

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 22, 2026

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, February 21**  
4PM MASS: Frances  
Coughlan+

**SUNDAY, February 22**  
9AM MASS:  
Cortney Quin+

**MONDAY, February 23**  
9AM MASS

**TUESDAY, February 24**  
9AM MASS:  
Members of the Henry  
Family+

**WEDNESDAY,**  
February 25  
9AM MASS

**THURSDAY, February 26**  
9AM MASS

**FRIDAY, February 27**  
9AM MASS  
9:30AM THE WAY OF  
THE CROSS

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CHAPEL  
Open 9am-12pm  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION  
SATURDAY, February 21  
3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING  
SUNDAY  
February 22, 11AM

[https://www.youtube.com  
/@StPatricksHolyCrossCh  
urch](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch)

This Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, is the First Sunday of Lent. We have begun forty days of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer as we remember to make God the center of our lives. Matthew's Gospel tells us the story of Jesus fasting in the desert for forty days. Why would Jesus fast? We know why we fast, not as punishment or atonement for our sins, but to make more room for God in our hearts and in our lives. That is precisely why Jesus fasted. He, who was without sin, embraced prayer and fasting to grow in relationship with God, the Father. We know from the gospels that Jesus prayed often. Jesus would go alone to quiet places and spend time in prayer. When He was fasting in the desert, He was alone and He prayed. In prayer and fasting, Jesus made space for God in His heart and in His life. He was able to hear God's voice more clearly. He was able to understand God's love and mercy more completely. Most significantly, Jesus was able to realize who He was, the beloved Son of God.

The tempter arrived when Jesus was weak from hunger. The tempter knew exactly what to say to tempt Jesus. However, even though Jesus' body was fragile, His spirit was not. The fasting and prayer during those forty days bore fruit. Jesus knew the truth and was not misled by the tempter. In responding to the devil, Jesus made three statements that have been treasured for over two thousand years. *Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Do not put the Lord your God to the test. Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.* Jesus understood that God's words of love, mercy and truth nourish us. He knew that we are called to respect God and to serve only Him. In *Out of Solitude*, Henri Nouwen (a Catholic priest and theologian) explained that he was convinced that it was Jesus' time in prayer that enabled Him to fulfil His mission. "I have the sense that the secret of Jesus' ministry is hidden in that lonely place where he went to pray. . . . In the lonely place, Jesus finds the courage to follow God's will and not his own; to speak God's words and not his own; to do God's work and not his own." Jesus' prayer and fasting and His deepening relationship with God gave Him the insight, understanding and conviction which enabled Him to bring us the Good News.

Lent is the time when the Church reminds us of the value of prayer and fasting. Like Jesus we will find the courage to walk more closely with our loving God, our Creator, our Redeemer. We will find the strength to speak God's words and do God's will. And when we fail, as everyone of us will, we can ask God to *have mercy*, knowing that His *steadfast love* and *abundant mercy* will blot out our *transgressions*.

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

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of peace and love in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I hope this message finds you well and filled with the grace of this holy season.

My first week here at Holy Cross has been a true blessing. I have been moved by the warmth and kindness of this community. While I am still working on learning everyone's names, I ask for your continued patience as I do! Your friendly faces have already made me feel at home.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to those who helped me organize my house, assisted with shopping for the kitchen, and prepared everything before my arrival. The welcome party last Thursday was a beautiful gesture that I will long remember. As I work on settling in and securing a vehicle, your support and hospitality have been a great comfort.

As we enter deeper into this Lenten season, we often ask ourselves: "What am I giving up?" While we traditionally fast from food or habits, Pope Leo challenges us to a different kind of abstinence. He invites us to:

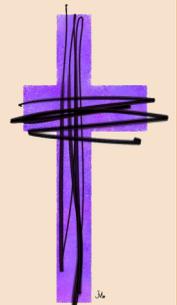
"Refrain from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, and refraining from slander... Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, at work, and on social media."

This Lent, as I settle into my new role as your pastor, let us commit together to making our words a source of hope and peace. Let us feast on "kindness and respect."

Please know that you are all in my prayers for your health, your families, and all your personal intentions. I look forward to walking this journey of faith with you.

With prayer,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



## Seeking Twin bed and bedframe for the Rectory

We are asking our parishioners to see if there is a twin bed and twin bedframe that a parishioner or their family would be willing to donate to the rectory's guest room.

