

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 20, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 19

4PM MASS: Charlie Lennox+

SUNDAY, September 20

9AM MASS : Pro Populo

TUESDAY, September 22

9AM MASS:

Mercy, Nicholas and Ranjith+

WEDNESDAY, September 23

6:30PM MASS: Bob Das+

THURSDAY, September 24

9AM MASS:

Brendan Henry+

FRIDAY, September 25

9AM MASS:

Brendan Henry+

CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

WEDNESDAY

6PM-6:30PM

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING

SUNDAY September 20,

11:00 AM

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

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

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)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free; 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gain'd, to bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd, to turn, turn will be our delight, till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

The old Shaker hymn 'Simple Gifts' reminds us that simplicity is both gift and discipline: "'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free." Freedom here is not escape from responsibility, but the grace to stand where God places us without grasping, comparing, or proving ourselves. To "bow and to bend" is to accept the humility by which God turns us, little by little, until we "come round right."

This is a helpful way to hear the readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We know the saying, "You are only as good as your last performance." It can sound harsh, as though our worth depends on constant achievement. Yet spiritually it points to something true: we cannot live today on yesterday's faithfulness. Past graces are real, but they are not meant to become laurels on which we rest. Each day asks for fresh openness to God.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola gives us language for this daily attentiveness in his teaching on consolation and desolation. Sometimes we are drawn toward God with clarity, courage, and peace; at other times we feel distracted, discouraged, or closed in on ourselves. The point is not to panic at these movements, but to notice, discern, and respond.

Isaiah's words, "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near," become less a threat than an invitation. God is near, but we must choose to notice. Psalm 145 echoes the same confidence: "The Lord is near to all who call on him." Calling on God is an act of trust and simplicity, an admission that we are not self-sufficient and need mercy, direction, and renewal.

In this light, Jesus' saying that "the last will be first, and the first will be last" is not merely a reversal of status. It is a call to humility and freedom. We need not resent latecomers to grace or presume our place is secure by achievement or seniority. We are invited to begin again. Today is another chance to seek the Lord, to be turned, and to come round right.

Fr Erik Oland SJ



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral News Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Recently a couple of parishioners asked me what the intention of the mass *pro populo* was all about. Honestly, until a year ago I had only a vague idea what *pro populo* meant. But I have learned many interesting things working for Holy Cross Parish.

The term *pro populo* is Latin and comes from the expression *Missa pro populo*, meaning *Mass for the people*. In other words, the mass is said for the faithful of a parish or a diocese. What might be surprising is that saying a *pro populo* mass is a requirement for both Bishops and Pastors. According to the Code of Canon Law, it is a requirement for Bishops and Pastors to say a mass on every Sunday and on every holy day of obligation for the people for whom they are spiritually responsible. That is why either on Saturday (anticipated Sunday) or Sunday the mass intention at Holy Cross is *pro populo*.



As you know, all of us can ask to have a special intention for a particular mass, either for a deceased loved one or for the health or welfare of someone who is struggling. This practice goes back to the Early Church of the second and third century and these intentions are listed on the front page of our bulletin. But on the weekend one of the Sunday masses should be *pro populo*. That mass is for all of us, celebrated by our Pastor Father Erik.

Have a wonderful week, Tanya

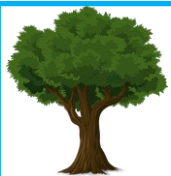
Hearts for Homes Gala

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Vancouver Island invites you to the Hearts for Homes Gala. Join us on Oct 3 at the Union Club of Victoria (805 Gordon Street, Victoria, BC) for a memorable evening to support affordable housing. For tickets go to: <https://www.hibid.ca/events/hearts-for-homes>



Baptismal Preparation

To prepare for your child's baptism, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. The next course is Sat, Oct 10 (10 am - 12pm). Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org to register.



World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 1 marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, a special season of ecumenical solidarity where Christians come together in prayer and action to protect our common home. Learn more about this season, read the Holy Father's message, and see how you can get involved at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/season-of-creation-2026-living-water>

UVic Food Insecurity Project: Collections for Back to School

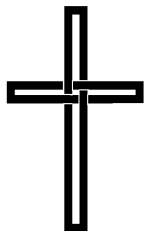
School is back in session! The SEJC is asking for food donations for UVic students in need. Items donated in August were delivered to students in September at the Multi-Faith Centre. The green donation bins are back in the foyer. This month's theme is canned fish, meat, beans, pasta or sauce.

Monthly Mixed Social Bridge

Another year of Sunday Bridge is planned at Holy Cross for the first Sunday of each month. The emphasis is social bridge in a relaxed atmosphere. If you have any questions please contact Tony Southwell at 250-882-8695 / tony_southwell@hotmail.com. Inquiries from members of any Parish in the Diocese are welcome.

Nepal Flooding Relief Efforts - To learn more about what D&P are doing to help and to donate visit:

<https://devp.org/en/nepal-floods-necessitate-a-deluge-of-solidarity/>



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfill them, for it alone takes them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves. All we need is to imagine our ability to love developing until it embraces the totality of [humanity] and the earth.

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope.

The truth is, indeed, that love is the threshold of another universe.

