

St. Joseph's Catholic School

757 West Burnside Rd. - Victoria, BC V8Z 1M9

Newsletter
October 31st, 2025

St. Joseph's School acknowledges with gratitude that we work, play and pray on the territory and traditional lands of the Lekwungen Speaking Peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues today.

Phone: (250) 479-1232 - Fax: (250) 479-1907
Email: sjv@cisdv.bc.ca
www.stjosephschool.ca

Out of School Care, Daycare & Preschool
Phone: (250) 479-1237
Email: sjvelc@cisdv.bc.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/272859616539977> (SJV Parent Support Group Page)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:



Dear Families of St. Josephs,

As we approach Halloween or All Hallows' Eve, (evening before All Saints Day) we recognize that this day has different meanings for different people. As a Catholic School we approach it in a similar fashion as we did with our Halloween Howl last week; all with a sense of lightheartedness, balance, generosity and a celebration of familial community. We are also challenged to connect this cultural festivity to our faith. As pointed out, the very name of Halloween points to *tomorrow* (influenced by the Jewish practice of the day starting with sundown- not sunrise) when Christians celebrate All Saints Day followed by All Soul's Day. In these celebrations we recognize our communion with our beloved deceased family members in and through God's merciful love. He is God of the living not of the dead.

Today a student gave me a little treat; a beautifully hand decorated chocolate skull (calavera). She has a Mexican background and she shared how they celebrate "Dia de Muertos" at this time - a day to remember and connect with loved ones who have "passed over". Its rich history has strong connections to the Christian Feast Days mentioned above. Upon reflection it led me to see that maybe some of the scary images of Halloween (skulls for example) can point beyond death's door. Maybe some of those images can act as a pointer or a sacramental, reminding us that death is not the final word but the doorway to another dimension: full communion with God, full communion with others. In other words, heaven.

On another note, we had our Saanich Police Team at our assembly this week reminding students about Halloween caution, safety and respect. They shared an important message:
Safety first! Travel in well-lit areas, stay with an adult or group, carry a flashlight, and wear costumes that are easy to walk in and see out of. Check treats for safety, and practice good road manners as we move from house to house staying on one side of the road and not zig-zagging.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable Halloween and a blessed All Saint's Day all while watching the Blue Jays win the World Series!

I share a few other sites on faith and Halloween:

<https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/contributors/its-time-for-catholics-to-embrace-halloween/>

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/201510/dont-be-scared-of-halloween-readers-share-frightful-memories/>

With Gratitude,

Glen Palahicky

Principal, St. Joseph's Elementary



CALL FOR CARDBOARD

Lion King Jr Costume Team is looking for large pieces of cardboard/foamboard. If you have any TV boxes or appliance boxes, they would love to take them off your hands! You can drop off at the office or to Mrs Whiteside's room. Thank you in advance!



LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY?

Grade 7 classes will be completing a service project and are looking for cardboard toilet paper rolls and your extra Halloween candy. These will be used to create Christmas Crackers for St Vincent de Paul as a festive addition to their Christmas meals. Please send these items in with your child and have them dropped off at the office or either of the Grade 7 classrooms.



LOST & FOUND

The lost & found currently located in the front hallway will be donated by next Wednesday, November 5th - all uniform items to the used uniform store, and any other items to St. Vincent de Paul.



ONE TO ONE AFTER SCHOOL VIRTUAL READING PROGRAM

Could your child benefit from extra support on their way to becoming a confident, joyful reader? ONE TO ONE is excited to invite students from across B.C. to apply for our 2025-2026 Virtual Reading Program. The program runs after school through the school year and allows children to make reading a habit by reading for 30 minutes, once a week, with a dedicated volunteer literacy tutor. Sessions will focus on building literacy skills and self-confidence; students will practice reading accurately and fluently with understanding.

