

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**April 13, 2025**

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**SATURDAY, April 12,**  
11AM FUNERAL MASS:  
Alastair MacIsaac+  
4PM MASS: Alastair  
MacIsaac+

**SUNDAY, April 13,**  
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

**MONDAY, April 14,**  
7PM MASS

**TUESDAY, April 15,**  
9AM MASS: Alastair  
MacIsaac+  
7PM MASS

**WEDNESDAY, April 16,**  
7PM MASS

**THURSDAY, April 17,**  
7PM HOLY THURSDAY  
MASS

**FRIDAY, April 18,**  
9:30AM STATIONS OF  
THE CROSS  
3PM GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE WITH HOLY  
COMMUNION  
6PM LEBANESE GOOD  
FRIDAY SERVICE

—  
**CHAPEL**  
**Open 9am-12pm**  
**TUESDAY to THURSDAY**

**RECONCILIATION**  
**SATURDAY, April 12,**  
3:30pm

Confidence radiates from the texts we read today. Isaiah has set his face like flint, knowing that he will not be put to shame. Paul tells us that Jesus emptied himself to the point of death on a cross only to be exalted to the glory of God. Luke tells us that Jesus followed his mission faithfully, never questioning that he would be met after death by his Father's welcoming embrace. Luke's gospel is a journey of contradictions. Nowhere do we see these contradictory forces at work as harmoniously as in Luke's Passion narrative. In this gospel alone the denial by Peter is both predicted, and his reinstatement assured. During the agony in the garden, Luke offers an angel dispatched from heaven to lend the comfort the disciples neglect. While the high priest's servant loses his ear in more than one gospel, Luke alone describes Jesus healing the man—among those sent to destroy him. Jesus will offer Peter a look of sympathy in the terrible moment of his denial.

These are all tiny happy endings sewn into a fabric of apparent despair. And yes, Jesus must carry his cross, but the synoptic gospels give him an African friend, Simon of Cyrene, to help him. Luke adds mourning women and other supporters from Jerusalem to accompany his sad way. Even a criminal crucified with Jesus will give him the extraordinary gift of final homage in his most wretched hour. Perhaps that is why Luke is the only synoptic gospel that cannot put in the mouth of Jesus those desperate words from Psalm 22 about God's abandonment. Luke's Jesus is companioned every step of the way to his death. From this undercurrent of kindness Jesus weaves three amazing final sayings from the cross. He forgives his persecutors. He promises salvation to the criminal who recognizes his kingship. And he surrenders his spirit gently into the hands of the Father he has known and trusted all along the way.

If such benevolent generosity is possible in the dire circumstances of Golgotha, then we're encouraged to consider how carrying a benevolent spirit into every aspect of the world's misery might bless us all. How can we walk beside those who are suffering and help bear their burdens? How can we offer healing to those who intend only harm? How do we extend forgiveness to the ones who do not love us? How will we meet our final hour: with aggression and bitterness, or with gentle confidence in God's ultimate goodness?

We have already begun the best week of the whole liturgical year. We walk with Jesus every step of the road to Calvary. Passion Sunday is full of doorways to grace. The passion story is not a tragedy. Jesus accepted his role, his mission. He humbled himself, obediently accepting his life and his death. And this is all for me, for us all. You know what this week is all about...Let love have the final word. I realized that the only thing I can do is let love have the final word. CS Lewis said...I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. Let love have the final word. Jesus lived and died for that....[continued on page 3]

*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://RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)  
or call 1-800-968-3146.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## Holy Cross Parish's Easter Mass Schedule

- April 17, 2025 - Holy Thursday - 7pm
- April 18, 2025 - Stations of the Cross - 9:30am
- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday - 3pm
- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday - 6pm (Saint Charbel Lebanese Catholic Community)
- April 19, 2025 - Easter Vigil - 6pm (Saint Charbel Lebanese Catholic Community)
- April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday - 9am & 11am Mass



## Stations of the Cross - Good Friday, April 18th, 2024

Join us for a prayerful walk through the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 10:00 AM, held at Mount Tolmie in Saanich. We will begin at the base of Mount Tolmie, at Cedar Hill Road and Maryfair Drive. The 14 stations will be placed along the trail as we reflect on Christ's journey to the cross.

## Tuesday Morning Men's Group Invites New Member!

Starting April 22nd at 9:30 AM, the Tuesday Morning Men's Group will begin a new video series: "Jesus and the Gospels" by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. The group will meet every Tuesday morning for this 36-lecture series. Each session will be followed by coffee and discussion.

## 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](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/11th-annual-victoria-diocese-family-camp-and-conference) (Early Bird Pricing Ends May 4, 2025)

For more details, email: [familycamp@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:familycamp@rcdvictoria.org)

## 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 by Thursday April 17th. Or call for a pick-up of clothing donations at 250-595-5981. Please note: we are NOT accepting any other items at this time. Thank you for your support!

