

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 6, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, April 5,
4PM MASS: Hilary
Riberio+

SUNDAY, April 6,
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, April 7,
7PM MASS

TUESDAY, April 8,
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION: Trudy
Golinsky+
7PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, April 9,
7PM MASS

THURSDAY, April 10,
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION
9:30AM STATIONS OF
THE CROSS
7PM NO MASS

FRIDAY, April 11,
7PM MASS

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CHAPEL
Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY to FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY, April 5,
3:30pm

The readings today take us into the realm of the impossible. Yahweh put water in the desert—impossible; Saint Paul tells us we will attain resurrection from the dead—impossible; the adulterous woman is condemned by no one—impossible. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once observed: “If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man’s life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.” While we cannot always know or understand the circumstances of our enemies’ lives, we are nevertheless called to forgive them, as Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery—and every other sinner he encountered. To know the secret lives of others is really God’s purview. Yet, because God forgives everyone (ourselves included!), who are we to hold a grudge?

The Scribes and Pharisees hold grudges as they dragged an adulterous woman before him fearlessly. Condemn her, exhort us to stone her, or defy the law with your nonsense revisionism! It was a fail-safe test of Jesus’ Jewishness, or so they imagined. The mighty Ten Commandments itself decried adultery. Jesus could not buck the Commandment without revealing his lawlessness. Yet Jesus has nothing to say about the Commandment—at least to the righteous men around him (he does speak to the woman later, but that is because she is the one endangered by it). Jesus refuses to discuss sin with anyone but the sinner, which is the sort of privacy he insists on in the delicate matter of personal failing. What Jesus does ask of the men in the circle is whether or not they are guilty of any sin.

Ah, the simplicity and frankness in this exchange! The righteous have not come prepared to examine their guilt, much less to admit to it in public. The elders leave first because they are the wisest and know themselves quite well. The others take more time but they, too, realize the jig is up. In the end the only ones left are Jesus, who has never yielded to temptation, and the woman, who clearly has. Unlike the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, this woman has made no attempt to present herself as guiltless nor has she denied the charges against her. She stands convicted by her choices and awaits a verdict. At the hands of these men, she would have died. She knows that. But in the hands of this teacher, the matter is taking a widely different turn. He does not condemn her. Nor does he dismiss her adultery as irrelevant. It is not. She is not. Unlike the religious leaders who saw her as a means to their venomous end, to Jesus she is a lost lamb in need of saving. So, he offers it.

We would like to believe she finds a better way and goes on to lead an exemplary life, but her fate is not the point. We are given two specific lessons in this story: the fate of those who judge others, and the mercy extended to those who judge themselves honestly. There is no doubt that Christian forgiveness remains an extremely radical concept. When have you found it most difficult not to condemn the sinner along with the sin? Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B writes... Forgiveness is what we need when we think we don’t and what we give when we think we shouldn’t.

Lenten blessings
Fr. William

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
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Victoria Diocese Family Camp & Conference

Families from across the Diocese of Victoria are invited to a weekend of fun, faith, and fellowship at the beautiful Nanoose Bay Camp! Enjoy time together in a scenic West Coast setting, with options for dorms, tents, or RV camping. Price includes meals, activities, and your choice of accommodation. Come to grow in faith, strengthen family bonds, and connect with other families.

- When & Where: August 22-24, 2025 | Nanoose Bay Camp
Register at: 11thAnnualVictoriaDioceseFamilyCampandConference.eventbrite.ca (Early Bird Pricing Ends May 4, 2025)
For more details, email: familycamp@rcdvictoria.org



Island Catholic Schools Showcase: The Joy of Music Concert

Come celebrate springtime joy! Island Catholic Schools invites you to a Feast of the Fine Arts featuring the work of Island Catholic Schools and our special guests, The Avalon Singers on Tuesday, April 15, at 6:00 pm at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium. Get your tickets by phoning the UVic box office (250-721-8480) or visit: <https://tickets.uvic.ca/>

Remembering Your Loved Ones At Easter

The Floral Committee welcome your donations for the Easter Floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one or a special occasion, please pick up a marked envelope in the foyer. When you have filled it out, it can be placed in the collection basket or drop it by the office. Thank you.



CWL's Spring Sale

The CWL will be holding the Spring Gently Used Clothing, Jewelry & Books Sale on April 25th & 26th in the Lourdes Hall. We are now gratefully accepting donations of men's, women's, children's clothing, and shoes along with household linens, jewelry, books & jigsaw puzzles. Items can be left in Holy Cross office or call for a pick-up of clothing donations at 250-595-5981. Please we are NOT accepting any other items at this time. Thank you for your support!

Share Lent Week 5: Solidarity Sunday

On Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada invites you to give generously in our Share Lent parish collection (or online at devp.org/give). We thank you warmly for your generosity. Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable friends and relations across the world. "As we work together toward a better world, your support strengthens not only our efforts, but the shared hope that we can bring about lasting change through solidarity and love. Your generosity is a testament to the boundless compassion that unites us all as one human family. May we continue to walk together in faith and action, creating a brighter future for all." — The Most Rev. Jorge Izaguirre, Bishop of Chosica, outgoing president of CEAS, a partner in Peru. Help create hope for and fulfil the dreams of the communities we support in the Global South!



