

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, April 25

4PM MASS:

Pro Populo

SUNDAY, April 26

9AM MASS:

John Pigott+

TUESDAY, April 28

9AM MASS:

Seamus O'Connor+

WEDNESDAY, April 29

5:30PM-6:30PM

ADORATION

6:30PM MASS:

Sr. Judi Morin+

THURSDAY, April 30

9AM MASS:

Fr. Ian Stuart+

FRIDAY, May 1

11AM FUNERAL MASS:

Sr. Judi Morin+

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CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

TUES & THURS

8:30AM - 9AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

LIVESTREAMING

Saturday

April 25, 4PM

<https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCross->

This Sunday, April 26th, is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. One of the images of Jesus embraced by the early Christians was the image of the Good Shepherd. In our current, uneasy times, when power hungry and ignorant leaders send their people into combat, Jesus' reference to Himself as the Good Shepherd in John's Gospel is as surprising as it was two thousand years ago. Jesus does not compare Himself to a King with servants and riches. Instead, He assures His followers that He is the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd remains all night with his sheep, protecting them, looking out for them, and during the day brings them to pastures where they can be nourished. If one of the sheep becomes lost, the shepherd looks for it and brings it home. This tells us about who our God is. We can trust that a God who compares Himself to a good shepherd, is a God who loves us unendingly and is all merciful! That is the relationship that Jesus is offering, one of love and trust.

Jesus states that the sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd and run away from strangers. We must trust that we will recognize Jesus' voice. Jesus promises this to us. *When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.* Jesus does not deny that there will be others who will lie and mislead us from the path of truth. We live at a time when social media, news, and the internet are full of untruths, biases, and outright nonsense. We could be swayed by ideas that are false. But Jesus declares that we will know His voice. Among all the clamour and hype the gentle and quiet voice of Jesus who speaks of love, mercy and hope is heard. And we know to follow that voice because it brings us life. *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

Jesus calls us to live in this world very differently than the thief and bandit do. Jesus invites us to forgive our brothers and sisters unceasingly, to love our enemies, to refrain from judging and condemning, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The first letter of Saint Peter reminds us that when *Jesus was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.*

Surrounded as we are right now by the happenings of war and violence, displacement, and destruction, it is understandable that we become anxious. Fear can make it difficult to be attentive to God's voice. But if we take time to be still, we will hear and recognize the tender voice of Jesus. It is when we are quiet that we can reflect, discern, and consider our actions. It is in silence that we know the voice of our loving God. *And He restores [our] souls.*

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

Pope Leo XIV's Visit to Africa

Pope Leo XIV returned to Rome on Thursday after an ambitious four-nation African tour covering nearly 18,000 km. (11,185 miles). He closed his trip with a final Mass in a stadium in Equatorial Guinea. Tens of thousands of people gathered in pouring rain before dawn for a last chance to see him. In his homily, his 25th speech over the 10-day tour, Pope Leo told the Church that the Christian message means "every people is set free from the slavery of evil". He urged them to live their faith with joy. Throughout his journey Leo focused on unity, interreligious dialogue, and economic justice. He emphasized peace, human dignity, and he addressed the exploitation of Africa's resources, while highlighting the continent as a crucial, growing part of the Church.

The trip had its high-emotion moments --

Pope Leo broke away from a choreographed visit to a psychiatric hospital in Equatorial Guinea, to greet the patients, one by one, and pose for selfies.

Pope Leo, whose ancestors include enslaved persons and slave owners, prayed the rosary in Angola.

He made personal stops, he visited with the Augustinian nuns, his religious order, in Algeria, and he stopped at a table of locally made jewelry and picked out a necklace, featuring a tree of life design, for his niece.

In Cameroon, he travelled to the epicenter of a nearly decade-long separatist conflict and begged for peace.

In Equatorial Guinea Leo visited a prison. The inmates stood silently in seemingly assigned spots in the open courtyard waiting for Leo while a downpour drenched them. Pope Leo told them God loves them and spoke of their dignity. As soon as Leo left, the inmates broke away from their places into a raucous dancing chant of "Libertad! Libertad! Libertad!" (Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!)

The Pope's journey in Africa calls all of us to open our eyes and renew our hearts, urging us to act so that humanity may show a truer face.

Taken from various internet sources



Sister Judi Morin SSA

Sr. Judi passed away peacefully on the morning of April 14, 2026 at her home in Victoria, BC.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sr. Judi will be celebrated on Friday, May 1, at 11:00 am at Holy Cross Church in Victoria, 4049 Gordon Head Road.

