

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 26

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, September 27

9AM MASS: Ilda Hilario+

TUESDAY, September 29

9AM MASS:
Brendan White+

WEDNESDAY, September 30

6:30PM MASS:
Adeesh (INT)

THURSDAY, October 1

9AM MASS: Natalie
Pietraszek (INT)

FRIDAY, October 2

9AM MASS

CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

WEDNESDAY
6PM-6:30PM

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY, September 26,
4:00 PM

[https://www.youtube.com/
@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)

September 27, 2026

This Sunday, September 27th, is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of two sons who were asked by their father to work in the vineyard. One said he would not work but later went to the vineyard and laboured as his father wished. The other one agreed to the work but never went to the vineyard. Jesus asked the chief priests and elders. *"Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."* This scripture passage is a pertinent example of the traditional proverb; 'Actions speak louder than words.' The second son's words were meaningless; his actions stated plainly that he was not willing to satisfy his father's wish. Every promise, pledge, and commitment that we make during our lifetime only has value if our conduct and actions corroborate our words.

Saint Francis of Assisi conveyed the same message when he stated: 'Preach the Gospel; if necessary, use words.' Every one of us is eligible to preach the Gospel. All of us are invited to work in the vineyard, to do the will of the Father. We do not need to study theology or have a degree in English composition. We do not need to reach a certain age or experience particular events. Every one of us, no matter wealth or gender, ethnicity or work can preach the Gospel. We preach by loving and listening, by showing mercy and kindness, by following the way of Jesus; loving God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. Every person is called to do this holy work.

Jesus continued the conversation with the chief priests and elders by saying: *Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.* The priests and elders were probably quite shocked at these words. However, Jesus' words did not mean that He valued the tax collectors and prostitutes more than the priests and elders. But, possibly, because of their suffering, feeling shame and rejection, tax collectors and prostitutes could hear God's voice inviting them to do His good work more easily. We all have experienced that suffering often leads to greater compassion and understanding.

In Matthew's Gospel last week, Jesus said, *so the last will be first, and the first will be last.* Father Erik Oland explained that with those words, Jesus eliminated rankings. Today's Gospel continues that message. God welcomes everyone who turns to Him, no matter how long it took them to recognize God's love. Let us not worry about categorizing others or ourselves. In God's eyes these classifications are meaningless. Instead, let us enter the vineyard and treat people and creation with reverence and tenderness. Let us preach the Gospel with our lives.

Tanya Taft



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral News Corner The Mass – a shared offering

“In addition to intimately linking them [the people] to his life and mission, Christ gives them a share in his priestly office so that they may offer spiritual worship for the glory of God and the salvation of all.” —*Lumen Gentium*, no. 34 (Second Vatican Council)

At the conclusion of the Preparation of the Gifts during Mass, the priest and the people enter into the following dialogue:

Priest-celebrant: *Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.*

People: *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

This dialogue draws attention to two closely related truths:

There is one sacrifice. The Eucharist makes present the one sacrifice of Christ.

Priest and people participate in this sacrifice in distinct yet united ways. It belongs to both, though it is offered through the hands of the priest, who acts in the person of Christ.

Because it is a shared offering of priest and people the faithful stand and respond. Their words affirm both the unity of the sacrifice and the distinct roles of priest and people in its offering.

The priest invites the faithful to unite their spiritual offerings with the sacrifice he presents and to pray that God will accept the entire offering. In response, the faithful entrust this shared sacrifice to the priest's hands for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church.

Have a wonderful week., Father Erik

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



St. Francis of Assisi Dinner and Presentation

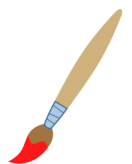
All are invited to a special Mass in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. The Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4th at 4:00 pm at St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria (2060 Haultain). Bishop Gary will preside. Mass will be followed by dinner and a presentation on St. Francis of Assisi - Space is limited for this part of the evening, so you must register in advance at <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/StFrancis800>

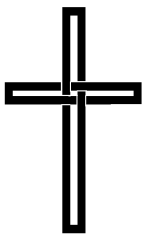
Fantastic Fall Bazaar at St. Patrick's Parish

St. Patrick's Catholic Women's League is holding their Fantastic Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 3, 2025, from 9:30 am–2:00 pm at St. Patrick's Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria). Come and experience all the fun of a CWL bazaar with a large variety of kiosks, a quality silent auction, tombola raffle, and so much more. All proceeds will support CWL charities.

