

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (1930)

SHRINE TO INFANT JESUS of PRAGUE (2003)



PARISH WEBSITE

www.qop.ca

e-mail: office@qop.ca

PASTOR: Rev. John Domotor
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Carol Molloy
 PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR: Helen Krauch

HUNGARIAN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
 SPANISH Mass: Rev. Benoit Laplante
 TRADITIONAL LATIN Mass: Rev. John Domotor

WWW.LATINMASSVICTORIA.COM

Our Lady Queen of Peace, 849 OLD ESQUIMALT Road, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V9A 4W9

MONDAYS: CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE ARE CLOSED

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY – FRIDAY 9.00 – 12.00 & 1.00 – 4.15 ☎ 250.384.3884 Fax: 250.384.3664

		SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
M A S S	Weekday	-	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.10	-
	Weekend	10.00	-	-	-	-	5.00
	TRADITIONAL LATIN	12.00	-	-	-	9.00	-
	SPANISH 2nd & Last Sunday of the month	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
	HUNGARIAN 1st Sunday of the month	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT every Tuesday and 1 st Friday of the month		-	10.00	-	-	10.00	-
ROSARY - 1st Friday of the month - 10:30 am		-	11.00	11.30	11.30	11.30	-
Devotion to MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP		-	-	after Mass 12.10	-	-	-
Devotion to INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE		-	-	-	after Mass 12.10	-	-
CONFESSIONS: 1st Sat. of every month 3:00- 4:00pm. Ring the bell and enter when GREEN light is ON.		9:15am- 9:30am	10:15 – 11:30am	11:00 – 11:45am	11:00- 11:45am	10:15 – 11:30am	4:00-4:30pm

BAPTISMS: To have your child baptized at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, please call the Parish Office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor. Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation course TBA.

MARRIAGES: If you wish to have your marriage solemnized at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, please call the office at least 6 months prior to the intended date as the preparation for this life commitment takes time, thought and considerable paper work. If you are not registered at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish have the documents prepared in your own Parish.

<p>The CWL: meets on the 2nd Wed. of every month after Noon Mass PRESIDENT: ELSIE LAMBTON <i>No meetings in July & August</i></p>	<p>KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS – *meeting held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Centre *4th Degree-3rd Thurs. (monthly) - 7:30pm Contact: FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR: Michael O’Rielly - 250.477.8950 3rd Degree(Council 1256) -2nd Thurs. (monthly) - 7.30pm at St. Andrew’s Cathedral Church Contact: GRAND KNIGHT: Don Lambton - 250.995.1531</p>
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IMPORTANT: IN THE HOSPITAL?

If you or family member is hospitalize or is going to the hospital and would like to be visited by your PARISH PRIEST, Please call the PARISH OFFICE to make this request.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ONLY!

After office hours including weekends, holidays or during the night, you can call: the Hospital Chaplain: ☎250.889.3761

KEEPING IN CONTACT: We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, celebrating with us, whether long time residents or newly arrived in the Parish. We thank God that you are with us. If we may assist you, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the PARISH OFFICE (address on top) . THANK YOU. Please mark the proper BOX (below on the left side).

<input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner	NAME: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Have moved here is new address	ADDRESS: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am home-bound and would like someone to visit me	☎ HOME ☎ WORK
<input type="checkbox"/> I am going to be in the hospital, please call on me	e-mail: _____ @ _____

SUNDAY DONATIONS can be done by using:
 boxed Sunday Envelopes or by automatic bank withdrawal. (The PARISH OFFICE can supply you with necessary documents).

'Legacies'

Our Lady Queen of Peace acknowledges with gratitude past legacies which we use to maintain the integrity of our Church.

Please include us in your 'LAST WILL', how will we survive without it?

Legacies are a way of providing assurance that the parish has income or savings in the event of unforeseen emergencies.

The monthly 'Building Fund and Collection' pays for maintenance/replacement items.

Baptism at Our Lady Queen of Peace

To have your child Baptized at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, you must **call the office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor.** It is assumed that the family has Our Lady Queen of Peace parish connection and practices the faith by attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. You may meet with the Pastor and take the course even if your child has not yet been born. **Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation.** At least one Godparent or both must be baptized and confirmed and are practicing Catholics. **Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation from your Pastor to have your child Baptized in our parish.**

Respect Life Ministry

If you are expecting a child and are feeling confused; if you are thinking that there is no way out of this situation for you; if you want to talk to someone, call, text 250.812.0087 email: respectlifem@gmail.com

Please Note

If you suffer from Celiac disease, we are able to offer a low-gluten Host. If you are interested, please come to the sacristy before Mass and inform the priest.

