

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, February 7
4PM MASS: Emilienne
Wunderlich+

SUNDAY, February 8
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, February 9
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, February 10
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH
HOLY COMMUNION
7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY,
February 11
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, February 12
9AM MASS:
Laverne Reid+

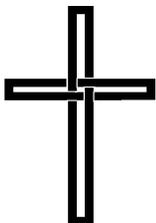
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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY,
February 8, 11AM

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



This Sunday, February 8th, is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The scripture readings of the past weeks have been filled with the inspiring images of Christ as the *light of the world*. Christ's light permeates our world and our being. But that is not the whole story. In today's Gospel by Matthew, Jesus says something unexpected. Speaking to His disciples, He states, *You are the light of the world*. That would seem impossible! How can we with all our faults, weaknesses, and pettiness bring light into the world? But this is Jesus speaking. We must strive to understand and accept His words! If we do, we will know the purpose of our lives; we will know the meaning of our existence. We are to let Christ's light of love and mercy shine forth from us. We are to bring Christ's light into the darkness of grief and despair, pain and anger. What a beautiful and healing responsibility we are given! Though we might at times be overcome by our unworthiness, God doesn't look at us that way. God looks at us with the eyes of love and sees our goodness shining forth, even though it might at times be hidden or dim. We must trust Him! If Jesus said we are the light of the world, then we are the light of the world. Let us remember that every day.

Jesus went on to say, *You are the salt of the earth*. Another surprising statement. Salt has two beneficial qualities. First, it improves the taste and the enjoyment of food. Secondly, salt is used to preserve meat, fish and vegetables; to extend the time the food can be used as nourishment. As people of faith, we bring joy into the world increasing contentment and appreciation. Pope Francis said: "Instead of imposing new obligations, (Christians) should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet". Furthermore, our faith and trust in the Lord inspires us to support and protect life by respecting and caring for all living beings. *You are the salt of the earth!* Jesus is saying this to every single person; there are no exceptions. This is not something that depends on us being smart or beautiful, educated or rich, powerful or athletic, young or musical. This just depends on us being a beloved daughter or son of God. And that is everyone, every single person!

We are the light of the world; we are the salt of the earth. Yes, we are going to make mistakes. But as long as we stay close to our loving redeemer, He will help us return to the path of righteousness. We will be able to shine, bringing love and joy and life into the world. As Psalm 112 declares, *Light rises in the darkness for the upright*. You and I are the upright. *Unafraid of evil tidings; [our hearts will be] firm, secure in the Lord.*

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,

This is my last Admin Corner as we will be welcoming Father Silvichan the next weekend as our new pastor. I have so enjoyed being the Pastoral Administrator these past six months, getting to know many of you better and discovering the many volunteers that help a parish function. I had always thought that Holy Cross Parish was a very special community. Now I am even more convinced how blessed we are to be part of this welcoming and supportive faith filled family.

Thank you for all your support, encouragement and participation! I will never forget these six months. I'm not going very far; I will be the new Pastoral Assistant, and I will always be a member of the Holy Cross Parish.

May God bless you all, Tanya



Saying Good-bye to our Faithful Leaders

On **Saturday, February 7th**, after the 4:00 pm mass, we will say thank you and good-bye to Bishop Gary. There will be some presentations and some treats to share. We will present the cards you signed, some gifts for Taku and a photobook of Bishop Gary's time at Holy Cross. You are all very welcome to join us!

On **Sunday, February 8th**, after the 9:00 am mass, we will say thank you and good-bye to Father Marco. We will present him with a gift and we will have a lovely cake with our coffee and tea. You are all very welcome to join us!



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!



Baptismal Prep

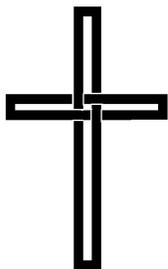
Do you want to have your infant welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a Baptismal Prep registration form and participate in a Baptismal Prep course. Please note that the next session is Sat, Feb 21 (10:00 am - 12 noon).

