HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 25, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY,
October 24
4PM MASS:
Deceased members
of the Virgillio Family+

SUNDAY,
October 25
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

TUESDAY,
October 27
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY,
October 28
NO MASS

THURSDAY,
October 29
NO MASS

FRIDAY,
October 30
NO MASS

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CHAPEL
CLOSED

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY
3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING
SATURDAY, October 24,
4:00 PM
https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch

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

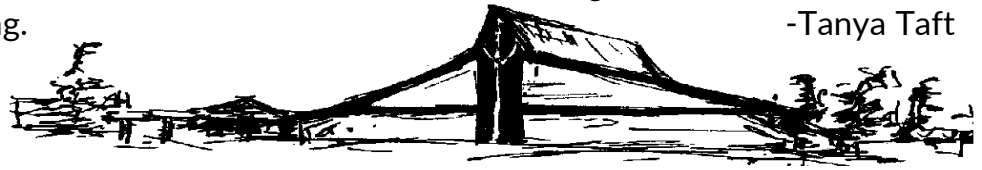
This Sunday, October 25th, is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today's Gospel by Matthew is one of the most recognised passages of the New Testament. When Jesus was asked by a lawyer about the greatest commandment, Jesus answered: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. . . . And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* The first commandment seems a given, of course we love God, He is our Creator and Redeemer. We worship Him, we adore Him, we praise Him. *I love you, O Lord, my strength. [You are] my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer. (Psalm 18).* But is that enough? If we genuinely love God, then we will want to know Him. And if we know Him even a little bit, then we will understand that He is entrusting us to look after His people, the poor, the marginalized, the rejected. The two parts of this commandment complement one another and can not exist apart from each other.

In his book, *Our one Great Act of Fidelity*, Ron Rolheiser makes this two-part commandment abundantly clear: "In the Gospels and in the Christian scriptures in general, the call to reach out to the poor and to help create justice in the world is as nonnegotiable as keeping the Commandments and going to church. Indeed, striving for justice must be part of all authentic worship." In other words, we can not separate the first and second commandments described in today's Gospel. To love God is to love our neighbor! To love our neighbor is to love God! And Jesus was definite that every person is our neighbor.

The beautiful first reading from Exodus conveys that from the beginning of God's relationship with the Israelites, God tried to help them realize that He expected them to treat all people, especially the vulnerable, with compassion. *You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien . . . You shall not abuse any widow or orphan . . . If you take your neighbour's cloak in pawn, you shall restore it to that person before the sun goes down*. These words were written close to three thousand years ago. If written today this scripture would be about the single parents, refugees, immigrants, homeless, isolated, and mentally ill that struggle and suffer. They are our neighbours and Jesus is counting on us to care for them.

This commandment of love is not a demand by God, enforced by threats if we do not comply. It is a loving invitation to belong to the Body of Christ. Jesus wants us to discover who we were created to be. He is telling us that if we follow the greatest commandment, if our actions and choices always reflect love; love of God, love of neighbour, love of self – then we will walk on the path of righteousness, the path of truth, and we will find peace and purpose. As described by Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, *we will serve a living and true God* and we will belong.

-Tanya Taft



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral News Corner

The Ignatian Examen

The Ignatian Examen, or Examination of Consciousness, is a cherished practice in Ignatian and Jesuit spirituality. In just five to ten minutes of gentle reflection and prayer, it invites us to look back on our day and notice how God has been lovingly present in its ordinary moments. Here is the Examen as I shared it in a recent homily:

1. Take a quiet breath and gently become aware that you are held in God's loving presence.

2. Look back over the past day with gratitude. Where did you receive care, encouragement, or grace? Where did your actions reflect God's loving desire for you and for others? Rest for a moment with one gift and give thanks.

3. With honesty and gentleness, notice where you resisted love, neglected creation, or failed to bear good fruit. Where did your actions fall short of God's loving desire? Entrust these moments to God and ask for mercy, confident that you are met with compassion.

4. Turn gently toward the day ahead. What one loving and concrete response might God be inviting you to make? Hold that invitation in your heart, and ask for the grace and courage to follow where God leads.

Finish the prayer with an Our Father.

Father Erik SJ

Office and Church Are Closed

Due to necessary carpet and floor cleaning, the church and office are closed from October 26-30th. Parishioners, volunteers and committee groups are asked to not enter the building to allow for the cleaners to complete their work. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Bishop's Appeal

Bishop's Appeal: Be the Light. Many thanks and gratitude to all of you that have already contributed to this year's Appeal. Information about the Diocesan Appeal is at https://www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal. Our parish goals are to support Foie et Joie in Haiti and the Cridge Center's Acquired Brain Injury program here in Victoria. More about these projects will be shared at mass and in the foyer. PLEASE NOTE: If you are donating online or with an e-transfer please indicate, where appropriate or possible, that you are a Holy Cross parishioner so that the funds are attributed to our total.