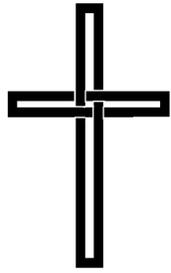
## Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity



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!

## HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The St. Andrew's International Student Program is very much in need of additional host families for the upcoming school year starting September 2026/27 for male students. If you would be willing to support a young person on their international high school journey/experience, please consider welcoming one of our international students into your family. Host families receive \$1,350 per month to cover costs. Please contact Nina Timm at: [homestay@cisdv.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@cisdv.bc.ca) / Tel: 403-771-2519



## QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.

- *Pope Francis*

### **Planet Positive Tips**

A Victoria-based organization "1000x5 Children's Book Recycling Project" is an excellent example of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." They supply books to babies, preschoolers and families who may be struggling. Research shows that if a child hears 1000 stories by the age of 5, they are more likely to enjoy and succeed in learning at school. Volunteers sort, clean and mend books, that have been donated by families, schools, and publishing houses. They are then distributed to 42 different social agencies to be given to families. Gently used book donations can be dropped off at elementary schools in Greater Victoria. For more info go to [1000x5.ca](http://1000x5.ca)



### **Development and Peace**

This year's Development and Peace Lenten Campaign "On Track for Justice" begins with a webinar on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am. It is about the communities in Brazil who are affected by mining, other resource extraction and agriculture in the Amazon. Here is the link if you would like to register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_opxTOb6-TWiMS9jKSSQWCA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_opxTOb6-TWiMS9jKSSQWCA#/registration)

### **The Soup Kitchen**

The Soup Kitchen in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral is looking for volunteers to join the Tues, Thurs or Fri morning dine-in service teams. As well as, someone to pick up fresh eggs every Friday morning at Galey Morning Fresh Eggs located at 4400 Blenkinsop Road in Saanich. Lots of opportunities to help out in the front-end serving diners or in the back-end kitchen preparing sandwiches, treats or dish washing. Volunteers can be a regular or just on the spares list for when extra help is needed. To learn more about volunteering contact our Volunteer Director at [info@thesoupkitchen.ca](mailto:info@thesoupkitchen.ca)

### **Dying to Meet You: Preventing Euthanasia, Encouraging Hope.**

On Friday, March 6, 2026, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm Amanda Achtman will be coming to Holy Cross Parish Hall (Victoria, BC) to give a talk on her project Dying to Meet You: Preventing Euthanasia, Encouraging Hope. As the Ethics Education & Cultural Engagement Lead for Canadian Physicians for Life, and the founder of Dying to Meet You, Amanda will explore questions around death and dying through storytelling, beauty, and a deeply hopeful vision rooted in the dignity of the human person. There are sign up sheets in the entrance foyer. Please sign up so that we can make sure there are enough chairs set up in the hall and enough snacks provided. The Diocese of Victoria is seeking input in advance of the Dying to Meet You tour: <https://forms.gle/8QRGCnUcGMQcyvKo9>

### **Candlelight Ecumenical Prayer Coming Soon**

Due to unfortunate circumstances Holy Cross has postponed the Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> Taizé prayer evenings. We look forward to announcing dates for Candlelight Ecumenical Prayer Evenings coming soon to Holy Cross Parish.



# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is hosting a series of videos for Lent titled *Journey Through Lent*. This series is meant to offer spiritual inspiration and guidance on how to prepare well for the Easter season. New videos will be released each week, you can watch the series here: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>

2) Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting a KAIROS Blanket Exercise in their 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](mailto:margielnoonan@gmail.com) or 250-589-6313.

## Coldest Night of the Year Walk - Feb 28

On Feb 28, Holy Cross Parishioners will be walking and fundraising to support people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the Victoria community. Please consider joining our Holy Cross Team and walk with us, or donating to this worthy cause. Learn more here: <https://cnoy.w-ith.me/HolyCrossParish-Victoria>



## 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

February 15, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,535.00
Loose	\$ 375.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$5,272.91

### THANK YOU

This thank you is for every person in our Holy Cross community! We come together to hear God's word, share His holy sacraments and enjoy the companionship of people we have known for years and people we have just met. Sometimes we are tired, sometimes we are concerned about the state of the world but we continue to join our brothers and sisters in praising God, affirming our faith and being refreshed by the love of our Holy Cross family! Thank you to everyone for coming to our celebrations and being part of the miracle that is the Body of Christ.

### 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

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

See front page for daily Mass.

### CONTACT US

Pastor: Father Silvichan Dominic CFIC

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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