- Is for students anywhere in British Columbia who are in Grades 1-4
- Provides weekly, 30-minute reading sessions from November 3, 2025 to May 29, 2026 (with breaks for school holidays)
- Is hosted on Zoom, using Epic! Books
- Takes place after school, between 4:00-6:00pm
- Spaces are limited and dependent on both family and tutor availability

Parents and guardians can register their child(ren) directly at: www.one-to-one.ca/register or contact contactus@one-to-one.ca with any questions.



ST. JOSEPH'S PURDY'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER CAMPAIGN

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1982987-131275>

Get a head start on Christmas shopping and treats for all while supporting our school! The deadline for orders is Friday, November 7th at midnight. After that, no other orders will be taken. Parents can pickup their orders on Friday, November 28th between 2-3pm by the school entrance. Any questions, contact Monique at monique.les85@gmail.com



HALLOWEEN FUN

Grade 2P is getting ready for pumpkin carving on Halloween with their big buddies from 5D. They can't wait to turn these pumpkins into Jack-o-lanterns! 2P also did an awesome pumpkin book report and turned a pumpkin into a favourite book character! 2H carved pumpkins with their buddies in 7W. So many fun ways to play with pumpkins.



2H carved pumpkins with help from their buddies in 7W.

The grade 6/7 teachers dressed as 6/7!





FYI - VACATION POLICY

Families are expected to notify the school of upcoming or extended out-of-town vacations. Parents should also notify the school of multiple short trips over a limited time frame. Parents who remove their child from school for trips during the school year risk delaying their child's academic progress. School is so much more than simply pages of homework to complete. Therefore, you are urged to consider carefully before planning your trip during the academic year.

The Local School Council established a policy to address the increasing number of parents who have chosen to remove their children from classes to take them on trips. It is challenging, as well as time-consuming, for teaching staff to prepare a complete set of work ahead of time, as several variables impact how class subject matter progresses during the time an absence occurs. Therefore, teachers will assign missed work upon your child's return to school...Undoubtedly, your child will require your assistance at home to catch up on the missed work, so we ask for your cooperation in helping in this area.

You may also be interested in knowing that Island Catholic Schools has a policy that requires parents to repay any portion of the Government Grant lost due to students being absent for any reason other than sickness. Students must be in school a minimum of 120 days by May 15th of the school year, or the school will lose a portion of the grant. The missed money could be as high as \$4,000.00

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Homework Club

Grades 4-7

Tuesdays & Thursdays

**When? Beginning Sept. 16
After school from 2:40-3:10**

**Where? In the Learning Support Room,
In the Primary Wing**

Intermediate students can bring work to do and come prepared to work quietly. Teachers will be there to assist as needed. There is no need to sign up to attend Homework Club! We hope to see many students in attendance this year!

FALL SPORTS PRACTICES

Schedule	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Before School	Gr. 6 Boys Basketball (7:45-8:30)	Jr. Dance (7:40-8:30)	Prim. Dance (7:40-8:30)	Sr. Dance (7:40-8:30)	
Lunch Recess		Jazz Dance (11:55-12:25)	Gr. 6 Boys Basketball (8:00-8:30)		
After School	Gr. 7 Boys Basketball (2:40-3:30)	Girls Basketball (2:40-3:30)	Girls Basketball (2:40-3:30)	Gr. 7 Boys Basketball (2:40-3:30) Swim Practice (2:45-4:30)	

THE WOLF DEN

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE GRADE 7 GRAD

Would your business like to donate a service or an item?

Do you know someone who owns a restaurant who would like to donate and support our cause?

Do you have any new items at home that you are not needing?



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The Grade 7 Parents Grad Committee is compiling a silent auction fundraiser to benefit graduation activities, namely, overnight at Camp Imadene and graduation day celebrations.

We would appreciate donations of any sort; These items will be posted online, via a silent auction platform, where our school and parish community will browse and bid on donated items. This auction will be shared further with friends and families of St. Joseph's school.

We are hoping Grade 7 parents help acquire these auction items! Please seek donations through your circles, acquaintances and associates, friends, and families, whomever you deem appropriate.