## March for Life Dinner - Thursday, May 8th

All are invited to attend the **Annual March for Life Dinner** on **Thursday, May 8th** at **St. Joseph the Worker Parish** (753 Burnside Rd W, Victoria).

- **Doors Open:** 5:00 PM
- **Guest Speaker:** Gabrielle Raymond (CCO) - more speakers to be announced
- **Cost:** \$55 per person
- **Ticket Deadline:** April 24th

To reserve tickets, please contact **Bro. Gary Skabeikis** at: [garys235@outlook.com](mailto:garys235@outlook.com), Cash or cheque (payable to *Knights of Columbus Council 13356*)

Tickets can be delivered to the parish office by **Grand Knight Bro. Michael O'Rielly**, or picked up at the door. *Note: cancellations after April 24th still expect payment.*



### QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

—*Traditional African-American spiritual*

The Patient and humble endurance of the cross, whatever nature it may be, is the highest work we have to do.

—*Saint Katherine Drexel*

The essence of the love of God will always consist not in feeling good, not in remembering or thinking or understanding or imagining, but exclusively in fulfilling God's will at every moment of our lives and in submitting ourselves completely to his will.

—*Saint Maximilian Kolbe*

### LIVESTREAMING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12  
4AM MASS**

<https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**FINAL WEEK OF LENTEN MASS  
MONDAY-TO-THURSDAY  
7PM MASS**

Find the link here:

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

### **Almost last call for baskets and plants for MT. ST. Mary Hospital.**

Six pack of lettuce ready to plant, same with hardy African Daisies. Geraniums (5 colours) are \$4 and tomatoes (large and cherry) at \$4 and baskets \$50 can be picked up May 15th. Green and yellow zucchini, and BEST OF ALL FREE PUMKINS for younger family members. Please call to order: 250-477-6754 - *Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital*



### **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!

### **Remembering Your Loved Ones At Easter**

If you'd like to contribute to our Easter floral display in memory of a loved one or special occasion, please use the marked envelopes in the foyer. Final donations can be placed in the collection basket this weekend. Thank you for your support!



**A former parishioner, Sadie Pittner's graveside funeral is scheduled for Tuesday April 15th, 2025 at 10 am 4665 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC. Reception to follow at McCall Garden's. Please call McCall to confirm your attendance: 250-385-4465**

[Continued from page 1...] Here are many who gave it all! In the face of tyrants ruling many places in the world take note and remember! All that will transpire is laid out before us, the remembrance that is central to Holy Thursday, the pain of the cross that is Good Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday. Are we ready to walk with Jesus, to follow the "way of the cross" this Holy Week to prepare ourselves for the wonders of next Sunday and Easter? Let us follow Jesus on the path of suffering and death. We will rise and sing our hosannas. In this way we profess our faith that in the suffering and death of Jesus, we and all humankind have found salvation and life.

Let love have the final word. Jesus lived and died for that.

Fr. William

# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria and the Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria are pleased to announce that construction is now underway on a state-of-the-art early learning centre at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Victoria. This exciting project is made possible through generous support from the federal and provincial governments through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund, as well as significant contributions from St. Joseph the Worker Parish and St. Joseph's School. Read it online here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/construction-of-new-early-learning-centre-at-st-josephs-school>

2) Mass times for Holy Week—including Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday—are now available on the diocesan website. The schedule includes times and locations provided by parishes across the Diocese of Victoria. Please find the list of Mass times here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-lent-easter-mass-times>

1) St. Andrew's High School presents How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery from April 24–26, 2025—a thrilling evening of intrigue, laughs, and unexpected twists featuring a colourful cast of suspects. There are four showtimes available, so don't miss out on the fun—get your tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-high-school-presents-how-to-get-away-with-a-murder-mystery-tickets-1230782947929>

2) On April 25th, Broad View United Church at 3703 St Aidans Street, Victoria, will host an ecumenical prayer session in The Way of Taizé at 6:00 pm. All are invited to join in this evening of prayer and song.

**Please Note: The office is closed on Good Friday**

## THANK YOU BOX

*A huge thank you to Joanie Bidlake for all the work she has been doing to help Holy Cross Parish prepare for the Easter services. Thank you to all those who have been assisting the past few weeks opening and closing the Chapel for Bishop Gary's 7pm Masses. Quite a lovely community has developed for that Mass. Thank you also to Fr. David from Port McNeill, who celebrate in Bishop's place this past Tuesday evening.*

## COLLECTIONS

**April 6, 2025**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,832.00
Loose	\$ 558.00
ShareLent D&P	\$3,515.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 490.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$1,307.91</u>
Total	\$7,702.91

## CONTACT US

**Pastor:** Vacant

**Executive Team:** Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar & David Begg

**Administrative Assistant:** Sloane Secord

250-477-5321 / [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 / [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Hospital Emergency Chaplain:** Fr. Sean Flynn

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](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)

250-477-5321

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays:** 9AM

**Saturday** 4PM

**Sunday:** 9AM