

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 4, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, October 3
4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, October 4
9AM MASS:
Jose Pacheco+

TUESDAY, October 6
9AM MASS: Bob Das+

WEDNESDAY, October 7
6:30PM MASS:
The Sick And Suffering

THURSDAY, October 8
9AM MASS:
Tony Prybysh+

FRIDAY, October 9
9AM MASS:
Shirley Bailey+

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CHAPEL
Open 9AM-12PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
WEDNESDAY
6PM-6:30PM

SATURDAY
3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY October 4,
11:00 AM

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

Why did it yield wild grapes?

For the ancients of the biblical age, wine had multiple functions. Good wine was, of course, used for festivities and appreciated for its quality and flavour. Even more basic however was the fact that wine was often mixed with water because the natural antiseptic properties of alcohol helped make the water safer to drink. Hence, it was important to care for the vineyard and to guard it closely. Further, anyone who has tended a garden—or perhaps watched a vineyard through the seasons—can appreciate the frustration behind Isaiah's words: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? (Is 5:4)

When Jesus uses the same description as Isaiah to tell the parable in Matthew's Gospel for this Sunday, his listeners surely recognize Isaiah's vineyard imagery – the fence, the winepress, and the watchtower – everything prepared with care and generosity for this precious staple. And when the tenants reject the owner's servants and, in the end, kill his son they reveal that, like wild grapes, they have no respect for the careful preparation of this essential commodity. Their actions reveal what happens when something precious and important is no longer received with gratitude but used for quick gain without forethought for the consequences. The parable is sobering because it is an invitation to examine how we receive and use what God has entrusted to us.

On this day (October 4) when we would normally celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the parable has added implications for how we view and use Creation. First, we want to live in harmony with Creation. In addition, spiritually, we are God's vineyard, cherished, cultivated and protected by the Lord. His care is a gift, and within that gift is a loving invitation to bear fruit. As Paul writes to the Philippians, we are encouraged to seek whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, pleasing, and commendable. These are the fruits that can grow in us when we remain open to God's grace as opposed to the wild grapes that are sour and signify moral failure.

God is not like an entrepreneur concerned with profit margins or whether we have increased enough in value to justify what he has spent on us. God invests in us simply out of love – freely, generously, and without calculation. So perhaps the vineyard leaves each of us with a gentle question for prayer: How have I received God's patient care in my life, and what fruit is that love bringing forth in me? In God's gracious economy, what might I offer back today?

Have a great week – Fr. Erik SJ



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Dear Parishioners,

Pastoral News Corner

As many of you know, Pope Leo XIV recently visited France from September 25th – September 28th. It was Pope Leo's first Apostolic Journey to France and he was grateful for the warm welcome he received. During his General Audience on September 30th in Saint Peter's Square, he expressed his appreciation for the thousands of people that gathered to meet and celebrate at different meetings, vigils, and liturgies during his visit. He mentioned the Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, the vigil of young people in the Stade de France in Paris, the meeting at the Maison Bakhita (a shelter for people in need), the mass in Place de la Concorde, his visit to Lourdes and his meeting with representatives of various religious traditions in the city of Metz.

Pope Leo summed up his visit with the word *rebirth* and went on to say. "The Cathedral of Paris, which just seven years ago seemed mortally wounded by a devastating fire, has now been rebuilt and is more splendid than ever. . . . Its restoration was a test of the possible collaboration between the Church, the State, public institutions, and civil society. This approach made it possible to make the most of both the generosity of benefactors and the expertise of professionals and skilled workers. The synergy for the common good should be the norm for institutions, political and social forces, and all those with civil and economic responsibilities. This is the message I wished to convey."

At the end of his sharing, Pope Leo reiterated his gratitude to God and the people of France that this visit was such a positive experience with the hope that it will bear much fruit.