Sunday Missals

The new Sunday Missals are now available in the vestibule at \$4/ea. or in the parish office.

Volunteers Needed!

Looking for **volunteers to set-up** in the Church for **Christmas** starting on **Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 1:30pm** (setting up trees and lights, Manger, windows and **Friday, Dec. 23rd at 1:30pm** decorating the altar with flowers and changing altar cloths. Please contact the parish office ASAP

Traditional Latin Mass ``December``

Dec. 2	Fri. 9am	Privileged Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with a commemoration of the privileged Advent FERIA and a commemoration of St. Bibiana, Virgin & Martyress
Dec. 4	Sun. noon	Second Sunday of Advent
Dec. 8	Thurs. 9am	Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a commemoration of the privileged Advent FERIA, 1962 holyday
Dec. 9	Fri. 9am	Mass of the Privileged FERIA of Advent
Dec. 11	Sun. noon	Gaudete Sunday
Dec. 16	Fri. 9am	Ember Friday in Advent, with a commemoration of St. Eusebius, Pope & Martyr
Dec. 18	Sun. noon	Rorate Sunday
Dec. 23	Fri. 9am	Greater FERIA Mass of Advent
Dec. 25	Sunday Midnight Mass	Christmas Midnight Mass
Dec. 27	Tues. 9am	Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, with a commemoration of the Octave for Christmas
Dec. 30	Fri. 9am	Friday in the Octave of Christmas(Sixth Day of Christmas)

Traditional Latin Mass ``January``

Jan. 1	Sun. noon	Octave Day of Christmas, holyday of obligation
Jan. 2	Mon. 9am	Solemn Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
Jan. 6	Fri. 9am	Solemn Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, 1962 holyday
Jan. 8	Sun. 8 noon	Feast of the Holy Family
Jan. 13	Fri. 9am	Commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord
Jan. 15	Sun. noon	Second Sunday after Epiphany
Jan. 20	Fri. 9am	Feast of SS. Fabian and Sebastian, Popes & Martyrs
Jan. 22	Sun. noon	Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jan. 27	Fri. 9am	Feast of St. John Chrysostum, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor
Jan. 29	Sun. noon	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Christmas Mass Schedule



Sat. Dec. 24: 'The Nativity of the Lord'
Family Mass - 7pm
Traditional Latin Mass - 12:00 Midnight

Sun. Dec. 25: 'The Nativity of the Lord'
Mass - 10am

Tues. Dec. 27:
9am: Latin Mass
No Adoration
Mass: 12:10pm

Wed. Dec. 28:
No Noon Mass

Thurs.: Dec. 29:
No Noon Mass

Fri. Dec. 30:
9am: Latin Mass
Mass: 12:10pm

Sat. Dec. 31: 'Anticipated Sunday Mass'
Mass: 5pm

Sun. Jan. 1:
'The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God'
Mass - 10am
Traditional Latin Mass - 12:00noon

Tues. Jan. 3:
No Adoration
No Noon Mass

Wed. Jan. 4:
No Noon Mass

Thurs.: Jan. 5
Mass: 12:10pm

Fri. Jan. 6: 'First Friday'
Adoration: 10am
Mass: 12:10pm

Sat. Jan. 7: 'Anticipated Sunday Mass'
Mass: 5pm

Sun. Jan. 8: 'The Epiphany of the Lord'
Mass: 10am
Traditional Latin Mass: 12:00noon



CHRISTMAS-OFFICE-HOURS

Closed: Sat. Dec. 25th to Tues. Jan. 3rd
Open – Wed. Jan. 4th

"May the Prince of Peace and His Holy Mother keep you in their care this Christmas and throughout the New Year."