Quotes from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

Rosary Walk

Join the Legion of Mary for a Rosary Walk in recognition of the month of the Holy Rosary. Meet at Mile 0 in Beacon Hill Park at 10:30 am, Saturday October 3rd. Potluck at St. Andrew's Cathedral to follow. For more information, contact Faye Baligod at faye_baligod@hotmail.com



New Course on Beginning Apologetics

Join a 10-week apologetics program at the St. Andrew's Cathedral from Sept 23 to Nov 25, facilitated by Bernadette O'Connor. The course is entitled: "A Catholic Perspective of Steadfast Hope expressed with Gentleness and Respect." The 1.5 hour sessions will be held Wednesdays at either (1) in person at 2pm or (2) 6:30pm on Zoom. Please contact St Andrew's Cathedral office to register.

Inaugural GLORIA Christmas Market - Seeking Vendors

St. Joseph the Worker Parish is hosting the inaugural GLORIA Christmas Market on Sat, Dec 5, 2026. They are seeking local artisans, makers, and small businesses offering thoughtful Christmas gifts including pottery, handmade soaps and candles, artwork, jewelry, baked goods, or other beautiful artisanal products. Vendor tables are \$50. For more information email: awalkercollins@gmail.com



Fall 2026 Prayer in the Style of Taizé

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church (10030 Third Street, Sidney BC) will host ecumenical prayer sessions in The Way of Taizé. 3rd Friday of the month - Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, 2026 - at 6:00 pm.



Beloved Women's Retreat

Behold the Lamb, the 2026 Beloved Catholic Women's retreat, November 13-15 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. Come away for a weekend of faith, friendship, prayer and renewal and dive deep into the mystery of the Eucharist, with special guest Sr Damien Marie Savino, Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist from the University of Notre Dame. Registration is at belovedvi.com

Recollections for men and women

Join us for a recollection! Although we may spend time in prayer each day, at a recollection we go deeper into our relationship with God — in conversation with Him — guided by meditation and an examination of conscience. A priest of Opus Dei will be available for confession and/or spiritual direction. An evening recollection for women will be held this Monday, September 21st from 6:15-8pm at St. Joseph the Worker parish, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:30pm. An evening recollection for men will be held this Tuesday, September 22nd from 6-8pm at Sacred Heart parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

CCCB The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada - The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place next weekend. It helps support the mission of our diocese and joins the gifts of Catholics across the country in supporting the shared work of the Bishops of Canada - from providing catechetical resources for families, young people and parishes, to promoting respect for human life and the dignity of every human person, and accompanying migrants and refugees. Your gift helps strengthen the Church here at home and supports its mission across Canada. Please give prayerfully and generously next weekend. To donate online visit cccb.ca/donate.

CCCB Plenary Assembly - Next week the members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) will gather for the annual meeting of the Plenary Assembly. This meeting is bringing together members of the CCCB from across Canada for discussion on a broad range of topics affecting the Catholic faithful in Canada. Please keep Bishop Gary Gordon and all the bishops of Canada in your prayers during this important gathering. May the Holy Spirit guide their discussions and decisions, granting them wisdom, unity, and courage as they seek to respond faithfully to the needs of the Church in Canada.

2026 National Gathering for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - The Diocese of Victoria is delighted to be hosting the 2026 National Gathering for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Oct. 23 and 24 at St. Patrick's parish in Victoria. This year's theme is Praying with Children with keynote speakers Fr. Kevin Belgrave and Anna Boyagoda from the Archdiocese of Toronto. You are cordially invited to discover this beautiful method of faith formation for children based on Sacred Scripture and Liturgy with a Montessori foundation. Saturday, Oct. 24 is open to parishioners who are interested in learning about CGS as it continues to unfold throughout our Diocese. Registration link: <https://www.cgsac.ca/national-gathering>. For more information, please contact Joelle Dressler at jdressler@rcdvictoria.org.

The Catholic Way of Dying With Dignity: A Day of Faith, Accompaniment, Preparation, and Love - St. Andrew's Cathedral invites the whole Diocesan community to come for a day of reflection and conversation about approaching the end of life with faith, compassion, dignity, and hope. Hear personal testimonials and practical details about this important topic. Please register with the St Andrew's Office: standrewscathedral@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Telephone Visits

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: holycrossvictoria@rcdvictoria.org.

COLLECTIONS

September 12, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,235.00
Loose	\$ 405.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,723.34
Total	\$3,363.34

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the beautiful funeral of Bob Das last Saturday and the meaningful installation of Father Erik Oland Sunday morning. Both were special celebrations that reminded us that we are blessed to be part of this amazing faith community and that we once again are able to celebrate that we have a Pastor! A special thank you to all the people who did laundry last weekend! The funeral, the installation, the dishwasher flood, the mass celebrations – all contributed to numerous loads of wash, completed by invisible and faithful parishioners – thank you!

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321
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

Pastor: Father Erik Oland SJ
eoland@rcdvictoria.org
Pastoral Associate: Tanya Taft
ttaft@rcdvictoria.org
Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord
holycrossvictoria@rcdvictoria.org
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake
holycross-assistant@rcdvictoria.org
Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis
Pastoral Care Outreach Team Coordinator: Mary-Anne Tinney
mtinney@shaw.ca
UVic & Camosun Chaplain: Father David Shulist SJ
dshulist@rcdvictoria.org
Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761