Our plan is to run this auction for two weeks around November to mid-December 2025. We would like to gather items as soon as possible and we will use the following platform www.32auctions.com. The silent auction site details will be announced closer to our goal live date, which will be early December.

Examples of items:

- *New retail items*
- *Business services*
- *Gift cards for restaurants and grocery stores*
- *Unwanted plane tickets to Bali or Italy*
- *Hotel stays, experiences, and event tickets*

Success and funds raised depends on your help!

Please see our attached letter to help with interest and obtaining support/donations.

**Questions/collection items. Please reach out to
Andrea Collins - awalkercollins@gmail.com**

GRADE 6 PARENTS

The time has come for the monthly bake sale hosted by each grade has come, and the wise and experienced grade 6's are next up. Please find all necessary details below.

Please note their bake sale day is next Friday November 7th.

Please use this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/N9ASdyo4uLwRBV6V6>

All help and donations are appreciated!

Krista Plesu

PSG



MONTHLY *Bake Sale*

First Friday of each month
with items sold for \$1 or \$2.

Classroom teachers will be
sent info prior to your class'
scheduled sale day.

Grade 7 - Oct 3rd
Grade 6 - Nov 7th
Grade 5 - Dec 5th
Grade 4 - Jan 9th
Grade 3 - Feb 6th
Grade 2 - Mar 6th
Grade 1 - Apr 10th
Kindergarten - May 1st

*A fundraiser for kids
enrichment*



Grads 2026

FUNDRAISER



Hot chocolate 2\$

Coffee 3\$

Cookie 1\$

Get yourself a coffee and a treat to go
while supporting our grade 7's!

WEDNESDAY'S - 8 TO 9 AM

St Joseph's Grads Committee

ST. ANDREWS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BOTTLE DRIVE

FUNDRAISING FOR THE
GRAD CLASS OF 2026



SATURDAY, NOV 1ST, 2025

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

SCHOOL DROP-OFF ZONE

880 MCKENZIE AVE

Bottles can also be dropped off at any Bottle Depot location and donated to the St. Andrew's Grad 2026 account via the www.return-it.ca app or in person



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

All are invited to attend the Diocese of Victoria's annual Faith Day on Saturday, November 22, 2025. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 am at Sacred Heart Parish (4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria), followed by sessions at St. Andrew's Regional High School (880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria). Our keynote speaker, Dr. Erin Barisano, will speak on "The Active Silence," followed by a panel discussion with Kathryn Lacerte and Bishop Gary Gordon, and a Listening Circle reflection. Learn more about the 2025 Diocesan Faith Day here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/nov-22-diocesan-faith-day-2025>

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a Catholic and Pontifical organization that supports poor, oppressed, and persecuted communities. Each year, ACN hosts "Red Wednesday," an event that raises awareness about the persecution and injustice suffered by Christians, while promoting respect, tolerance, and religious freedom for people of all faiths. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Further information and resources are available online at: <https://acn-canada.org/red-wednesday/>

Registration is now open for Saturday Sessions at the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium at Queen of Angels School (2085 Maple Bay Road, Duncan). Children aged 3–6 from St. Ann's, St. Edward the Confessor, and the greater Cowichan Valley community are invited to attend; sessions run Saturdays from November 8 to the end of May, 1:00–3:00 pm, with a yearly fee of \$50 per child. Spaces are limited to 10 children per session, and registration closes November 2. Register here: <https://forms.gle/BNiqGiFSgqHhFh7V6>

St. Patrick's Catholic Women's League is holding their Fall & Winter Good Used Clothing Sale on Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 9:30 am–2:30 pm at St. Patrick's Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria). Three special kiosks will also be selling jewelry, Christmas decorations, and household linens. All proceeds will support CWL charities.