See you next year, keep smiling,
Carol Molloy

Dec. 6	TUESDAY	Victoria Choose Life Society
Dec. 7	WEDNESDAY	Heather-Ann Pitt Carol Ball
Dec. 8	THURSDAY	special intentions Augustina Manguerra
Dec. 9	FRIDAY	Maurice, Eva, Dorreen, and Carl Gerard+ Carol Ball
Dec. 10	SATURDAY	Rodrigo & Amparo+ Gina Ancajas
Dec. 13	TUESDAY	special intentions Augustina Manguerra
Dec. 14	WEDNESDAY	personal intentions Leszek Richmond
Dec. 15	THURSDAY	Val De Vera Lydia De Vera
Dec. 16	FRIDAY	personal intentions Susan Serafini
Dec. 17	SATURDAY	Felipe Espineli + Joey Espineli
Dec. 20	TUESDAY	Liberty De Vera Lydia De Vera
Dec. 21	WEDNESDAY	Glacy De Vera Lydia De Vera
Dec. 22	THURSDAY	Marge Haake - (Birthday) Parishioners of Queen of Peace
Dec. 23	FRIDAY	Gordon Williams+ & John Ball + Carol Ball
Dec. 24	SATURDAY	special intentions Lydia De Vera
Dec. 27	TUESDAY	"Fr. John's 68th Birthday" 9am Latin Mass 12:10pm Mass
Dec. 28	WEDNESDAY	NO NOON MASS
Dec. 29	THURSDAY	NO NOON MASS
Dec. 30	FRIDAY	9am Latin Mass 12:10pm Mass Irene Domotor+ Edna McGarry
Dec. 31	SATURDAY	Jane Fernandez + Alex Fernandez
Jan. 3	TUESDAY	NO NOON MASS
Jan. 4	WEDNESDAY	NO NOON MASS
Jan. 5	THURSDAY	12:10pm Mass
Jan. 6	FRIDAY	12:10pm Mass
Jan. 7	SATURDAY	Holy Souls in Purgatory Anne Van Noordt

Please remember the following persons who are ill in your prayers: Barbara Dunahee, Lucy Praud, Lorna Cue, Dina McGregor, Ann VanNoordt, Lynn Wood, Agnes Berard, Christine Stornebrink, Fr. John's brother, Anneke McKay,

Jan. 10	TUESDAY	Victoria Choose Life Society
Jan. 11	WEDNESDAY	Fr. Michael Birch+ Bea Gropp
Jan. 12	THURSDAY	Mrs. Noella Birch Bea Gropp
Jan. 13	FRIDAY	Victoria Choose Life Society
Jan. 14	SATURDAY	in thanksgiving Gina Ancajas

What is Advent?

The word **Advent** is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. **Advent** always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. Since the 900s **Advent** has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that **Advent** is the most important time of the year. Easter has always had this honor. The traditional color of **Advent** is purple or violet which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with **Advent** express all these themes.



Advent Wreath – “Customarily the **Advent Wreath** is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles (**advent candles**). According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles (**advent candles**) may also be used”. The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice" (Latin, *Gaudete*). For this reason the Third Sunday is also called *Gaudete* Sunday, and rose color vestments are permitted.

The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace. During Advent, family and friends can gather around the Advent Wreath lighting the appropriate candle(s), read from the daily Advent meditation and sing songs. (EWTN - Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet)

Penitential Services during Advent

St. Joseph:	Thurs.,	Dec. 1 st ,	7:00 pm
St. Patrick:	Tues.,	Dec. 6 th ,	7:00 pm
Holy Cross:	Thurs.	Dec. 8 th ,	7:00 pm
Sacred Heart:	Tues.,	Dec. 13 th ,	6:30 pm
OLOR (Langford):	Tues.,	Dec. 20 th ,	7:00 pm

Catholic Women’s League

We are **collecting donations for Christmas Altar flowers** the forms are at the back of the Church. Please drop them in the collection Basket in a sealed envelope that is marked ‘**CWL Christmas Flowers**’ or give it to Suzanne Bergeron or the Office.

Next short meeting is **Wed. Dec. 7, meet at Gaby’s Restaurant (West Bay Marina) at 1:00pm**, please bring personal hygiene items for St Vincent de Paul Society. (toothpaste, toothbrush, single bar soaps, hand cream, shampoo, and so on)

Forgotten to pay for your membership fee of \$30.00, please bring it in as soon as possible!

The Catholic Women’s League supports and contributes to the life and vitality of the Catholic Church, family and community at home and abroad. The CWL of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish appreciate your support in their endeavors. Thank you!!!

Parish Council Meeting

Please note there will be a parish council meeting on **Wed. Dec. 14th at 6:10pm** in the Msgr. Wood Rm. We had an abundance amount of people to form a parish council. The Office has emailed you for this upcoming meeting. Thank you to all who have come forward, we will keep the extra names on file for next time around. Thank you again for your support.

