

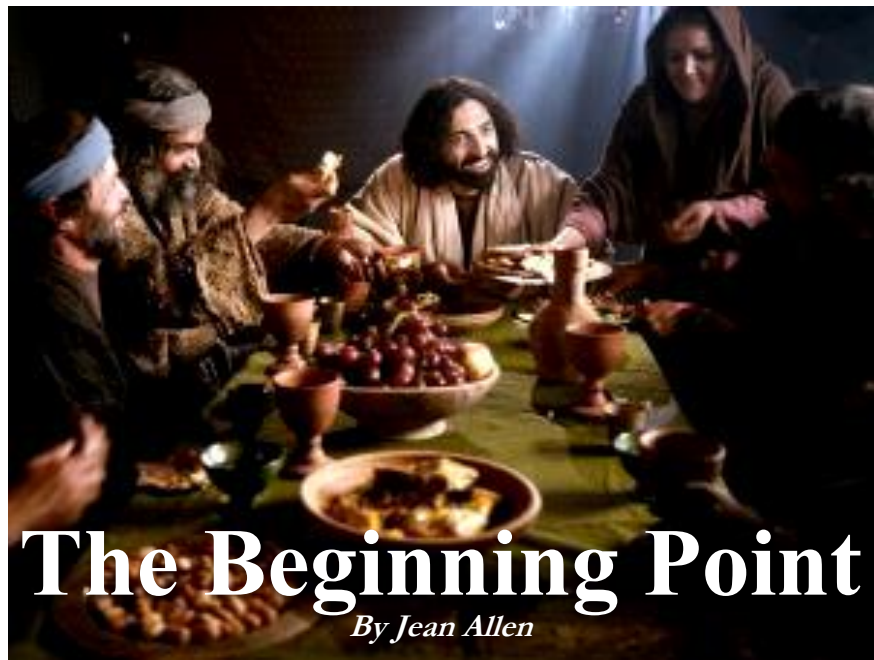


Sacred Heart Catholic Church

4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1
250-479-1611 | sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org | sacredheartvictoria.com

60
Years at
Nelthorpe

** The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord | 2 February 2025 **



The Beginning Point

By Jean Allen

Simeon's words, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel," echoes Mary's words in the Magnificat, "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate."

We still live in a world where the mighty, the rich and the powerful are the ones who are in control. It doesn't feel like the mighty have been brought down from their thrones or that those of humble estate have been exalted. But I'm reminded of the song line, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me," except, instead of peace in this instance, we could insert "letting go of the worldly definitions of power and success." This all starts with us, people.

Even in the Church we have great esteem for those who are well off and/or highly educated over those of humble estate. We value success and we compare numbers. It's honestly difficult not to when most of us have been taught to value all these things in school and at work. We tend to innately trust anyone who is educated, rich or successful and be a little less trusting of those with less education or those who are in a lower income bracket. As long as we Christians uphold the rich and the mighty, nothing will change.

Jesus trusted those of low estate. Those were the ones he called to walk with him, the ones he wanted to hang out with. They were the ones he entrusted with the birth of a new church. Paul was highly educated but it was his relationship with Jesus he stood upon, not his earlier religious education, which initially led him to persecute those of lowlier estate. Today we are growing more mindful of the Lord's love for the poor but we have a long way to go to a point where we seek out the poor and uneducated to lead us and teach us and where we esteem their wisdom and perspective.

A long way. Let it begin with you and me.

LITURGICAL YEAR C

Saturday:

Syro-Malabar Rite Mass (No Mass Feb 1st)
English Mass (Anticipated Sunday Mass) 4:00 pm

Sunday:

English Mass 9:00 am
Syro-Malabar Rite Mass on pause
Korean 3:00 pm
Vietnamese (1st and 3rd Sundays) 5:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm
Sunday on pause

Weekday Masses

English Masses

Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fridays 7:00 pm
(No English Mass on Wednesday evenings)
with Bishop Gary



We thank Bishop Gary & Fr. Benson Asuming for celebrating the Masses during Fr. Shijo's absence.