Mount St. Mary Art Show: Call for Senior Artists

To celebrate National Seniors Day, Mount St. Mary Hospital is inviting local senior artists to exhibit their original artwork alongside residents at a community art show on Friday, October 2. Artists are encouraged to submit work in any medium, including painting, drawing, photography, fibre arts, pottery, jewelry, sculpture, and mixed media. Contact Diana Volonakis from Mount St. Mary at 250-480-3138 for info.





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bring many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger, and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds.

Quotes from Henri Nouwen

May Your Soul Rest In Peace

It is with sadness that we inform you that Shirley Bailey, a long-time member of the Holy Cross Family recently passed into eternal life. Though Shirley was not able to attend the church liturgies for many years due to poor health, many of us remember her joyful and loving presence. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband Alan and all her family. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

There will be a celebration of life for Shirley on Friday, October 9th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at The Cedars at 3710 Cedar Hill Road. If you are able to attend this celebration please phone the office at (250) 477-5321 by October 2nd so that we can let the organizers know how many Holy Cross Parishioners are planning to attend. Thank you!

Beloved Women's Retreat

Come to **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 www.belovedvi.com

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 September were delivered to students at the Multi-Faith Centre. The green donation bins are back in the foyer. This month's theme is non-perishable breakfast items, nut butters, healthy snacks (dried fruits, nuts, granola bars, etc.), Mr. Noodles bowls, coffee and tea.

LIBRARY CORNER

In conjunction with the Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30th, we have displayed our First Nation Collection in the foyer for you to browse and check out, if you wish. There are books for all ages, including young readers. After September, the books will be available to loan out to other interested parishes in our Diocese. There are some interesting stories in this collection; hence, it is worth taking a look!



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 hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org to register.

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 home, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The office will be closed on Wednesday, September 30th, for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Next Wednesday, September 30, marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As we continue the legacy of Pope Francis' Penitential Pilgrimage across Canada, we are reminded of the Holy Father's hope that "Christians and civil society in this land may grow in the ability to accept and respect the identity and the experience of Indigenous Peoples." This hope invites Catholics across Canada to listen with open hearts, honor the stories of Survivors and their families, and walk together on the path of truth, healing, and reconciliation. The Diocese of Victoria is proud to sponsor the South Island Powwow, a free community event that offers an opportunity to recognize and honour Survivors and their families in the spirit of reconciliation. Through traditional song and dance, all will be part of a celebration of Indigenous cultures, resilience, and community. The Powwow will take place at Royal Athletic Park (1014 Caledonia Ave, Victoria) on September 30, and all are warmly welcome to attend. Info at: <https://songheesnation.ca/south-island-powwow>

2. CCCB Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada - The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place this weekend. This collection 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

3. 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees - September 27th marks the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The day invites the faithful to reflect on this year's theme, "Even just one of these children" (Matthew 18:10). In his message, Pope Leo XIV highlights the particular vulnerability of children and youth affected by migration and displacement, and calls on Christians to welcome, protect, and accompany them with compassion and solidarity. To read the Holy Father's message on this day go to: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/migration/documents/20260811-world-migrants-day-2026.html>

4. CNEWA Canada Webinar: Hope in Action: Children in Need - This October 1st, join Catholic Near East Welfare Association of Canada for a free special online webinar focused on Children in Need – exploring the importance of education, the challenges children and families face amid conflict & economic hardship, and the extraordinary ways local communities continue to nurture hope and create opportunities for young. Register here: https://cnewa.org/ca/events/cnewa-canada-webinar-hope-in-actionchildren-in-need-stories-of-hope-education-and-resilience/?mc_cid=4debec9eeb&mc_eid=674850498b

COLLECTIONS

September 20, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,025.00
Loose	\$ 340.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,723.34
Total	\$3,044.34

Thank you

During the Season of Creation (September 1st to October 4th) let us thank the many faithful volunteers who take care of the Holy Cross gardens and the beautiful flower and plant arrangements in the church. The coordinator of the Garden Team, John Seale, and the co-ordinator of the Church Flowers, Ann Francis, lead dedicated and enthusiastic teams. We are grateful for the thought and work that is put into making our church grounds and church interior so beautiful. All for the glory of God! 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

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