

St. Joseph's Catholic School

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

Newsletter
December 12th, 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. Joseph's,

I'm so pleased you were able to join us for our wonderful Christmas concerts this week! I'm brimming with pride for every child who stepped onto the stage with courage, joy, and grace, especially our little one and their solos. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and filled with gratitude and joy. The talent on display was astonishing, inspiring, and the fruit of much hard work, over the last few months shone brightly. I am deeply grateful for the teamwork demonstrated by our students and staff, the supportive, generous spirit of our families, and the way our celebration reflected our school's mission of community and care. There is a special grace for all of our hearts when the whole school family gathers together. God was present.



A special and heartfelt thanks goes to Ms. Miranda, our amazing music teacher. Her passion for music, patient guidance, and unwavering encouragement have been transformative for many of our students. We are deeply grateful for the light she brings to our school each day.

I want to share a few written comments from a guest who witnessed her first SJV concert and wanted our whole community to know that we have a special community here that we shouldn't take for granted.

"the joy of the parents that I witnessed last evening was so heartwarming...The evidence of community was present."

"The children were amazing, the bravery and vulnerability of the students in showcasing their individual and collective talent was inspiring."

It is always good to hear affirmations from others, especially "outsider" perspectives. Let us continue to celebrate our strengths and not take our community or each other for granted.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

With Gratitude,

Glen Palahicky

Principal, St. Joseph's Elementary





NOON DISMISSAL & **CHRISTMAS COLOUR CIVVIES**

Thursday, Dec. 18th

Students are invited to wear all their Christmas themed gear.
We wish everyone a beautiful Advent and Christmas season!



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Donations are coming into classes steadily, and we want to encourage as many folks as possible to contribute. Next Tuesday, December 16th, is the deadline, and the grade 6's will be sorting and "Christmas bagging" on Wednesday. We will leave the display of donations in the entrance way until Mr. Palahicky takes them to the St. Andrew's Cathedral Soup Kitchen Friday morning. The elves there are very excited!



GRADE ONE PARENTS

Parent Reading Workshop by One To One

Please check your classroom email or your child's agenda for the flyer with registration details. Thank you for the PSG for sponsoring this very important workshop!



NO HOMEWORK CLUB THIS WEEK

Looking forward to seeing all our homework-ers in the new year!



SURVERY FROM THE PSG

The Parent Support Group is exploring the possibility of hosting a **Fight Back for Tweens** workshop – a confidence-building and self-protection program designed specifically for girls ages 9–12. This interactive session would take place in the school gym, and a portion of the cost may be sponsored by the PSG.

To help us determine interest and plan appropriately, we invite all families to complete a short anonymous survey. If your child is not within the 9–12 age range or would not be eligible for this session, the survey will also ask whether you'd be interested in similar age-appropriate workshops in the future.

👉 *Click here to share your feedback.*

GRADE 7 - BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP

Join us on Friday, December 19 for an afternoon of Basketball Skills and Mini Games, with our very own Senior Boys & Girls Basketball Teams.



Friday, December 19th, 2025

St. Andrew's Regional High School, Gym

12:30-3:30pm

\$50

Registration: <https://forms.gle/rTUdQiSoRMwn6mde9>

Drop-off/pick-up will be located in our school gym, on the east end of the building, accessible via McKenzie Ave. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in athletic gear with proper running/basketball shoes, a full water bottle, and lunch/snacks.

Thank you for supporting our Sabres Athletics.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - BEHIND THE SCENES!

Thank you to all the families, students, and staff whose hard work behind the scenes made these performances happen!





DANCE CLASSES NEWS!

Dear Parents of Irish and Jazz Dancers,

I am excited to say that dance classes are going very well. I wanted to let everyone know that the dancers will be performing at a Christmas Assembly on Thursday, December 18th at 9:00a.m. Over the last few weeks several dancers have missed classes due to illness. I am hoping everyone can attend classes next week so that they are prepared for the assembly. Please email and let me know if your family is leaving early for a Chrismas vacation as it is very hard for dancers to perform without their partners and I might have to make some adjustments prior to the assembly. You can reach me via email at ghiggins@cisdv.bc.ca .

Thank you for you dedication to our dance program and for making the effort to bring your children to classes so early in the morning.

