

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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







Christmas Message from the Pastor

As we all gather this year to commemorate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, I am very grateful to be able to celebrate this event with this wonderful parish. It is a busy season for us all as gifts are bought, homes decorated, food prepared, and liturgies celebrated; but we need to stop for a moment to acknowledge what a tiny child born over 2000 years ago means to us now.

As Catholics, we know that gifts, decorations, and food are not the point. They are simply outward manifestations of our love and gratefulness to God for sending His Son into this world. In the midst of all the busy-ness of Christmas Day, it is easy to forget that the love of God is the reason we need to cultivate grateful hearts.

So, when we gather for Christmas Mass, look around at all the people and appreciate how this parish is such a warm family for our Saviour to be born into. Look at your own family and thank God for the gift of love you see in them. If you have a chance, thank someone from one of the liturgical ministries for making the Mass welcoming.

At the same time, remember that not everyone experiences Christmas as a time of love or abundance. Pray for the grieving, the families in conflict, and for those who are experiencing the stress of not having enough money. Let us envelope them with our care and concern.



To all the families of Sacred Heart: Blogoslawionych Świat Bożego Narodzenia.

A blessed Christmas to you!

Fr. Jan, SDS

Fr. Jan Grotkowski, SDS & the staff of Sacred Heart Parish

Wish you a most Blessed Christmas & a Joyous, Healthy, & Prosperous New Year!





We thank the Syro-Malabar Community

for being a part of Sacred Heart Parish since 2016, and congratulate them on their new home in St. Joseph the Worker Parish with Fr. Shijo Ottaplackal George, VC.

LITURGICAL YEAR B

Saturday:

Reconciliation 3:00 pm English Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday:

English Mass (streamed) 9:00 am
Polish 1:00 pm
Korean 3:00 pm
Vietnamese (Dec. 25) 5:30 pm

Weekday Masses

English

Mass: Tuesdays to Thursdays 12:05 pm

Mass: Fridays 12:05 pm

Adoration until 3 pm (Sign-up sheet, in the foyer)

Korean

Mass: Wednesdays 7:00 pm Mass: Thursdays 10:30 am

Sacred Heart YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCzXJfSxennwmYIT4kPyUh6w



5 pm, Wednesday, 27 December

Come and sing Christmas carols as a parish community and celebrate Christmas with the ethnic communities of Sacred Heart singing in their own languages!

SEE YOU THERE!

The Parish Office will be closed from Sat, 23 Dec. 2023 to Mon, 8 Jan. 2024

for our Christmas Break.





Please pray for:

Those who have died

Blanche Dwyer, Joe & Jose de Lima, Ronald Eison and Bruno Rinaldo.

Those who are ill

Thérèse A, Jon A, S. F. Chaves, Patricia C, Darrell C, Cora C, Ludwik D, Lesley D, Kathleen G, Richard G, Pedrito K, M Lopez, Derek L, Lisa L, Mike R and Maria T.

Thank you

for your generous donation of \$240 this past week. Flower Donation envelopes are available at the entrance of the church.



2024 Parish Donation Envelopes



Dear Parishioners,

Donation Envelopes are ready for pick up in the church foyer. Please do not use them until January 1st, 2024.

Please inform the Parish Office if you have moved and have a new postal address, or a new email address or phone numbers.

If you do not have Donation Envelopes and would like a box, or if you wish to discontinue using the Donation Envelopes, please inform the Parish Office. Thank you.

Donation Envelopes are beneficial if you make weekly contributions to the parish. The Donation Envelopes are necessary if you wish to receive an income tax receipt.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY ENVELOPES FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. The number may have been re-assigned and you will not get credit for your donation.

PLEASE DONATE BEFORE 31 DEC 2023 IF YOU WANT THAT DONATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2023 TAX RECEIPT.

Contributions Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

If you are PAD user, please remember to complete your name and address on the Special Collection envelopes, if you would like to receive a tax receipt. Information & links are also available on our website.

Options To Donate

E-Transfer: The email to use is: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Pre-Authorized Debit: Automatic Debit

(click here for the PAD form)

The PAD form is also available from the Parish Office.

Canada Helps: Online through Canada Helps

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!

Dec 16 & Dec 17, 2023

Envelopes \$ 3,201.50 Cash \$ 325.05 **Total** \$ 3,526.55

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

The Candy Cane



Over 400 years ago, the traditional candy cane was originally white sugar sticks created by mothers to be used as pacifiers for their babies. In 1670, the choirmaster of Cologne Cathedral, Germany, bent the sticks into canes to represent a shepherd's staff and started the tradition of giving out candy cane when he gave them out to young children to last the long Nativity service on Christmas Eve.



In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant, August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, introduced the Christmas Tree to America, decorating a spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. Then in the 1900s, peppermint was added to the mix and a candy maker in Indiana added stripes of red to witness to Christ's sacrifice and love. While the name of that candy maker was not documented, today the Martinsville Candy Kitchen, established in 1919 by Greek immigrant Jimmy Zapapas, is famous for their candy cane.



- * The shape of the candy cane represents "J" for Jesus Christ, or a shepherd's crook representing our Good Shepherd.
- The red stripes represent the scourging of our Lord, and the blood that was shed in atonement for our sins.
- * The white represents the purification of souls through the blood shed by Jesus on the cross, and the purity of Jesus, and Mary, our Mother.
- The green is the evergreen unchanging truth of Christ's earthly mission, and the compassionate love that is embodied in the Covenant of God fulfilled through Jesus Christ.



So while we celebrate the joyful birth of our Lord on Christmas Day, the candy cane given out during each Christmas Season also serves to remind us that the Christ Child was born into this world to fulfil the Covenant of God through the Redemption Story that leads to the events of Holy Week and Easter. All from a little candy cane.