There will a reception in the church hall after Mass, and interment will follow at Hatley Memorial Gardens. To obtain the livestream details or to offer condolences, please visit www.sandsvictoria.ca.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

God has, in fact, thought of us from eternity and has loved us as unique individuals. He has called every one of us by name, as the Good Shepherd 'calls His sheep by name.' *Pope John Paul II*

A good shepherd is tender; he has that tenderness of closeness, he knows the sheep one by one, by name, and he takes care of each one as if it were the only one. . . . This is a good shepherd, this is Jesus, this is the one who accompanies us all on the path of life. *Pope Francis I*

How important it is to listen! Jesus says: 'My sheep listen to my voice.' And I think it is important for all of us to learn more and more to listen, to enter into dialogue. First of all, with the Lord: always listen to the Word of God. *Pope Leo XIV*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER SILVICHAN

Father Silvichan celebrates his 47th birthday on Monday, April 27. We send you heart-felt birthday wishes from our Holy Cross Community. May God bless you abundantly as we keep you in our prayers.

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.

FREE DAHLIA TUBERS for first 10 callers.

That's right, great, fresh growth ready for planting NOW! Regular geraniums (\$5.50) and tomatoes (\$4.00) ready for May 10th pickup. Same date for baskets. Still lots of zucchini, green and yellow, basil, marigolds and the great "night sky" petunias.

Thanks for supporting the hospital (you may become a resident one day). Ellis Achtem 250 477 6754

Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and Conference - August 2026

Registration is now open for the 12th Annual Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and Conference. Families are invited to gather for a fun, faith-filled weekend of fellowship, play, and prayer, taking place August 20-23 at beautiful Nanose Bay Camp.

Details are at: <https://12thAnnualVictoriaDioceseFamilyCampandConference.eventbrite.ca>

Infant Baptism - Baptismal Prep for the Parents

Is it your hope to have your infant welcomed into the family of God through baptism? Is so, to prepare to have your child baptized, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. Please note that the next sessions available to take a Baptismal Prep course are Sat, April 25 (10:00 am - 12 noon) OR Thurs, May 14 (4:00-6:00).

ST. ANDREW'S REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Production of ANNIE_{JR}

Playing at Spectrum High School Theatre -May 7, May 8 and two shows May 9

Tickets \$20.00 each are available at <https://schoolcashionline.com/>

CHANCERY NEWS

March For Life – Knights of Columbus The Knights of Columbus invite the community to their March for LIFE & Dinner on May 14th. The event begins at the 12:00pm Mass at St. Andrews Cathedral, continues with a march to the BC Legislature, and ends with a ticketed dinner and guest speaker. For more information and to register, go to: m4lvictoria.ca

The Chosen is coming to Canadian TV audiences Salt + Light TV will air The Chosen beginning Sunday, May 3 in both French and English. The acclaimed series starring Jonathan Roumie brings the life of Jesus from the pages of Scripture to the TV screen in a moving historical drama. For airtimes, see: slmedia.org/blog/about-the-chosen

The Year of St. Francis The Vatican announced that 2026 will be the Year of St. Francis of Assisi. It marks eight centuries since his death. During this special year, Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimage to places of worship dedicated to St. Francis. More: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/the-year-of-st.-francis>

Oblates of Mary Immaculate Bicentennial The Oblates of Mary Immaculate are inviting people of our Diocese to support them in marking the Oblate Bicentennial (1826–2026) on May 21, the feast of St. Eugene de Mazenod. The Oblates played a key role in the early faith history of the Diocese and Canada. A Gala Event fundraiser will be held to benefit the Star of the North Retreat Centre, and develop a new retreat house in their mission in Kenya. If interested please register by May 7 at: <https://www.starofthenorth.ca/>

KAIROS Blanket Exercise In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish is pleased to announce the rescheduled KAIROS Blanket Exercise in the Parish Hall, on Saturday May 23rd, 9:30-12noon. It is an 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 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 questions or would like to register, contact Margie Noonan at margielnoonan@gmail.com or 250-589-6313.

It is with sadness that we tell you that long term parishioner Elsie Lockert passed away April 16, 2026. She was predeceased by her husband Patrick Lockert in July 2024. Please remember Elsie and Patrick in your prayers. We give our sincere condolences to the Lockert family and their friends.

COLLECTIONS

April 19, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2460.00
Loose	460.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1362.91
Total	\$4282.91

Thank you!

If you compare the lighting on the right side of the church with the lighting on the left side this weekend, you might notice a difference. The lights on the kitchen side of the church have been replaced with LEDs. This project of several days was led by our resident electrician Bob Francis. He was helped by his grand-daughter Serena and Ed Boomars. Bob told Trudy (who is currently replacing Sloane in the office) that he went up the largest ladder that Holy Cross Parish owns so many times in the last couple of days, it was as if he had scaled a 50-storey building! Amazing! Thank you Bob, Serena and Ed! Bob is planning to replace the second half of the lights soon.

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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UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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