All are invited to attend Carols of Hope – Together We Build, a joyful Christmas music festival on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 1:00–3:30 pm at Coastline Church (845 Caledonia Ave, Victoria). This special event supports the construction of the new Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Langford and will feature an afternoon of uplifting music and community celebration. For details and tickets, visit <https://www.carolsofhope.com/>

St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Duncan is seeking a part-time office assistant/receptionist for 16.5 hours per week. The candidate will be the welcoming face of the parish, providing reception and office administrative services in various clerical capacities. A complete job description may be found on the St. Edward's Parish website: <https://stedwardsduncan.com/>



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday: 6:30am
Tuesday: 6:30am and 6:00pm
Wednesday: 6:30am and 6:00pm
Thursday: 6:30am and 9:00am
Friday: 6:30am and 9:00am

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 6:30am
Saturday: 5:00pm (Livestream)
Sunday: 10:00am
Sunday: 6:00pm

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group All Youth Grades 6 - 12 are invited to join us on Saturday evenings following! For more information, please contact: SJTWYouthGroup@gmail.com



HOLY MASS FOR ALL SOULS

Celebrant, Rev. Eduardo da Silva Santos

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Rosary at 9:00 am – Mass at 9:30 am

ROYAL OAK MAUSOLEUM

at

**ROYAL OAK BURIAL PARK
4673 FALAISE DRIVE**

*'May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.'*

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

2025 FALL & WINTER

A Simply Smashing

GOOD USED CLOTHING SALE

FRI NOV 14
+ SAT NOV 15
9:30 - 2pm

*The event
of the year!*



Special Kiosks

AMAZING
JEWELRY



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



FRESH
HOUSEHOLD LINENS



Offering a large
selection of Men,
Women, and
Children's clothing
and accessories
(yes shoes too!)

SOME OF THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT ARE: African Heritage Assoc., Anawim House, ANCOP (Answering the Cry of the Poor), Birthright, Development and Peace, Coady International, Missions in Canada and abroad, Mount St. Mary Hospital, Oak Bay Volunteer Service Society, St. Patrick's/St. Andrew's Schools and Student Bursaries, St. Vincent de Paul - Rosalie's Village, Sanctuary Youth Centre, Sandy Merriman House, The Soup Kitchen, Threshold Housing Society, as well as church needs.



St. Patrick's Parish Centre 2060 Haultain St. (Parking and Wheelchair Accessible)



In-Person MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime

JOIN US:

Date: Sat. Nov 15 & Sat. Nov 22, 2025*

Time: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Location: Holy Trinity

6234 Spartan Road, Nanaimo

Cost: \$125 per couple - includes course materials, lunch, and snacks during the in-person sessions

***Both days must be attended to receive a Certificate of Completion**

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Catholic Marriage
- Children/Fruitfulness
- Sexuality/Intimacy
- Personality & Marriage
- Communication/Conflict Resolution
- Spirituality
- Wedding History & Liturgy
- Financial Management



Scan the QR code or register at:

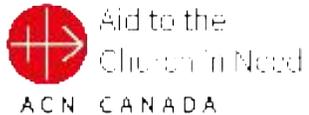
<https://in-person-marriage-prep-nov-2025.eventbrite.ca>

A remote /zoom option is also available

For more information, please contact the
Diocese of Victoria Marriage Office at: 250-479-1331
or email: marriageprep@rcdvictoria.org



