

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 21

4PM MASS:

Members of the
Henry Family+

SUNDAY, March 22

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, March 23

9AM MASS

TUESDAY, March 24

9AM MASS

WEDNESDAY, March 25

5:30PM-6:30PM

ADORATION

6:30PM MASS

THURSDAY, March 26

9AM MASS:

FRIDAY, March 27

9AM MASS

9:30AM THE WAY OF THE
CROSS

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI

8:30AM - 9AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

SATURDAYS

3:30PM - 4 PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

March 21, 7PM

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

The Gospel today presents a powerful sign through which Jesus reveals His true identity: "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (Jn 11:25). It is also a personal invitation to each one of us to share in His promise: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). Just as Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb, He calls each of us: "Come out" (Jn 11:43) come out of our false securities, our fears, and the quiet tombs of isolation we sometimes settle into. Three movements in this Gospel open us to that new life:

The Presence of Jesus (Grace)

Martha and Mary both say, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (Jn 11:21, 32). Their faith looks to the past what might have been. Yet they fail, at first, to recognize the deeper truth: Jesus is here now.

The One who could have prevented death stands before them as the One who conquers it. His presence is not late; it is life-giving. When we become aware of His presence in our lives, even our darkest moments can become places of new beginnings.

2. Personal Response (Freedom)

The gift of abundant life is never imposed it is offered. When Jesus calls, "Lazarus, come out," Lazarus must respond.

So too with us. We are invited to step out of the familiar even when it is limiting or lifeless. Sometimes the tomb can feel strangely "comfortable." But real life begins when we choose the light over darkness, hope over resignation, and trust over fear.

3. The Role of the Community

Jesus involves others in the miracle. He tells the crowd, "Take away the stone" (Jn 11:39), and later, "Unbind him, and let him go" (Jn 11:44).

The Christian life is never lived alone. We need one another to remove the stones that block life and to help loosen the bonds that still hold us back. A true community of faith does not judge or isolate; it accompanies, supports, and sets free.

As we journey toward Holy Week, may we become more aware of His presence, more courageous in our response, and more committed to one another. For Christ continues to call us even now from death to life.

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC

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

From the Pastor's Desk

My dear Brothers and Sisters, greetings of peace and love in the name of Jesus Christ.

I have started the "Blessing Song" for those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries on the weekends, right at the beginning of the Holy Mass. The reason is simple: our parish is a family, and in a family we celebrate life and love together. We want everyone to feel that they truly belong and are part of this community.

Please also keep in mind that there are some among us who may not have family or many people around them to remember or celebrate their important days. For them, a simple blessing from the parish community can mean a great deal.

At the same time, we are all called to be a blessing to one another. Through our baptism we share in the priesthood of Christ as a royal priesthood. Beginning the Mass in this way allows us to pray for these members of our community and place their lives and intentions before the Lord.

Therefore, if you are comfortable, I invite you to gently raise your hands and join in blessing those who are celebrating. If you prefer not to let the congregation know about your birthday or anniversary, you are most welcome to remain anonymous. And if you are not comfortable raising your hands to bless, that is perfectly fine, please simply keep them in your prayers.

God bless you all,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



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.

Holy Cross Parish's Easter and Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Cross Parishioners, please note that on Palm Sunday, both masses, 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

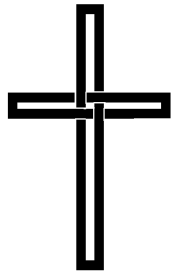


Thank you to all the volunteers that have signed up to serve at these celebrations.

There are a few spots that haven't been filled yet. If you are planning to attend certain services, please consider signing up for one or two of the ministries. Thank you!

BASKETS ARE NOW BEING PLANTED FOR MT.ST. MARYS HOSPITAL

Last year proceeds from 75 baskets and other plants helped the hospital care for many people. While all costs (except labor) 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.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

— *Thomas Merton*

Lent Reconciliation Service

The last Reconciliation service is at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Tues, March 24th, at 7 pm.

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>

Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger Memorial Bursary Program

Catholic students in British Columbia are invited to apply for the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger Memorial Bursary Program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus B.C. Charity Foundation. Fourteen bursaries of \$1,000 are available to Catholic students under 25 who plan to attend a recognized post-secondary institution in B.C. and demonstrate financial need. Students must request an application package by June 1, 2026, and completed applications must be submitted by June 30, 2026. To request an application, students should contact Jim Williams at jimw.kofc@gmail.com.



VICTORIA DIOCESAN BURSARY IN MEMORY OF FREDA SMITH

The Victoria Diocesan CWL Council is offering a \$750 bursary to a Catholic graduating high school student within the Diocese of Victoria. This bursary will be awarded to a student proceeding on to a form of higher education. Criteria and applications are on the website: <https://cwldov.org/application> The deadline for applications is March 31, 2026.

Development and Peace – Share Lent 2026: On Track for Justice

Integrity, solidarity, and the preferential option for the poor are the heart of the work of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. For 60 years D&P has walked with communities in the Global South to promote justice, peace, and dignity. In Brazil, rural life is disrupted by industrial agriculture, mining, and the Carajás railway, which severely degrade the air, water, and soil. Courageously, women who are committed to sustaining their families on their land have formed an association called Seeds of the Earth with the support of Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT), a partner of D&P. Learn about their work in our Mini-magazine and watch testimonies from Seeds of the Earth members at devp.org/lent. This Solidarity Sunday is an opportunity to support Development and Peace – Caritas Canada in its work with the poorest and most marginalized of our human family. Bishop Gary has written a letter to the people of the Diocese of Victoria, encouraging all to embody Christ's love through generosity and solidarity. Donate for democracy, the defense of human rights and social justice which aims at both the protection of territories and the environment. To read Bishop Gary's letter, please visit www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-share-lent-2026



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm. At this yearly liturgy, sacred oils are blessed and given to representatives from each parish in the diocese. These will be presented in each church on Holy Thursday and used during the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria (740 View Street), and also livestreamed at https://youtube.com/live/4CstVRsmU_A

2) St. Andrew's Cathedral is seeking a full-time Office Assistant to provide comprehensive administrative and clerical support to the parish. We're looking for someone with a welcoming attitude and eye for detail, who can comfortably prioritize duties and work well under pressure. A detailed position description is available on our website: standrewscathedral.com or by email: saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com

3) The Diocese of Victoria is now accepting applications for the position of Assistant Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization. The Assistant will help to carry out the primary mission of the Diocesan Ministry of Faith Formation and Evangelization. A job posting is attached to this email, and may also be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter.

4) All are invited to join Katesismong Pilipino for a Filipino Mass on March 29 at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria (2060 Haultain St). This Eucharistic celebration will commemorate Palm Sunday, remembering Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and marking the beginning of Holy Week.

5) New videos are now available in the *Journey through Lent* video series. 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/>

6) Rachel's Vineyard on Vancouver Island is offering a safe and confidential retreat from September 11-13, 2026, for women and men seeking healing and peace after abortion. To learn more or register, please email rachelvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com.

COLLECTIONS

March 15, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,285.00
Loose	\$ 452.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$4,099.91

Thank You

This week we want to express our gratitude to all the liturgical ministers who continue to offer their time, attention, and effort to help with the flow and meaning of the liturgical celebrations. Holy Cross has a multitude of sacristans, lectors, gift bearers, ushers and eucharistic ministers. Our community also has parishioners who are willing to jump in when needed and be trained on the spot! And regularly after our services, our coffee team provides refreshments to help build community with socializing. We are very blessed! Thank you to you all!

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

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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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Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761