(The Legend of the Candy Cane, Walburg, Lori & Bernardin, James, 1997, Zondervan Publishing House, Michigan; https://www.martinsvillecandykitchen.com [accessed: 18 Dec 2023])



In 2009, the Order of the Knights of Columbus launched 'Coats for Kids' to give children in need the gift of warmth in the coldest months. This

winter marks the one millionth coat to be given. Know that when you support the Knights' lottery, pancake breakfast, you help fund this program.

Your help is appreciated. "Thank you" from the Knights and the Kids.



Moms & Tots

Come for the company and faith-sharing between mothers. Parents and caregivers are welcome as well. The Parish Hall, Mondays, 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Please contact: Chantal: momstots.shvic@gmail.com

Anawim is asking for assistance.

A collection box is now in the church foyer THIS WEEKEND to accept donations of NEW CLOTHING: items such as jeans, jackets, socks, underwear, shirts, raingear and any new items of clothes that may be used as gifts to the residents of the two houses, and guests from the drop-in program.

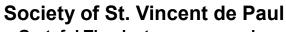




Anawim's Christmas Tree Sale is on at 973 Caledonia Avenue.

Thank you for your support of Anawim.





Grateful Thanks to everyone who turned up to support the

Christmas Charity Concert

with the Greater Victoria Concert Band Jr. last Saturday!



Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

For monetary donations, please specify that it is for the "SCO Food Pantry". Cheques: "Society of St. Vincent de Paul".

Donate online and specify Sacred Heart Parish at: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-depaul-of-vancouver-island/.



St. Andrew's High School Bottle Drive!

Save your refundable bottles and cans and support students going to Spain in 2024. Drop them off on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at St. Andrew's (on McKenzie Avenue) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Thank you for your support.



The Bishop's Appeal, Tapestry of Faith, is accepting 2023 donations until the end of the year. Please consider making a financial commitment to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Not only are you helping our parish, but you are making a real difference to our greater Diocesan faith community, our religious leaders, and Local Mission Parishes.

Reaching our parish goal also means that the parish will retain \$8,800.00 for our own project.

Please give prayerful consideration towards our Appeal and know that you are making a difference https://www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal

Parish Project: New benches and more lighting in darker areas. Parish Goal: \$44,000.00 Actual: \$34,924.32 Pledges: 137



From the Diocese

The Epiphany of the Liturgy: **Welcoming the Closeness of God**

St. Joseph the Worker Church | January 5 & 6, 2024

This conference is for all who serve in liturgical ministries. The presenters are Dr. Glenn Byer and Dr. David Pitt, liturgical and musical educators at US Catholic colleges. The workshops are on: Fri, Jan 5, 7 pm to 9:30 pm, & Sat, Jan 6 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

> For more information and to register please visit: https://EpiphanyLiturgyConference.eventbrite.com

For assistance in registering, please mail mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1331 ext 227.

Pastoral Care Outreach Training

This free, valuable series has nine sessions 9:30 am to noon, January 20 and running until March 23, 2024 (no session on March 9 for Spring Break).

Participants completing all the sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. A phone number, email address, computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, Internet connection, microphone, webcam, and access to Zoom are required. Please register through your local parish by January 12.

For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca





PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2023 / 2024

Marilyn Bojko (Chair) Jim Haffey Peter Martin Jeremy Côté Rick Perez de Tagle Edgar Tan Jr. Samantha Sherman Will Podmoroff

OUR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, 23 December, 4 pm

Altar Servers : Daisy, Gabby, Elias, Mara Lectors Sigrune F, Belle PdT

EMCs : Raul R Ushers · Miriam P

: Arlene S, Rafael O Music

Sunday, 24 December, 9 am

Altar Servers : Pio, Matthew, Michael Lectors : Helen M, Kathy W **EMCs** : Jeff K, Gilbert S Ushers

: Lynda T, Miriam P : Sacred Heart Choir, Rafael O Music

Thank you to all our volunteers

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

Sacred Heart Contacts

Pastor: Fr. Jan Grotkowski, SDS jgrotkowski@rcdvictoria.org

> Korean: Fr. Robert Ryu youngjinryu0758@gmail.com

Polish: Fr. Jan Grotkowski, SDS igrotkowski@rcdvictoria.org

Vietnamese: Fr. Michael Tran michaeltran@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Sean Flynn: 250-889-3761

Parish Administrative Assistant Katherene Newton:

sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Children's Religious Ed. Coordinator Lidia Moodie:

sacredheartreled@rcdvictoria.org

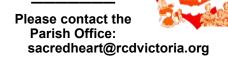
Parish Liturgy Coordinator Rafael Oei:

sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

RMSE Coordinator Sindhu Merwin:

sacredheartrmse@gmail.com

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parish Liturgy Coordinator

Altar Servers Extraordinary Ministers

Floral Ministry Lectors Music Director Pastoral Care Ministry

Ushers

Video Streamers

Rafael Oei Karla Montano Gilbert Santos Chay Santos Ruby Rivera Stan Dzbik Rafael Oei Lynda Tan Marisa Tinsay Isme Liem Peter Liem

PARISH GROUPS

Christian Meditation C.W.L. / Prayer Line Knights of Columbus Led By The Spirit Group Moms & Tots

Phone-tree **Funeral Receptions** Social Justice/D & P

St. Vincent de Paul

Margie Noonan Margot McLaughlin Rick Perez de Tagle David MacIntyre Chantal Côté Elizabeth Olcen Elizabeth Olcen

Stan Dzbik Georgina Short

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