Email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details.

Coldest Night of the Year Walk - Feb 28

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

Continue to walk in the faith and, faithful to the mandate that has been entrusted to you, go out with solicitude and joy toward all creatures and pass on to them the gifts of salvation...Let yourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit to be the leaven of new life, salt of the earth and light of the world. *Pope Benedict XVI*

Salt, no matter how small in quantity, has the ability to change the taste of food just as light, also no matter how small the flicker is, has the ability to overcome darkness. *Rosemond Anaba*

Help Remove Invasive Species

Greater Victoria Green Team are looking for volunteers to help remove invasive plants on Sat, Feb 21, from 9:45 am–1:00 pm at Portage Park in View Royal (sign up at bit.ly/gvgt-feb21-2026), and on Sat, March 7, from 9:45 am–1:00 pm at Edwards Park in View Royal (sign up at bit.ly/gvgt-mar7-2026). Volunteers are asked to wear long sleeves and pants, bring a water bottle, and dress for the weather! Your time and effort is appreciated!

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

In the spirit of Lent and Truth and Reconciliation, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting a KAIROS Blanket Exercise in the Parish Hall on Saturday March 7 from 9:30-12noon. The blanket exercise is a powerful interactive and experiential activity that walks people through 500 years of historic and current relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada. Please join us for this educational exercise guided by trained facilitators. After a coffee and goodies break, we will conclude with a debriefing, conducted as a “talking circle”. If you have any questions, contact Margie Noonan at margielnoonan@gmail.com or 250-589-6313.



Taizé Prayer

We will continue on Friday, February 20th at 6pm. All are welcome to come pray. www.taize.fr



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 people (contact Kem Luther to register).

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.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

- 1) Bishop Gary Gordon has written a Pastoral Letter to the people of the Diocese announcing the questions for the 2026 Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod cycle and inviting all to participate. The Bishop encourages the faithful to reflect, pray, and engage in this important process. Please find his letter here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishops-february-dpps-2026-pastoral-letter>
- 2) If you didn't see it in last week's Bulletin, Bishop Gary Gordon has shared a Message of Gratitude for the 2025 Bishop's Appeal, thanking the faithful for their prayers, generosity, and love for the Church. Through this collective support, the Appeal not only reached its \$900,000 goal but was blessed with over \$1,000,000 in gifts. Please find his message here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-of-gratitude-for-the-2025-bishops-appeal>
- 3) The Rite of Election Mass will take place on February 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral. During this liturgical rite, catechumens—those preparing to join the Church through baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist at Easter—are presented to the Bishop. All are welcome to participate in person or via the livestream at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c1_OCETMyw
- 4) Mount Joy in Sooke is hosting a residential icon-writing retreat led by Kathleen van der Sande from March 16–21, 2026 (Monday to Saturday). Participants will learn the spiritual and artistic tradition of Eastern Church iconography through guided instruction and hands-on egg tempera painting, completing an icon of Mary, Mother of God, in a setting of prayer, silence, and community. No artistic experience is required; the cost is \$585 and includes five nights' accommodation, meals, and all supplies. For more information or to register, please contact Anna-Marie and Barnabas Ney at mountjoyretreats@gmail.com. Registration deadline is March 9, 2026.

COLLECTIONS

February 1, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,937.00
Loose	\$ 340.00
SEJC	\$ 25.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$3,664.91

THANK YOU

Following a two-year hiatus, Holy Cross Parish hosted a UVic student supper last Saturday in the parish hall after Father David Shulist celebrated the 4:00 pm mass for Holy Cross parishioners and UVic students. Thank you to the Holy Cross parishioners who provided the delicious food for the dinner, who adjusted their liturgical commitments and who welcomed the students to Holy Cross. The students had a wonderful time and talked, laughed and shared until 7:30 pm in the evening. Repeatedly they and Father David asked that the parishioners be thanked for all the wonderful food and welcoming them so warmly. They were so grateful!

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