Universal Prayer Service Friday November 6th, 2026, 7:00 pm

Please join us for an hour of universal prayer at the Holy Cross Parish on **November 6th, 2026, 7:00 pm**. There will be readings, music and chants, candles, silence and prayer. Everyone is welcome!

QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Jesus' commandment never wishes to destroy life, but rather to preserve, strengthen, and heal life. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

It is not that we keep His commandments first and that then He loves but that He loves us and then we keep His commandments. This is that grace which is revealed to the humble but hidden from the proud.

Saint Augustine

Free Public Talk Sunday, November 1st, 2026, 10:15 am Holy Cross Parish Center

The UVic chaplaincy has arranged for Brex Arevalo to speak on some of his work as an advocate for environmental and social justice in the Asia-Pacific region. He will be speaking at UVic Friday evening and on Sunday at Holy Cross Parish Center after the 10:00 am mass. His talk is entitled: *Navigating a just transition in the Wild Wild Waste*. The talk is sponsored by the Canadian Jesuits International and by Holy Cross Church. Everyone is welcome!

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 sessions available to take a Baptismal Prep course are Sat, November 7 and December 12 (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org to register.



All Soul's Day Mass November 7th Royal Oak Burial Park

On Sat, Nov 7, Our Lady of Fatima Parish will hold a Mass in honour of All Souls in the Mausoleum at the Royal Oak Burial Park. Rosary will be at 9:00 am, followed by Holy Mass. Celebrant will be Father Eduardo da Silva Santos from Our Lady of Fatima. Everyone is welcome

CISDV – AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Victoria (CISDV) Society will be held on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026.** There will be a private ballot election for a position to the CISDV Board of Directors at this meeting. The position is for a three-year term. Nomination forms may be requested from schools@cisdv.bc.ca and must be completed and sent to the Nomination Committee at schools@cisdv.bc.ca **no later than Tuesday, November 10th**. Potential Board Members must meet the following requirements for nomination:

1. Be a practising Catholic and an active member of a Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Victoria.
2. Not be an employee of the CISDV, an immediate relative of an employee of the CISDV, nor a student of a school under the jurisdiction of CISDV.
3. Read and understand the constitution and bylaws, policies 200 and 201 and the method of election.
4. Have a signed nomination form which includes two sponsors and Parish Priest.

For further information, contact Island Catholic Schools office at 250-727-6893 ext 240.

UVic Food Insecurity Project: Collections for Back to School

The SEJC team delivering food to the UVic Multi-faith Chapel noticed that protein items were scarce in their cupboard, so we are requesting donations of tinned meat, salmon, tuna and beans over the next while. Items donated in September were delivered to students at the Multi-Faith Centre. Thank you to the parish for your continuing generosity. It is greatly appreciated!

CHANCERY NEWS

1. Prayers for the Holy Father

We ask you to join the faithful across Canada and the world in praying for the continual healing of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. To read the release, including a letter to the Holy Father, from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on behalf of the Catholic faithful of Canada, visit: https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/prayers-for-the-holy-father-and-letter-from-the-cccb-president/

2. 2026 Diocesan Faith Day

All are invited to attend the Diocese of Victoria's annual Faith Day on Saturday, November 21, 2026. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 am at Sacred Heart Parish (4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria), followed by a speaker at St. Andrew's Regional High School (880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria). Our keynote speaker, Dr. Donna M. Beegle, will speak on *"Who Is My Neighbour? Relationship and Belonging with the Poor"* as we recognize Christ in the face of the needy and the suffering. Learn more about the 2026 Diocesan Faith Day here: https://diocesan-faith-day-2026.eventbrite.ca

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**.

COLLECTIONS

October 18, 2026

Envelopes	$4,312.00
Loose	$ 422.00
World Missions	$ 320.00
Electronic Giving	$1,712.38
Total	$6,766.38

THANK YOU

It is a beautiful gift that we can meet, pray, sing, listen to God's word, remember loved ones and receive the blessed sacrament in the absence of our Pastor, Father Erik. Thank you to the leaders of the Liturgy of the Word team for preparing and guiding us and thank you to all the participants for joining us. In gathering our faith is affirmed and we are supported by sharing the Eucharist, our prayers, concerns and joys.

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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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