The children will just be wearing any combination of red, white, and green clothing that is comfortable to dance in on the 18th. Please make sure your child brings their dance shoes to school that day. Also please come and watch your child perform if you are available.

Also, there will be **NO CLASSES during between January 5th and the 9th** due to my family vacation.

May God bless all of you and your families this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,

Mrs. G. Higgins



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Christmas season is here, and with it comes a wonderful opportunity to share warmth, kindness, and hope with members of our greater community. This year, our school is excited to support a Christmas Drive for adults in need in the Victoria community. Each class from Kindergarten to Grade Seven will be collecting different items. Together, we can create thoughtful gifts that will brighten everyone's Christmas season. Please ensure all items are new, and adult sized.

Below is the item assigned to each grade:



Kindergarten:

Activity Books (Sudoku, crosswords, word search, pencils, pens)



Grade 1:

Gloves and Toques



Grade 2:

Hot chocolate, sweet treats, mugs.



Grade 3:

Soap, toiletries, body wash (please no aftershave)



Grade 4:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss



Grade 5 & Grade 6:

Socks, handwarmer packets



Grade 7:

Soap, toiletries, body wash (please no aftershave)

****If you would prefer to give gift cards in \$5 and \$10 denominations for Tim Hortons, McDonalds etc., this would be greatly appreciated.**

We welcome donations starting immediately and will continue collecting until **Tuesday, December 16th**. Please bring donations to your classroom teacher. There will be a collection box in each classroom.

Thank you for helping our school community share the joy of the season and be of service to the larger community. Your generosity and spirit truly embody the meaning of Christmas. May we be blessed in seeing Jesus hidden in the lives of the poor.

Warmest wishes,

Marylee McKeown, Brianna Wark, and Jean Hollingworth
St. Joseph's School

From the Library

Dear Parents

Please return all
Library books
before Tuesday,
Dec. 16, 2025



St. Joseph's Elementary School Presents

Disney
THE

LION KING ©Disney



Scan QR or visit LionKingTix.ca for tickets



THUR
MAR 5 | 7PM

FRI
MAR 6 | 7PM

SAT
MAR 7 | 1 & 7PM

Here's the direct link - happy bidding! www.32auctions.com/grade7grad



Online Silent Auction

Dinner & Limo Ride for 6
Tiramisu by Fr. Alfie
2-Night stay at Mt Washington
Gift Baskets
Photography Session
Gift Certificates
Hotel Stays
Small Appliances
& More!

Help us make this year's Grade 7 graduation unforgettable! Your bids go directly toward creating meaningful celebrations and memories for our students as they prepare for this big milestone.



DECEMBER 1 - 12
Bidding ends
11:59pm, Dec 12th

JOIN OUR EVENT ▶▶▶▶



www.32auctions.com/grade7grad



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

TIMBERWOLF TOQUES!

Click here to purchase and pick up in the school office:

<https://cisdv.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/1016/556/False/True>

Or scan the QR code!



St Joseph's Elementary School

Timberwolf Toques

\$20

Pick up at the school office

**Grab it at School
Cash Online**



...

BASKETBALL

- SKILLS CAMP -

COME AND JOIN US

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19

12:30PM-3:30PM
ST. ANDREW'S REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
880 MCKENZIE AVENUE, GYM

A SABRES ATHLETICS
SPORTS FUNDRAISER

GRADES 7-8 STUDENTS
REGISTRATION \$50



...





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*



Knight's of Columbus



BOTTLE DRIVE & TREE CHIPPING

Jan 3rd & 10th, 2026

757 Burnside Rd W,

Victoria, BC

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

Mass times for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary are now available on the diocesan website. The schedule includes times and locations provided by parishes across the Diocese of Victoria. Please find this list of Mass times here (more Mass times will be added as they become available): <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-christmas-mass-times>

In celebration of the Jubilee of Hope declared by Pope Francis, Pope Leo XIV gifted 62 cultural artifacts from the Vatican Museums' Anima Mundi collection to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, for immediate transfer to Indigenous communities in Canada. Learn more about the return of these artifacts: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/vatican-artifacts-return-to-canada/>

The Diocese of Victoria is an Assistant to the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization. The Assistant will help to carry out the primary mission of the Diocesan Ministry of Faith Formation and Evangelization: as agents of the Bishop of Victoria, serve the People of God to know, celebrate, contemplate, and live the Christian faith in the One Triune God. For more information and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications must be received by January 5, 2026.