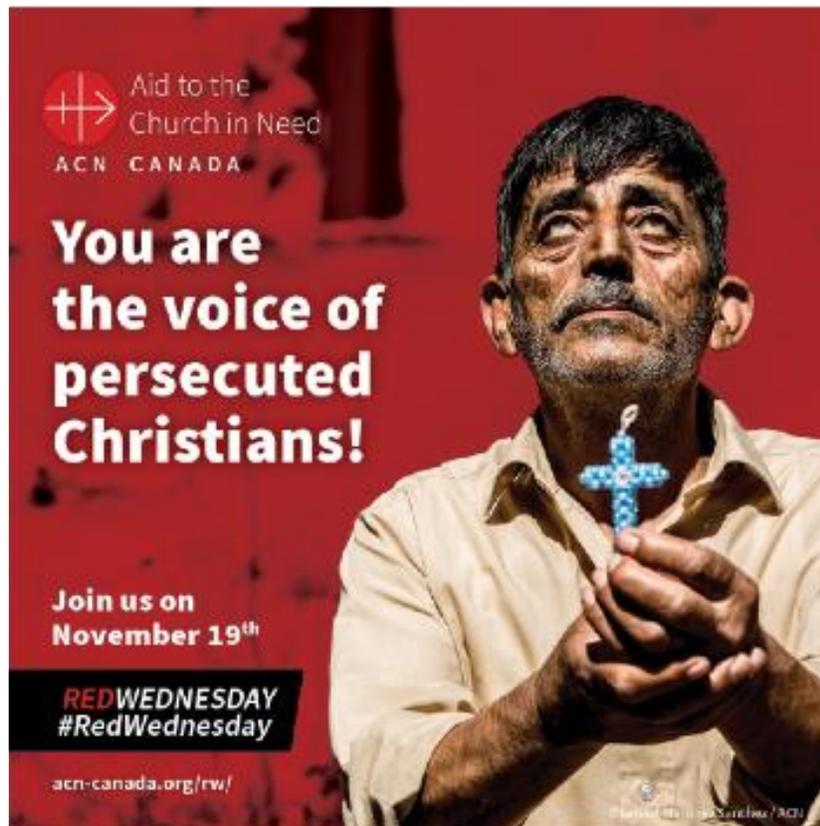
ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA



Red Wednesday – November 19, 2025

As a Catholic and Pontifical Charity, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is especially concerned with poor, oppressed, and persecuted Christians.

Red Wednesday is an event aimed at highlighting the persecution and injustice suffered by Christians, while promoting respect and tolerance between people of different religions. We want people to take a stand for their faith, and more broadly, for religious freedom.





THE ACTIVE SILENCE

DIOCESAN
FAITH DAY

“Finding Stillness for Leadership and Service”

Speaker & Panellist:

Dr. Erin Barisano

Superintendent of Catholic Schools
in the Diocese of Orange, CA

Panellist:

Kathryn Lacerte

General Manager of the Moose
Hide Campaign

DATE: November 22, 2025

MASS: 9:00 am–10:00 am

Sacred Heart Parish
(4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria)

SPEAKER: 10:00 am–3:00 pm

St. Andrew's Regional High School
(880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria)

The Active Silence invites you to embrace rest and reflection during this Jubilee Year of Hope, learning to find inner stillness that deepens faith and renews your commitment to mission.

All are welcome to attend!

Register here: <https://diocesan-faith-day-2025.eventbrite.ca>



3 Books = 1 Gift

Help with a literacy gift for others



This is the beginning month of the three book challenge. As we head into the holiday season, many families appreciate a bit of help with gifts. Every month 1000X5 pops 3000 books in 1000 gift bag: three books for each receiving child.

If each child in St. Joseph's Elementary School brought in 3 gently used books for babies and preschoolers, we would collect 1137 books, enough for gift bags of books to 379 children. **Let's make it happen.**

Drop books for babies and preschoolers off in the pink bin in front of the library.

Find hope and healing at **Rachel's Vineyard:**

A safe, confidential retreat for women & men seeking peace after abortion.



Find out more:

www.rachelsvineyardvanisland.org

rachelsvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com

PARENT COMMUNITY

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



*Please note that any manner of association, inclusion, and participation of any Businesses within this Directory, is not an indication of endorsement by St. Joseph's Elementary School or Church Parish or any of its affiliates.



Support Local Parent Owned Businesses!

Our Business Directory is a service provided by the Parents Support Group to help fundraise for our school children and also support our local parent businesses!



