

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

March 29, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 28

4PM MASS:

Louis Lavigne+

SUNDAY, March 29

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, March 30

9AM MASS

TUESDAY, March 31

9AM MASS

WEDNESDAY, April 1

5:30PM-6:30PM

ADORATION

6:30PM MASS

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2

7PM MASS

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

11AM THE WAY OF THE
CROSS

3PM GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4 PM

MONDAY & TUESDAY

8:30AM - 9AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

March 28, 4PM

[https://www.youtube.com/
@StPatricksHolyCross-
Church](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCross-Church)

This Sunday, March 29th, is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. The Liturgy begins with remembering the great procession into Jerusalem with resounding Hosannahs and Jesus being hailed as the rescuer. But the mass turns somber when the account of the suffering and death of Jesus is read in the Gospel by Matthew. How can these two extremes fit together in one liturgy? During a recent RCIA class, Father David Shulist (our UVic Chaplain) explained that this juxtaposition, this paradox, helps us to understand that the triumph of Jesus is not found in the joyous procession but in the cross. This is not a message that we find easy to understand or accept. It is much more satisfying to think of Jesus being revered and appreciated rather than being rejected and tortured. Even after two thousand years, we long for Jesus to be the rescuer. We really don't want anyone to suffer, be it Jesus, ourselves, our loved ones or anyone else. Nevertheless, suffering is a part of life. Jesus did not come to rescue us but to redeem us.

How and why is the cross a triumph? We spend years, a lifetime, trying to grasp this concept, realizing that it is both mystery and faith. According to Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Jesus was in complete solidarity with humanity on the cross. He experienced being abandoned, rejected, misunderstood, betrayed, humiliated and He experienced physical pain. When we face any of these, we can turn to Jesus knowing that he, too, suffered. For many of us, recognising that Jesus understands our pain and sorrow is comforting. We don't feel alone in our distress and through God's redeeming grace suffering can lead to transformation. Through sorrow and pain, we grow in compassion and understanding.

Jesus brought us the Good News of God's unconditional love and mercy. He taught us that God wants an intimate relationship with us, and He demonstrated how we could live a life of love and justice, compassion and mercy. But many felt threatened and they rejected Jesus and His message of love. Out of fear, they convicted Jesus of crimes he didn't commit and crucified Him. Jesus dying on the cross was all about love. His great sacrifice revealed the unlimited depth of God's love for us. On the cross Jesus said: *Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.* (Luke 23:34) The cross, an instrument of torture, became the symbol of our faith. On the cross, Jesus triumphed over evil, united in solidarity with all of humanity and surrendered His Spirit in Love. Jesus died for us that we might know that we are loved, that we are treasured, and that we are forgiven. *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.* (John 15:13)

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

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are an Easter people. Let us celebrate this holy season with hearts filled with joy, hope, and love.

We enter Holy Week, a sacred time that invites us to walk closely with Jesus, to die to ourselves, and to rise with Him on the third day. Holy Week holds a central place in the life of every Catholic worldwide. It is a time of deep prayer, reflection, and renewal.



On Palm Sunday, those with mobility challenges are welcome to remain in the church while the priest begins the opening prayer in the parish hall. The ushers will bring the blessed palms from the hall to the church and distribute them to those who are seated there. After the prayers in the hall, the priest, together with the congregation, will process into the church and sprinkle holy water on those who were unable to join the gathering in the hall. This arrangement ensures that everyone can participate in the celebration as fully as possible.

On Holy Thursday, we will celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and of the Priesthood at Mass at 7:00 p.m. We will include the washing of feet, which reminds us of Christ's humble service and His call for us to serve one another in love. I ask you to pray for all the priests who have served Holy Cross Church in the past, for all the priests in the Diocese of Victoria and in my community, and I ask you to pray for me. May all priests renew the commitment to their vocation with joy and peace. After the Holy Thursday Mass, I will place the Blessed Sacrament in a tabernacle on the altar in the chapel. Those who wish to remain for adoration after the Holy Thursday Mass are most welcome to do so. The chapel will be open until 9:30 pm. Please be aware that incense will be used at this mass and that we will leave the church in silence.

On Good Friday, we will have the Way of the Cross at 11:00 a.m., followed by the Good Friday Service at 3:00 p.m., which includes the Veneration of the Cross. As we hear the words, "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come, let us adore Him," may our hearts be drawn closer to the mystery of Christ's sacrifice. Good Friday is also a day of fasting and abstinence. May our sacrifices be offered for the conversion of hearts, for peace in our world, and for an end to war and violence. At the end of the service, we will leave in silence.