Fr. Frank Franz

will celebrate Mass next weekend: Feb 8 & 9.

Korean Masses

Wednesdays 7:30 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am

Temporary Parish Office Hours

Tuesdays to Fridays
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.

If you would like to register or volunteer for a Ministry, please send an email to sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

For Baptism, Marriage, Funerals, and Anointing of the Sick

Please contact:
E. sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org
P. 250-479-1611

Sacred Heart Parish Website >

For your convenience, QR codes are now located around the church.



It's
Catholic Schools' Week

February 2 to 8, 2025

Registration is now open for the
2025/2026 School Year.



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH



Thank you,



Fr. Benson Asuming,
for celebrating the Eucharist
with us these past few weekends.



Please pray for:

Those who have died

Betty Guterres, Laverne Knapik, Hanna Murray,
Rosa & Carlos Pimental, Irene Remedios,
Albina Rozenberg, Souls in Purgatory, and Lolita Tan.

Those who are ill

Mary-Lee A, Skarlet, Jon A, Patricia C, Cora C, Lesley D,
Kathleen G, Gwen J, Derek L, Lisa L, Diane L, Rafael M-Duke,
Katherine N, Edvige P, Dino Rinaldo, Davide R, Gaspar S,
Valerie S, Cathy T, Maria T, and Ornella T.

2025 Parish Donation Envelopes

The 2025 Parish Donation Envelopes
are available for pick up in the foyer.



If you do not currently have a box set and would like to begin using envelopes, call the Parish Office or fill out the form on the table near the envelope sets. Offertory donation envelopes are necessary if you wish to receive an income tax receipt.

If you are new to the parish or would like to start using these donation envelopes, contact the parish office at 250-479-1611, or email sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org to have a box set aside for you.

We also offer the following options for your financial contribution to the parish (see below).

1. Pre-authorized debit *(automatically deducted from your bank account on a monthly basis)
2. E-Transfers to sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org
3. Gifts of publicly traded securities.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY ENVELOPES FROM PAST YEARS. Since we have re-numbered some sets, if you use a set from a prior year, you will not get credit for your donation.

Thank you.

Options to Donate

E-Transfer:

The email to use is sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Automatic Debit Form:

<https://sacredheartvictoria.com/docs/PAD%20form%202020.pdf>

The PAD form is also available from the Parish Office.

If you use the Special Collection Envelopes, please remember to complete your name and address on those envelopes to receive a tax receipt. Information and links are also available on our website.

Canada Helps

Donations through Canada Helps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47781>

This is the new QR code for donations: also on display around the church for your convenience.



If you have any questions on the available options, or would like to make a change in how you donate, please contact the parish office.

Thank you.

Thank you for your contributions!

January 25 & January 26, 2025

Envelopes \$ 1,480.00

Cash \$ 269.00

Total \$ 1,749.00

Donations through PAD, Canada Helps, & e-Transfer will be reported after the end of the month.

Blessing of the Candles February 2nd



*“Let us celebrate the feast
(of the Presentation)
in a solemn way,
illuminating the mystery
of the day with lights.”*

-St. Cyril of Alexandria

The *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* commemorates the Blessed Mother’s obedience to the Jewish law of presenting herself for purification 40 days after the birth of a male child.

St. Joseph offered the redemption of the firstborn male according to the law of Moses. Together, they were in the Temple (Luke 2:22 -38) at the same time as the old priest, Simeon, and prophetess, Anna as well. Upon seeing Our Lord in Mary’s arms, Simeon recited the canticle that has become known as the *Nunc Dimittis*. “Now Thou dismiss Thy servant, O Lord... because my eyes have seen Thy salvation... a light of revelation to the Gentiles...”

The oldest written account of the *Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord* was from the fourth century, by a Spanish Nun, Egeria, who kept a diary of her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. At that early date, the Feast was simply called *The Fortieth Day After the Nativity*. Later it was called *The Encounter of Our Lord* (Gr. Hypapante; O. SI. Stritenije), referring to the encounter of St. Simeon with Jesus in the Temple; the theme of the oldest homily on the Feast, ascribed to Hesychius of Jerusalem (d. after 450). The term “Presentation” was eventually adapted since Jesus was presented to God in the Temple on that day (Lk. 2, 22). Elsewhere, the Feast was called *The Candles*, since on that day the solemn blessing of candles was prescribed.

