcd.victoria.org/responsible-ministry)
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we begin the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from January 18th to January 25th. Christians of all different denominations around the world will be praying for Christian Unity. At a time when our planet is overrun by disunity and discord, it is reassuring to turn our attention to this week of Prayer. Christians have been praying for unity for decades. *The theme for the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a powerful one: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). The theme this year exemplifies the divine unity that is central to our mission and is sustained by the profound love of Jesus Christ, who has set before us a unified purpose.* (from our Diocesan website.)

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity will end with an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Let us storm heaven this week that unity grows in small and large ways and brings our earth peace.

Blessings to you, Tanya



Recollections for Men and Women: Opus Dei

What better way than to start the new year than with a recollection? It's a time we set aside to go deeper into our relationship with God. We spend some time in conversation with Him – guided by meditation and an examination of conscience. A priest of Opus Dei will be available for confession and/or spiritual direction.

An evening recollection for women will be held on **Monday, January 19th** from **6:15-8 p.m.** at **St. Joseph the Worker** parish, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:30 p.m.

An evening recollection for men will be held on **Tuesday, January 20th** from **6-8 p.m.** at **Sacred Heart** parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15 p.m.

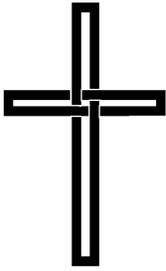
Mass and Supper for UVic students and Father David Shulist

On Saturday, January 31st, Father David will celebrate mass at 4:00 pm at Holy Cross. He will invite the UVic student catholic community who usually meet at 4:00 pm on campus to join him at Holy Cross and help with the liturgical ministries at this mass. Following the celebration, Holy Cross will host a supper in the church hall for the students and Father David. If you are able to contribute a dish or an item for the supper please sign up after mass this weekend in the foyer. We will need casseroles, salads, desserts and drinks. Thank you!



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>



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity.

Evangelization, dear brothers and sisters, is not our attempt to conquer the world but the infinite grace that radiates from lives transformed by the kingdom of God.

For if we remain in His love, He comes to dwell in us and our life will become a temple of God. His love enlightens us, influences the way we think and act, spreads outwards to others and embraces every situation in our lives.

Pope Leo XIV

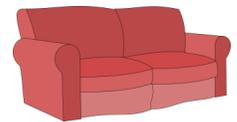
Collection Envelopes

2026 Collection Envelopes are ready for pick up in the parish office. If you don't have collection envelopes, and would like a set, please drop by the office to be assigned a number.

Furniture for Fr. Silvichan's new home!

In order to prepare for Fr Silvichan's arrival in February, we are refurbishing the rectory. If you have some items you would like to donate, please send a photo and description to the office email. We are only accepting new or nearly new items. Someone from the Furnishing Team will contact you to confirm and arrange pickup/delivery of the item! Here is an idea of what we are looking for:

- ~~Queen Bedframe~~
- Coffee Table
- Side Tables
- ~~TV & TV Unit~~
- Armchair
- Lamps
- ~~Cookware~~
- Dressers or Armoire
- ~~Clothing Hangers~~
- Kitchen Table & Chairs
- ~~Dining Room Table & Chairs~~
- ~~Couch~~



We are not looking for: *plateware, silverware or linens.*

Taizé Prayer

We hope you were able to join Holy Cross's first Taizé prayer evening last Friday. We will continue next month on Friday, February 20th at 6pm. All are welcome to come pray. www.taize.fr



What's New In Our Library

Hoping to read more in 2026? Check out the Holy Cross Library in the Parish Centre during our office hours to see if anything interests you!



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 sessions available to take a Baptismal Prep course are Sat, Jan 10 or Sat, Feb 21 (10:00 am - 12 noon). Email hcsfbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details.



Pastoral Care Outreach: Winter Series

Accepting last minute registrants! Pastoral Care Outreach Training series starts in the new year. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Sat mornings from 9:30 to 12, starting on Jan 24 and running until March 28, 2026! To last minute register, please contact the office by 3:00pm on Tuesday, Jan 20th.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) 1) The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, during the evensong service at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria (930 Burdett Avenue). The service begins at 4:00 pm, and there will be a reception to follow. Christians from across Vancouver Island will gather to reflect on and celebrate our common faith. All are welcome to participate, either in person at Christ Church Cathedral or via livestream at: <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/live>

2) Voices in Motion is seeking “duets” for its winter choir session—each duet is an adult experiencing memory loss together with their caregiver. No singing experience is needed; you are welcome to visit a rehearsal and give it a try. Rehearsals are 90 minutes of music and community, with choirs meeting Wednesdays at Sacred Heart Parish Hall and Fridays at the UVic MultiFaith Centre. For more information, please visit www.voicesinmotionchoirs.org.

Join us for 7pm Mass in the Chapel!

Bishop Gary is back from Retreat. He will be saying mass for us at 7pm for 2.5 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.

Pastoral Care Telephone Visits

Are you feeling lonely or know someone who would appreciate a friendly conversation? Our Pastoral Care volunteers are available to telephone those who are lonely, homebound, isolated, or simply in need of a listening ear. These calls are a gentle reminder that no one is ever alone and that our parish community is here to accompany, encourage, and support one another. To request a telephone call for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

COLLECTIONS

January 11, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,810.00
Loose	\$ 435.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,354.33
Total	\$5,599.33

THANK YOU

Our Social/Eco Justice committee has been hosting the International Amnesty “Write for Rights” campaign for years at Holy Cross. This year they organized this worthwhile cause for January 11th after the 9:00 am mass. Thank you to Leslie Saxon and the Committee for promoting this valuable and effective action. Thank you to the many participants from our Holy Cross Parish and the UVic Catholic Community who wrote letters to encourage the upholding of human rights. It is encouraging that even though there are currently many struggles in our world, we can make a difference. 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