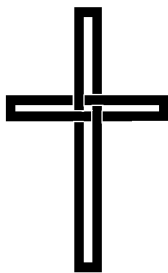
I wish you a prayerful and blessed Holy Week. In Christ our Lord,
Father Silvichan Dominic CFIC

Holy Cross Parish's Easter and Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Cross Parishioners, please note that both masses on Saturday at 4:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am will start in the Parish Hall. If you are able, please join us in the hall for the first prayers and readings. We will then process into the church for the rest of the liturgy.

- April 2nd - Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 pm
- April 3rd - Stations of the Cross 11:00 am
- April 3rd - Good Friday Service 3:00 pm
- April 4th - Easter Vigil 8:00 pm
- April 5th - Easter Sunday Mass 9:00 am
- April 5th - Easter Sunday Mass 11:00 am





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

If you recognise your involvement and prepare to walk with Jesus into the city, to the cross and the tomb, there is a joy and a mystery at the end of the path, because it is inexhaustible divine love that walks with us.

Dr. Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury)

Missalettes

The popularity of the monthly missalettes (implied by their quick disappearance from the basket in the foyer) indicates that maybe some of you would like your own subscription :) . If you do, here is the link: <https://en.novalis.ca/products/copy-of-living-with-christ>



Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

SEJC invites parishioners to bring pasta/rice, sauces this month (teriyaki, soya, chilli, curry, hot) & healthy snacks (granola bars, dried fruits, nuts etc.) and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. Donations can still be dropped off throughout the month.

St Patrick's Parish CWL Bazaar

The CWL will be holding the Spring Good Used Clothing, Jewelry & Books Sale on April 17th & 18th in the Lourdes Hall. We are now gratefully accepting donations of men's, women's, children's clothing and shoes along with household linens, jewelry, books & jigsaw puzzles. Items can be left on the marked carts in the hall closet area. Please note we are NOT accepting any other items at this time. Contact Theresa Smith at tgsmith1225@outlook.com



Anawim Board Recruiting

The Anawim Companions Society is seeking members to join the Board of Directors. We are currently looking to fill three roles: (1) Financial Governance & Treasurer, (2) Chair and (3) Fund Development and Major Gifts Director. If you are interested in learning more about the positions or how to apply, please email president@anawimsociety.ca or check out the website: www.anawimsociety.ca.

BASKETS ARE NOW BEING PLANTED FOR MT. ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Last year proceeds from 75 baskets and other plants helped the hospital care for many people. While all costs (except labour) have increased, prices remain the same. Of course extra \$ are accepted. In addition to baskets we have lettuce, squash, tomatoes, geraniums, lemon-scented pelargoniums and daisies available. PLEASE ORDER ASAP, as we sold out last year. Call Ellis, to order at 250-477-6754. Thank you for supporting the hospital! PS. Yes, we (I) will plant your pots and containers. PPS. If you prefer, \$ will be delivered to Ukrainian Church for war effort support.

Bursary Opportunities for Catholic Students (B.C.)

Catholic students in B.C. are invited to apply for two bursaries:

1. Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger Memorial Bursary - \$1,000 awards for students under 25 attending post-secondary in B.C. (financial need required). Apply by June 30, 2026 (request application by June 1). Contact: jmw.kofc@gmail.com
2. Victoria Diocesan CWL Bursary (Freda Smith) - \$750 for a Catholic graduating high school student in the Diocese of Victoria continuing to higher education. <https://cwldov.org/application>



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) Times and locations of Holy Week and Easter services across our Diocese are available on our website at:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2026-holy-week-mass-times>

2) You're invited to support Help Not Harm, a campaign organized by the Archdiocese of Toronto to push back against plans currently in place to expand euthanasia (Medical Assistance in Dying – MAiD) for those suffering from mental illness. Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca where you can e-mail your Member of Parliament, asking for their support of Bill C-218: The Right to Recover Act before the anticipated vote in the House of Commons in mid-April 2026.

3) St. Andrew's Cathedral is seeking a full-time Office Assistant to provide comprehensive administrative and clerical support to the parish. They are looking for someone with a welcoming attitude and eye for detail, who can comfortably prioritize duties and work diligently under pressure. A detailed position description is available on the St. Andrews website at: <https://www.standrewscathedral.com/post/office-assistant-position>

4) The final video from the video series Journey through Lent is now available. This series was designed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to help the faithful prepare for the Church's celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. To view the videos, please visit: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>

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

March 22, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$3,520.00
Loose	\$ 350.00
D&P	\$2,780.00
Anawim	\$ 65.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$8,077.91

Thank You

This week let us reflect on everything that we are grateful for. Living in a country of peace, having shelter, food, education, medical care, family, friends and a beautiful faith community. All of us have struggles, no one is exempt. But within our struggles there is always something to be grateful for. Our God loves us, loves the world, loves the universe! Knowing this makes all the difference! Thank you, God, for our life and Your love!

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

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

See front page for daily Mass times.

CONTACT US

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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