DIRECTORY:

Activity & Arts

- Ponies and Paint

Financial & Legal Services

- Homeroom Bookkeeping & Income Tax

Food & Beverage

- Kung Pao Wok
- The New Mexican Village

Health & Wellness

- Chatterton Way Dental
- Eye Etiquette Optical Boutique

Photography Services

- Andrea Collins Photography

Real Estate Services

- Kamaretsos Real Estate Team

Technology Services

- Qmulus

Trades & Construction

- Lisnabreeny Plumbing Ltd.

CONTACT SJV-PSG@CISDV.BC.CA
WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

PARENT COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Activity & Arts

Ponies and Paint

Kaitlyn Hendry

poniesandpaintnights@gmail.com

Ph: 250-588-4121

poniesandpaintnights.com

Ponies and Paint Nights strives to provide a unique experience by blending art, horses, and nature in to an all-in-one experience! We do: paint nights, birthday parties, private events, wellness programs, & more! All ages welcome!



Financial & Legal Services

Homeroom Bookkeeping & Income Tax

Teya Jensen

info@homeroombookkeeping.com

Ph: 604-739-9536

www.homeroombookkeeping.com

We provide bookkeeping for all types of small businesses, payroll, GST/PST filings and Personal income tax returns.



Food & Beverage

Kung Pao Wok

Ankie Leung

kungpaowok_victoria@yahoo.ca

Ph: 778-433-8806

Chinese Food (Hillside Shopping Center)



The New Mexican Village

Cesar Ibarra

newmexicanvillage@gmail.com

Ph: 250-590-2555

mexicanvillage.ca

Restaurant: Mexican Canadian Food



PARENT COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Health & Wellness

Chatterton Way Dental

Dr. Matthew Foulkes

info@chattertonwaydental.ca

Ph: 250-598-5441

chattertonwaydental.ca

At Chatterton Way Dental, your oral health is our priority. Our dedicated team makes every visit comfortable and stress-free. Experience dental care that keeps you smiling with confidence.



Eye Etiquette Optical Boutique

Carolin Roussel

carolin.etiquette@shaw.ca

Ph: 250-474-1941 and 778-432-3344

www.eyeketiquetteoptical.ca

Eye Etiquette offers a range of glasses that are sophisticated, fun, minimal to eye-catching. Our customer service award-winning optical team of licensed opticians, optometrists, and optical assistants are here to help. Providing eyewear, contact lenses, safety glasses and full eye health examinations for all ages.



Photography Services

Andrea Collins Photography

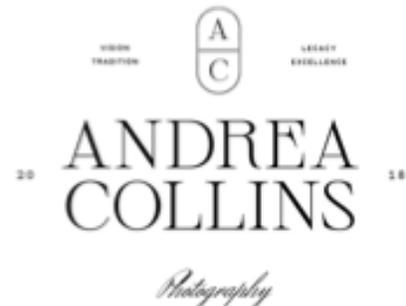
Andrea Walker Collins

info@andreacollinsphotography.com

Ph: 778-966-4623

www.andreaollinsphotography.com

Family, Wedding, Event and professional portrait photography services.



PARENT COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Real Estate Services

Kamaretsos Real Estate Team | Pemberton Holmes

Michelle & Lee Kamaretsos

michelle@myvictoriarealty.com

Ph: 250-686-7590

www.myvictoriarealty.com/st-joes-parents.html

Real Estate Specialist specializing in residential, investment, and commercial properties in the Greater Victoria areas. See our dedicated link for St. Joes Parents!



Technology Services

Qmulus

Benoni Cabrera

sales@qmulusolutions.com

Ph: 250-999-5075

qmulusolutions.com

Virtual staffing, local recruitment, and technology services.



Trades & Construction

Lisnabreeny Plumbing Ltd.

Sam Payne

lisnabreenyplumbing@gmail.com

Ph: 250-889-3508

www.Lisnabreenyplumbing.ca

Plumbing repair/service, renovations, gas and cross connection device install/testing

