

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 25 , 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, January 24
4PM MASS: Olivia
Salamanca De Hickie+

SUNDAY, January 25
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, January 26
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, January 27
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION
7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, January 28
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, January 29
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION
7PM MASS

FRIDAY, January 30
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY,
January 25, 11AM
<https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

This Sunday, January 25th, is the third Sunday in Ordinary Time. In chapter nine of Isaiah, today's first reading, we hear the famous line, *the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light*. This reference to the future coming of the Messiah is repeated in the Gospel by Matthew. Describing Christ or the Messiah as light is much more than a lovely poetic phrase, it reveals a deep truth. Science has shown us that we depend on sunlight for life. Sunlight provides us with food, oxygen, healthy bones, a strong immune system, a happy disposition. Would the people of Isaiah's time have known this science? Maybe not. But they would have known that light was needed to see; the smile of a loved one, the trail up a mountain, art, script, everything, and anything. We see because light is reflected from whatever we look at. The light from the sun, a candle, a fire, a lightbulb, all is reflected enabling us to perceive, not just the sources of light but any object that reflects light. Without light we would not see anything!

How right and true it is to refer to Jesus as the light of the world. It is Jesus that enables us to realize the meaning of our lives, to recognize that we are truly made in the image and likeness of God and to trust in God's unending love and mercy for all people. It is Jesus who shines a light on the way to the Father and illuminates our minds with truth. It is Jesus, whose example of healing and service shows us how to live, how to build the kingdom of God. We do not walk in darkness because He is with us. *The Lord is my light and my salvation, who shall I fear*. The light of Christ will never disappear! It is always with us even when our eyes are closed and our hearts are heavy. When we experience dark days, the light of Christ continues to permeate our being and helps us to move forward. Then we remember that we reflect the light of Christ and we let it radiate out into the world.

Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to follow Him, and *immediately they left their nets*. James and John did the same thing. It might not seem practical or considerate that they left so quickly. It is possible that they cleaned up, said good-bye to loved ones, and packed some water and food. But the word *immediately* indicates that there was no question, no hesitation, no careful consideration of pros and cons. Jesus called, they followed. As unworthy as we might feel, we, too, are called by Jesus to follow Him and become fishers of people. How do we do that? We leave behind the values of power, status, and wealth and follow Jesus' call by embracing service, compassion, and forgiveness, allowing Christ's light to shine wherever we go.

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,

From the beginning of our Church, almost two thousand years ago, there have always been different opinions and discussions about beliefs and liturgical practice. However, 1054 is regarded as the first permanent parting of communities. It is often referred to as the Great Schism, when Catholic and Orthodox Churches separated. Over nine hundred years later, in 1965, the leaders of the two Churches at the time, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople, expressed their sorrow for the occurrences in 1054 in a joint declaration.

This event was commemorated recently at a conference at the Institute for Ecumenical Studies at Rome's Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Cardinal Kurt Koch (the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity) spoke at this conference and shared his confidence that the joint statement in 1965 was an important first step that will eventually lead to the restoration of Eucharistic communion. His words encourage us to keep praying for unity!

As the week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to an end, may we be filled with hope that all Christian faiths will continue to grow in unity and achieve a deeper awareness that there is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, that there is one God who is Father of all.

Blessings to you, 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 Mid-Island workshop will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Holy Trinity Parish (6224 Spartan Road, Nanaimo) from 10:00 am–12:30 pm. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am, followed by coffee and tea for those who wish to attend before the workshop begins.

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.

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

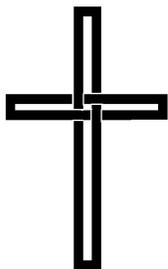
Are you a student at UVic or Camosun? If you are, please join us for mass on January 31st at 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church. Father David Shulist, the campus chaplain, will be celebrating the mass. The liturgy will be followed by a supper for the students in the Parish Hall. Parishioners at Holy Cross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



Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

Our Social & Ecological Justice Committee 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

A glow ripples outward from the first spark of conscious reflection. The point of ignition grows larger. The fire spreads in ever widening circles till finally the whole planet is covered with incandescence.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

As those who see light are in the light sharing its brilliance, so those who see God are in God sharing his glory, and that glory gives them life. To see God is to share in life.

St. Irenaeus

2026 Collection Envelopes

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

Christ the King Seminary

Are you interested in the priesthood or the life of a religious brother? Come see for yourself! There will be a Vocation Live-In on the weekend of February 7-8 at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more information phone 604-826-8975 or email rector.minors@sck.ca



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



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



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) All are invited to join Catholic schools across Vancouver Island in celebrating Catholic Schools Week from February 1-7, 2026. This year's theme, "Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith," highlights the vibrant role of Catholic education in nurturing faith-filled communities. Information about events can be found on the events page at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/february-1-7-catholic-schools-week> or by visiting your local Catholic school's website: <https://cisdv.bc.ca/schools/>

2) The next application deadline for the local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund is coming up on February 15. Indigenous groups from Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands are invited to apply for funding for projects that foster good medicine for people harmed by the legacy of residential schools. For more information and the application package, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/irf> or call 250-800-3167.

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 18, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Envelopes | \$3,715.00 |
| Loose | \$ 425.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$1,354.33 |
| Total | \$5,494.33 |

THANK YOU

The evening of Taizé prayer last Friday was a beautiful and meaningful way to start the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Thank you to the Taizé planning team and the many volunteers who contributed their time and effort in reading, sharing prayers, candle lighting and supervision, set up and take down. Most of all thank you to the many participants. Your singing, reverence and prayer gave all of us hope for the future.

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