The Mass for the day speaks of light, and candles used in the home are blessed. The blessing of candles represents Christ, whose birth illuminates a darkened world. The custom of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation began in the 17th century, to fill the “needs of the people” (I Prayer of the Blessing). Recorded in The Chronicle of St. Theophanes, Emperor Justinian I issued an order in 541 A.D. on the Feast of the Presentation for a candle-light procession to implore Divine Protection against pestilence and earthquakes that plagued the city. The Church’s blessing of the candles includes the bees, wax and the faithful. “This liquid comes from the labour of bees (symbol of purity) to the perfection of wax, and then goes on to bless the faithful.”

St. Epiphanius (d. 403) in his letter to the monk John of Jerusalem, mentioned that passing through the country around Anablatha, he noticed a building with a ” lamp burning.” He later learned that the building was a “Christian Church” with a vigil-light illuminating the presence of the Lord. Today, the presence of a burning vigil-light still indicates the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist in the Tabernacle, and on the Altar.

It is interesting that on the following day, February 3rd, for the Feast of St. Blaise, candles are used in the blessing of throats.

Development & Peace

Caritas Canada’s Petition
Campaign



Development
and Peace
CARITAS CANADA

Support Peasant and Rural Communities!

Peasant communities in the Global South work hard to protect their rights to land, water, seeds, and a healthy environment. Yet, these rights are often threatened by powerful corporations. Let’s urge Canada to adopt legislation ensuring Canadian companies respect human rights and the environment.

Sign our action cards, or the campaign letter at:
<https://devp.org/en/campaign/reaping-our-rights/act/>

Thank you to everyone who promoted the 2024 Appeal, "Sharing God's Gifts." We have raised an impressive \$844,963.07. Opportunity for donations have been extended up to February 5, 2025.



On December 30, 2024, the federal government announced plans to amend the Income Tax Act that will extend the deadline for donations eligible for tax benefits for the 2024 tax year to February 28, 2025. At the Diocese, tax receipts will be processed as usual in early February, with an additional batch in March for donations received in January and February. Donors will have the option to decide which tax year their additional tax receipt will apply to. To donate, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal>.

Parish Goal: \$ 44,000.00 Received: \$ 50,348.93 Number of Gifts: 154

Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program



Applications accepted from Jan 1 until Jun 30, 2025.
The Terms of Reference: <https://kofcbc.org/bursary-program-2025/>
Requests for application should be addressed to:
Christopher Chen – State Bursary Chairman
Knights of Columbus BC Charity Foundation
#333 – 1231 Pacific Boulevard, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z-0E2
Or email: chrischen.kofc@gmail.com



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we learn of the first sword in Mary's heart: the knowledge of her Son's death. Though many would live forever in fear, Mary found courage in faith in the Lord.

Your gift to the poor can bring the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, with loneliness and fear.

To join the Society, please contact Georgina:
mgvshort@telus.net or call 250-727-2615

Donate online and specify "Sacred Heart Parish":
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-of-vancouver-island/>

All cheques: "Society of St. Vincent de Paul".



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Thursdays, 11:45 am | Parish Hall

We welcome newcomers.

For more information, please contact Margie Noonan
250-589-6313 or margielnoonan@gmail.com.



From the Diocese

Knights of Columbus Dinner/Silent Auction for Wheelchairs for Ukraine



Saturday, February 8, 6 pm, St. Joseph the Worker Parish Hall

The wheelchairs will offer a new lease on life to recipients, to help them regain independence and dignity. Participants may bid on a variety of unique items and experiences. There will be live music, door prizes, and a 50/50 draw. Come have a fun evening while supporting a great cause!

Dinner by the renowned Casanova Catering.