Have a wonderful week, Tanya

Employment Opportunity

The Diocese of Nelson is seeking a full-time Financial Administrator. For full details and application information, please visit <https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/>

2026 Bishop's Appeal

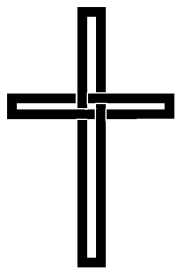
This weekend is the launch of the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. This year's theme is **Be the Light**. There is more information on the Diocesan Website (choose Diocese and then Bishop's Appeal), including a video by Bishop Gary. All registered parishioners will be receiving brochures with the details this week in the mail and updates on our projects and progress will be published in future bulletins.

Life Chain 2026

Life Chain is an annual peaceful pro-life demonstration in its 35th year in Canada. Participants pray for an end to abortion and for those wounded by it while holding non-graphic signs with messages like "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives & Heals." This year Life Chain will be held on Sunday, October 4 from 2-3pm at Blanshard St & Finlayson St, Victoria. For more information and resources go to: <https://lifechain.ca/resources/>

Religious Olive Wood Carving Sale

In the foyer, after mass on October 17 & 18, a sale of olive wood carvings are available for purchase. These carvings are made by Christians in the Holy Land. The Christians of the Holy Land face severe and escalating hardships. The sale of these carving helps our community of brothers and sisters overseas. Please note that ONLY CASH and e-transfer will be accepted as payment.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which you give your creatures sustenance.

A cat purring on your lap is more healing than any drug in the world, as the vibrations you are receiving are of pure love and contentment.

Saint Francis of Assisi

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 hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org to register.

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 by Bishop Gary on Sunday, Oct 4 at 4 pm at St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria (2060 Haultain). Mass will be followed by dinner and a presentation on St. Francis of Assisi - Space is limited for this part of the evening, so please register: <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/StFrancis800>

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.

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.

Katesismong Pilipino (KP) - 3rd Quarter Filipino Mass

Filipino Catechism of the Catholic Church here in Victoria are inviting the Diocese community to their 3rd Quarter Filipino Mass on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria. In loving devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and in celebration of the month of the Holy Rosary, we will gather for a Living Rosary at 6:00 PM, followed by the Holy Mass at 7:00 PM, to be celebrated by Fr. Dino Villadiego.

Beloved Catholic Women's Retreat 2026

Women are invited to the 8th Annual Beloved Catholic Women's Retreat, taking place November 13 to 15 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. This year's theme, *Mysterium: Behold the Lamb of God*, welcomes guest speaker Sr. Damien Marie of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. Registration opens Saturday, September 12 at 9:00am. <https://www.belovedvi.com/>

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

CHANCERY NEWS

1.2026 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Joint Statement of the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council and Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle - For this year's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, the CCCB's Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council has made a joint statement with Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle. Please find the letter at: <https://www.cccb.ca/letter/joint-statement-of-the-canadian-catholic-indigenous-council-and-our-lady-of-guadalupe-circle-for-the-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation/>

2.CCCB Plenary Assembly Recap - Last week, September 21 to 25, 2026, the Catholic Bishops of Canada gathered in Montreal, Quebec, for the annual Plenary Assembly of the CCCB. See a recap of the week's events at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops-plenary-assembly-2026>

3. Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee Accepting Grant Applications - The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee of the Diocese of Victoria is now accepting grant applications for projects that foster good medicine for people harmed by the legacy of residential schools. Since the Fall of 2022, the Committee has supported 24 local Indigenous-led projects and initiatives, granting over \$810,000 for the good work of reconciliation. Indigenous people and groups anywhere on Vancouver Island and the surrounding Islands are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit www.rcdvictoria.org/irf.

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

September 27, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,505.00
Loose	\$ 562.00
Needs of Church in Canada	\$1,280.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,723.34
Total	\$5,070.34

THANK YOU

This week, our liturgies have been celebrating our archangels and guardian angels. Holy Cross is surrounded by many different angels and one group of angels that we never see are the Church Watch angels. There are four parishioners who regularly walk or drive by the church and parish center to make sure that our beautiful buildings and grounds are safe. They notice benches and gates that are broken, litter and graffiti, and if there are no calls we know all is good. Thank you Church Watch Angel Team for your faithful service!

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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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