All are warmly invited to join Katesismong Pilipino (KP), the Filipino Catechism community of the Catholic Church in Victoria, for Simbang Gabi 2025, held December 15–23 at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Simbang Gabi, meaning "Night Mass," is a cherished nine-day devotional tradition celebrated by Filipino Catholics as a joyful preparation for Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this prayerful and festive season of faith.



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



ADVENT EVENING FOR LADIES: LEARNING TO FEEL WITH FAITH



**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 2025**



6 PM TO 8:30



**ST. JOSEPH THE
WORKER PARISH**

753 Burnside Road West,
Victoria, BC V8Z 1M9

REGISTER NOW



WWW.MAYRACORDERO.COM/ADVENT

**Do you understand your emotions...
or do they overwhelm you?**

As women, we feel deeply. Sometimes we feel misunderstood, tired, frustrated, or guilty for "feeling too much."

But what if your emotions are not the enemy...

What if they are invitations from God to grow in virtue?



6- 6:30 PM

Mass with Fr. Alfie to celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

6:30-7:30 PM

Workshop: "Learning to Feel with Faith"

Discover faith-centered and neuroscience-based tools to transform:

- ☁ Worry → Peace
- 💧 Sadness → Connection
- 🔥 Anger → Hope
- ⚡ Frustration → Gratitude

You'll learn how emotions work, why God gave them to us, and simple strategies to handle them with grace rather than guilt.

Speaker: **Mayra Cordero, Certified Catholic Mindset & Emotional Coach.** Helping Catholic women bring peace into their minds, homes, and hearts.

7:30-8:30 PM

Celebration of the Heart

A joyful time of sisterhood and delight!

Bring your favorite snack (sweet or salty) and enjoy friendship, laughter, and community.

All are welcome!
Year End Examen

**Saturday, Dec. 13
10:30 - 11:30 am
Online Gathering**

Guided Reflection & Prayer with
Joelle Dressler
Director of Faith Formation and
Evangelization
and
Mary Kearsey
Teacher and ICS Faith Rep
St. Andrew's Regional High School

Find meeting link & more info here:
[www.rcdvictoria.org/events/
december-13-year-end-examen](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/december-13-year-end-examen)



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA



Filipino Catechism of the Catholic Church

Katesismong **P**ilipino

104 – 1150 Douglas St. Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3M9
katesismongpilipino@yahoo.com

Join us to celebrate

SIMBANG GABI

AT ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL VICTORIA, B.C.

15-23 DEC | 7:00 PM

This Christmas, join us for Simbang Gabi as we come together to honor the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

These masses are a beautiful Filipino tradition, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas—faith, hope, and the joy of His coming.

Let's gather in prayer and celebration. See you at Simbang Gabi!





Filipino Catechism of the Catholic Church

Katesismong **P**ilipino

104 – 1150 Douglas St. Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3M9
katesismongpilipino@yahoo.com

PRIEST

1 – Dec 15	Rev. Fr. Dean Henderson
2 – Dec 16	Rev. Fr. Eduardo Santos
3 – Dec 17	Rev. Fr. Shijo George
4 – Dec 18	Rev. Fr. Scott Whittemore
5 – Dec 19	Rev. Fr. Alfredo Monacelli
6 – Dec 20	Rev. Fr. Dean Henderson
7 – Dec 21	Rev. Fr. Sean Flynn
8 – Dec 22	Rev. Fr. William Hann
9 – Dec 23	Bishop Gary Gordon
	Assited by: Rev. Phillip Yuson

CO- CELEBRANT:

Filipino Priest: Rev. Fr. Vince Borre

PANUNULUYAN- DECEMEBER 23, 2025 (RIGHT AFTER THE HOLY MASS) “FILIPINO CHRISTMAS REENACTMENT OF MARY AND JOSEPH'S SEARCH FOR A PLACE TO STAY IN BETHLEHEM”





Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street

Victoria BC V8X 2A1

Phone: (250) 479-1331 ✉ Fax: (250) 479-5423

www.rcdvictoria.org

Job Posting: Assistant to the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization - Parishes and Schools

The Diocese of Victoria is seeking an Assistant for the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization. The Assistant will report directly to the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization and will aid them in carrying out the primary mission of the Diocesan Ministry of Faith Formation and Evangelization: as agents of the Bishop of Victoria, serve the People of God to know, celebrate, contemplate, and live the Christian faith in the One Triune God. The salary range is \$55,000 - \$62,000 FTE per annum.