Talize Prayer

All are invited to come pray in the style of Taize resumes for spring at Broad View United Church, 3703 St Aidans Street, 6pm on Friday, April, April 26 (4th Friday), and the 3rd Fridays of May and June, May 16, and June 20. 'Feeling we are not alone can strengthen our life.' www.taize.fr

Alastair & Dorothy MacIsaac's Funeral has been scheduled on April 12, at 11am at Holy Cross Parish.

QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:

To listen well is to love well.

—Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Forgiveness is what we need when we think we don't and what we give when we think we shouldn't.

—Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

Holy Cross Parish's Easter Mass Schedule

- April 17, 2025 - Holy Thursday – 7pm
- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday – 3pm
- April 19, 2025 - Easter Vigil – No Mass
- April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday – 9am & 11am Mass

Find other parishes services here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-lent-easter-mass-times>

LIVESTREAMING

**SUNDAY, April 6
11AM MASS:**

Find the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lt2E0lhxlw4>

**MONDAY-TO-FRIDAY
7PM MASS**

Find the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boV1CA>

St. Andrew's High School: How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery

St. Andrew's High School is performing, "How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery" from April 24-26. Tickets are available on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-high-school-presents-how-to-get-away-with-a-murder-mystery-tickets-1230782947929

MT ST MARY HANGING BASKETS!: A Message from Ellis

I made some extra baskets for you all. Still have lots of geraniums veggies, tomatoes and basket stuffers for sale, at the pre tariff prices and as usual all proceeds to the Hospital. Lots of Lettuce ready for planting now. Place orders by phone - ELLIS - 2504776754

Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital



Library: Lenten Books and New Changes

Did you know Holy Cross has an extensive library? Come to the office building during office hours to take a look at some books you may be interested in. Thanks to Martha and John Oleson, we have an updated labelling system and easy access shelving! Specific Lenten books have been placed in the foyer to encourage your Lenten reflections, please take one and return it when you are finished!

Library **Corner**

Mass in Honour of Health Care Workers and Volunteer on April 6

Bishop Gary Gordon will celebrate a special Mass on Sunday, April 6 at 11:00 am in honour of the dedication of those who work and volunteer in healthcare. Everyone is invited to attend, in person at St. Patrick Parish (2060 Haultain St, Victoria, BC. A KofC Pancake Breakfast will follow in the Lourdes Hall for those attending.

Pray for the Catechumens Celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St Pat's

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children ready to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. May they walk forward, cleansed of sin, embraced and loved by the Father. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them - the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, reverence, and fear of the LORD. Lord Jesus, welcome them to your sacred table to nourish their bodies and souls with Yourself, true Bread of eternal life. Amen.

Please welcome the newest member of the Body of Christ who will celebrate all the sacraments of Initiation on Saturday April 19, 2025 at the sunset Easter Vigil Mass at St Patrick's. Reception of cake and tea to follow in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall.

Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute is hosting a free webinar on Religious and Spiritual Aspects of Suffering on Wednesday, April 9, from 4:00–5:30 pm (PDT). To register, email CCBI at bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca. Please find more information here: <https://www.ccbi-utoronto.ca/2025/03/27/april-9-religious-and-spiritual-aspects-of-suffering-webinar/>

2) On Good Friday, the Collection for the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land will be taken up to support the Christian faithful in the Holy Land and sustain vital ministries, including parishes, schools, and humanitarian aid programs. This year, as many in the region face increased hardships, we are especially called to respond to their suffering. Envelopes are available in your envelope boxes for this April 18 collection.

3) UVic's independent newspaper, the Martlet, recently published a story on AI in K-12 education and its impact on post-secondary learning. Paul Rossetti, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools, shared how AI is being implemented in ICS and how the Vatican's recent statement on AI helps guide the schools' approach to evolving technology. Read the full article here: <https://martlet.ca/teachers-and-administrators-are-struggling-to-keep-up-with-ai-as-it-infiltrates-k-12-schools/>

4) The Alliance Française de Victoria is hosting a talk by Philippe Villeneuve on the restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris, offering an insider's view of the fire and reconstruction of the nearly 900-year-old monument. The event takes place on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, with in-person attendance open to all and a livestream available. Please find more details here: <https://www.afvictoria.ca/events/culture/la-restauration-de-notre-dame-de-paris/>

Please note: No 7pm mass will be held at Holy Cross on Thursday, April 10th. You are invited to join the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 7pm

THANK YOU BOX

Thank you to Mary-Anne Tinney and Lynda Joyce for facilitating and organizing the Pastoral Care sessions for Holy Cross over the past 9 weeks. All your work allowed for in-person learning and a great opportunity for community building.

We appreciate you!



COLLECTIONS

March 23, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,425.00
Loose	\$ 600.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 380.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,307.91
Total	\$ 4,732.91

CONTACT US

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250-889-3761

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

www.holycrossvictoria.org

250-477-5321

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9AM

Saturday 4PM

Sunday: 9AM