

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 23, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, August 22

4PM MASS:
Pro Populo

SUNDAY, August 23

9AM MASS:
Charlie Lennox+

TUESDAY, August 25

9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

**THURSDAY, August
27**

9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

August 22, 4:00 PM

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

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse go to
[RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)

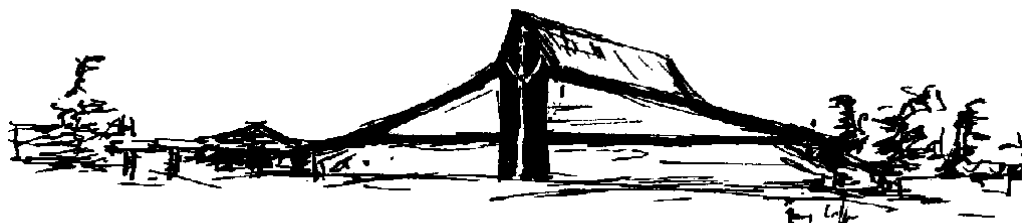
We acknowledge and respect the
Lekwungen peoples on whose
traditional territory Holy Cross
Parish stands, and the Songhees,
Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples
whose historical relationships with
the land continue to this day.

This Sunday, August 23rd, is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. During the last couple of months, we have heard numerous Gospel readings considering the Kingdom of Heaven. It has been described as a pearl, yeast, good seed and more. In today's Gospel, Jesus completes this discussion of the Kingdom of Heaven by promising Peter that he will receive the *keys of the kingdom of heaven*. In many civilizations, receiving the keys to a city or country was and is an honour, a symbol of welcome, acknowledging the value of the person receiving the keys. When Jesus pledged the keys of the *kingdom of heaven* to Peter, it meant all of that and far more. The Kingdom of Heaven is nothing like the kingdoms on earth which eventually fade and disappear. The Kingdom of Heaven is a person, the person of Jesus, as recently shared by Bishop Gary. Jesus said to Peter, *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven*. Jesus was going to give Himself to Peter to give him the means of becoming part of the Body of Christ. Who was this man to whom Jesus gave this beautiful promise? Peter was a fisherman, and though he loved Jesus and knew Jesus, he betrayed Him. Yet, Jesus forgave him. This Peter received *the keys to the kingdom of heaven*. This Peter was honoured, welcomed, valued, and invited to belong to the Kingdom, to belong to Jesus.

At the moment that Jesus promised the keys to Peter, He promised them to each one of us. Like Peter, we stand up for Jesus at times and other times we betray Him. And yet, like Peter, we are honoured, welcomed, valued, and invited to belong to the Kingdom, to belong to Jesus. Jesus gave himself to us on the cross and continues to give himself to us every moment of every day. The *keys to the kingdom of heaven* allow us to be part of the Body of Christ. These precious keys are not just a symbol of honour and welcome. These keys help us understand that the Kingdom of Heaven is here – right now – in this space and time. Jesus is with us right now. We belong!

Before Jesus told Peter that he would receive the keys to the Kingdom, He stated that Peter would be the foundation of His church – the rock. What an overwhelming responsibility, but never to be shouldered alone, always with the Holy Spirit. Like Peter, every one of us is called to help build the church. We all have something to contribute to the building of the faith community. Everyone of us is called to forgive, to love, to encourage, to support, to include. But we cannot do it alone, we could not possibly build the Kingdom without Jesus' grace and Spirit. The keys open our hearts and minds to the voice, presence, and love of Jesus. *On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.*

Tanya Taft



Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Fall 2026

The Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 12:00, starting Sept 26 and running until Nov 28 (with no session on October 10). Register through the office. Zoom option, or an in-person option at the Holy Cross library is available. Please register with the office by September 17, 2026.

Children's Sacramental Preparation

Is your child aged 7 to 17 yrs old and ready to receive the sacraments? Register for Sacramental Preparation classes by Sept 30. Forms are available on the Religious Education page on the website holycrossvictoria.org. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross. For more details, contact Tanya Taft, ttaft@rcdvictoria.org.

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Pilgrimage

Calling all youth aged 19 to 35! Are you interested in joining our Diocese on a pilgrimage to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea? If you or anyone you know are interested in learning more about this potentially life changing pilgrimage, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/dQZVd6EDpZ>.

UVic Food Insecurity Project: Collections for Back to School

The SEJC is calling upon the generosity of parish members to donate food to UVic students in need. Items donated in August, will be delivered to students in September at the Multi-Faith Centre. The green bins are back in the foyer to collect food donations. This month we welcome canned fish, meat, beans, pasta or sauce.

Baptismal Preparation

Are you planning to have your child baptized? If so, to prepare for your child's baptism, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. Please choose one of the next available prep courses below:

Thurs, Sept 10 (6 pm - 8pm) OR Sat, Oct 10 (10 am - 12pm)

Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.

Synchronous Marriage Preparation Courses are now available over Zoom. For details or to register please check our website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/marriage-prep>

Columbia Earthquake Relief Efforts - To learn more about what they are doing to help and to donate visit: <https://devp.org/en/colombia-earthquake-how-to-help/>

Appeal Administrative Assistant - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking an Appeal Administrative Assistant: Full details are available on the website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

COLLECTIONS

August 16, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,310.00
Loose	\$ 255.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,237.53
Total	\$2,802.53

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.

Rachel's Vineyard on Vancouver Island

Rachel's Vineyard is offering a safe and confidential retreat from Sept. 11-13, 2026 for women and men seeking healing and peace after abortion. Please share with anyone who would benefit from this type of healing. To learn more or register, please email rachelsvineyard-vancouverisland@gmail.com. You can also find more information here: <https://www.rachelsvineyardvanisland.org/>

CONTACT US

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Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn /

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