Qualifications

- Represents the Diocese of Victoria in a professional manner
- Has appropriate academic credentials, i.e. Certificate or Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies, Theology, Religious Education, or a similar field
- Is willing to engage in course work in scripture, theology, and religious education
- Brings a minimum of two-years of diocesan, parish, or school experience
- Is collegial and collaborative in working with others
- Relates easily to a wide variety of people of different ages, backgrounds, and cultures

Duties and Responsibilities

- Planning and coordinating youth retreats (Ex. DYR, Homewood, Illuminate)
- Planning and coordinating retreats for parish catechists and school staffs
- Facilitating online and in person gatherings for catechists who serve children and youth
- Training for Sunday Celebration of the Word in absence of a priest
- Providing opportunities for prayer and formation experiences in rural mission parishes
- Facilitating Diocesan Faith Days (for both schools and parishes)
- Coordinating opportunities which support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples (Ex. Kairos Blanket Exercises, Returning to Spirit workshops)
- Supporting catechists and parishes in the approved program for the preparation of the Restored Order of the Sacraments
- Supporting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation in parishes and schools
- Preparation for annual Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and Conference
- Promoting Catholic Schools Week

3 Books = 1 Gift The Challenge Continued



Every week 1000X5 Children's Book Recycling Project donates 800 of your books

Join the hundreds of families who have taken the three book challenge. As we head into the holiday season, many families appreciate a bit of help with gifts. And what can be a better gift than a bag of 3 books for babies and toddlers? Every month 1000X5 pops 2400 books in 800 gift bags. In the last three weeks, hundreds of books have arrived for the weekly Wednesday sorting by 10 dedicated volunteers.

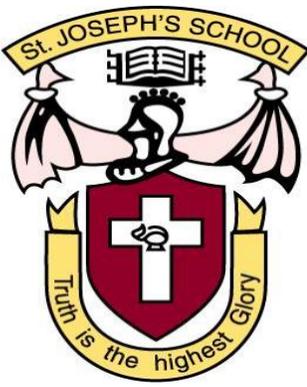
Drop your books for babies and preschoolers off in the pink bin in the _____

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 Business Directory

Support local parent owned businesses!

The Parents Support Group is actively seeking a broad range of business that would like to make themselves known throughout our school community... and beyond. Join the Parents Business Directory!

Arborist? Bookkeeper? Construction Operator? Developer of Cabinets? E-Commerce Owner? Financial Planner? Glass Repair Proprietor? Home Cleaning Services? Investment Advisor? Journeyman of Car Repair? K9 Handler? Lawyer? Medical Practitioner? Nail Salon? Own a store or Restaurant? Plumber? Quantity Analyst? Roofer? Seller of Homes? Teacher of _____? Upholstery Cleaner? Veterinarian? Warehouse Owner? Technicians of any type of repair? Zoning and Bylaw specialist?

As easy as 123 and ABC...

To sign up, click this link... it's that easy!

Click: <https://forms.gle/LVeBU4UznZnFWS7U8>

Etransfer your payment to: sjv-psg@cisdv.bc.ca

Renewal subscription payments are being taken from
21 November to 13 December.

Cost: \$200 for the January to December 2026 subscription to the Business Directory, which is circulated weekly in the school newsletter.

Email llesilverio@gmail.com with questions.

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.



CHATTERTON WAY
DENTAL
DR. MATTHEW FOULKES INC.

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.



eye etiquette
OPTICAL BOUTIQUE

Photography Services

Andrea Collins Photography

Andrea Walker Collins

info@andrea.collinsphotography.com

Ph: 778-966-4623

www.andrea.collinsphotography.com

Family, Wedding, Event and professional portrait photography services.

YOUR
TRADITION



LEGACY
EXCELLENCE

“ ANDREA
COLLINS ”

Photography

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