Tickets are \$45 per person, available from:

Frank Peters mmleckenby@hotmail.com 250-893-616

Joseph Cavin joseph.cavin@gmail.com 778-533-0405

Jim O'Reilly jeoreilly@shaw.ca 250-888-3496

Catholic Schools' Week Feb 2-8, 2025



Today marks the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week (CSW). The theme this year is Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith.

Every year, Catholic schools join together to share the importance and value of Catholic education to the Church and society as a whole. There are five Catholic Schools in the Diocese (four elementary and one high school) educating approximately 1515 students in the communities of Port Alberni, Duncan, and Victoria.

On behalf of all the Catholic schools in the diocese, thank you for your ongoing support whether it is through prayer, time, talent, or treasure. This week also marks the beginning of registration time for the 2025-2026 school year. We invite you and your family to consider registering your children in one of our Catholic schools.

We remain grateful for your prayers
as we live our faith through this dynamic ministry.

Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

Seminary of Christ the King

February 8 & 9, Mission, BC | Vocation Live-In



You are invited to a Vocation Live-In on the weekend Feb 8 at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. If you are contemplating a vocation, and wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years, you are welcome for the Live-In weekend.

For more information phone 604-826-8975
or email rector.minors@sck.ca

Diocesan Bursary Catholic Women's League "In Memory of Freda Smith"

Deadline: March 31



This \$750 Bursary is awarded to a Catholic student graduating from a secondary or home schooling program in the Diocese who plans to pursue a post secondary education. For more information, and for the application form, please visit <https://cwldov.org/application>

Digital Health:

Helping Our Children and Youth
Navigate the Digital World

St. Joseph's School, Tue Feb 11, 7 to 8 pm

St. Joseph's School is hosting a free parent presentation with local registered clinical counsellor Shannon Husk on the topic, "Digital Health: Helping Our Children and Youth Navigate the Digital World." Come for some valuable insights for parents. Childcare is provided.



Please RSVP by February 4th
to the St. Joseph's School office or bbella@cisdv.bc.ca.



National Catholic Health Care Week 2025, February 2 to 8

The theme, "Caring for our Common Home," highlights the interconnectedness of creation and calls us to reflect on how our actions and systems can support a thriving, healthy world.

Discover resources from the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada:
<https://www.chac.ca/en/national-catholic-health-care-week/>

Pastor, Fr. Shijo George

sgeorge@rcdvictoria.org

Korean, Fr. Mark Park

dkpark@rcdvictoria.org

Syro-Malabar, Fr. Shijo George

sgeorge@rcdvictoria.org

Vietnamese, Fr. Michael Tran

michaeltran@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Chaplain, Fr. Sean Flynn

250-889-3761

Parish Administrative Assistant

Katherine Newton: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Children's Religious Ed. Coordinator

Lidia Moodie: sacredheartreled@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Liturgy Coordinator

Rafael Oei: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

RMSE Coordinator

Sindhu Merwin: sacredheartmse@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2024 / 2025

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Jeremy Côté

Jim Haffey

Peter Martin

Samantha Sherman

Will Podmoroff

Rick Perez de Tagle

Edgar Tan Jr. (Chair)

Andy Pak

(Korean Representative)

Sonny Huynh

(Vietnamese Representative)

Anjali Aniyan

(Syro-Malabar Representative)

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

Please contact the Parish Office:
sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org



PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parish Liturgy Coordinator

Rafael Oei

Altar Servers

Karla Montano

Extraordinary Ministers

Gilbert Santos,

Chay Santos

Floral Ministry

Eduardo Bautista

Lectors

Stan Dzbik

Music Director

Rafael Oei

Pastoral Care Ministry

Lynda Tan

Ushers

Marisa Tinsay

Lynda Tan

Peter Liem

Video Streamers

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Margie Noonan

C.W.L. / Prayer Line

Margot McLaughlin

Knights of Columbus

Stan Dzbik

Led By The Spirit Group

David MacIntyre

Moms & Tots

Genevieve Vuksic

Phone-tree

Elizabeth Olcen

Funeral Receptions

Elizabeth Olcen

Social Justice/D & P

Stan Dzbik

St. Vincent de Paul

Georgina Short

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE TO AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

These businesses support our Parish through their advertising, please support them!



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