CBC & Our Place Society Present

“A Christmas Carol” A reading of Charles Dickens Classic Tale Featuring Shelagh Rogers, Bob McDonald, Arthur Black & more with Louise Rose & The Open Door Our Place Choir **Mon. Dec. 12th at 7pm doors open 6:30pm** Adults \$17.50 Children \$5 First Metropolitan Church. All proceeds to benefit Our Place Society

‘**The Huron Carole**’ - We are delighted to bring a Christmas staple back to Victoria... Tom Jackson’s **Huron Carole!** This year, Tom Jackson is joined by fellow artists Shannon Gaye, Kristian Alexandrov and Beverley Mahood. This evening of traditional, contemporary and signature music will release the spirit of Christmas into your heart. Tom Jackson, founder of The Huron Carole Benefit Concert Series, is a musician, beloved TV personality (North of 60, Star Trek, Law and Order), and long-time champion for the marginalized. This year’s Huron Carole will take place on **Fri., Dec. 16 at 7:30pm** at the Centennial United Church in Victoria. Tickets (\$40 advance, \$50 door)

‘Our Place’ – Pandora Ave

As the Winter weather sets in, a \$5 coffee card for a 24 hour restaurant, gives a homeless person the opportunity to spend a few dry hours in a warm space on a cold, wet, dreary night when all the shelters are full. Please **drop off your coffee cards at the Our Place Reception Desk 919 Pandora Ave**. Your kind generosity will allow someone the gift of a few hours of warmth.

St. Joseph the Worker (Burnside Rd.)

Jenny Daniels Memorial – Thembaletu Christmas Concert at St. Joseph the Worker parish on Wed.

Dec. 14th at 7:30pm. Admission by donation all proceeds go to Thembaletu Children's Shelter in Anerely, South Africa.

Contact: St. Joseph the Worker – 250.479.7413

Diocesan Appeal - "Rock the Mission"!

We have raised **\$12,114.00 as of Nov. 30** and some have come in this week, therefore not included in the total. Thank you to all who were able to support the 2016 Appeal. Please remember that you can still donate to the diocesan Appeal if you have not already done so. **Donations can be made by:**

Cash/cheque (payable to "Annual Diocesan Appeal")
VISA or MasterCard, a pledge form/envelope is included in the "Rock the Mission!" Appeal brochure (copies available in the Vestibule) which you may use for your donation. Envelopes can either then be placed in the collection basket on Sunday or mailed directly to the Diocese. Staff at the diocesan office are happy to be of assistance if you have any questions about how to donate. You are reminded that donations received by December 31 will generate income tax receipts for 2016 given out by the Diocese Office of Victoria.

Encountering Christ

A thirteen week course with Dr. Patricia Rooke, beginning **Tues. 7 to 9pm on Jan. 3 to Apr. 25**, in the Parish Centre, St. Andrew's Cathedral. We will examine the **Seven Sacraments of the Church** in their scriptural context and historical development but most importantly, their communal and personal meaning for Catholics. There is a limit of 30 participants. Register at: rookept@shaw.ca or call 250-388-5571 to acquire Patricia's phone number. Cost is by donation for handouts

Camp Homewood Diocesan Retreat 2017

Calling all youth grades 7-12 - Join us for an action packed, faith & fun filled weekend with the return of our amazing retreat leaders – Face to Face Ministries! St. Patrick's Youth are hosting the 16th Annual Diocesan Retreat at beautiful Camp Homewood on Quadra Island **Feb. 3-5, 2017, \$150.00 per participant.** Please contact Camp Coordinators: Bonni Roset: broset@telus.net 250-923-4299 or Terri Ann Wynans: wynans@shaw.ca 250-731-7134 **Sponsored by:** St. Patrick's Parish, Campbell River, Notre Dame Parish, Port Alberni, With financial support from CWL & Knights of Columbus, St. Patrick's Parish, Campbell River and The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Job Posting: Executive Assistant

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking a full-time Executive Assistant to support the Bishop and Chancellor to ensure optimal day to day work flow. The incumbent provides comprehensive administrative support in a professional, courteous and efficient manner while maintaining absolute confidentiality.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Manages the Bishop's calendar and communications;
- Screens, handles and responds to enquiries and correspondence;
- Works on special projects as requested;
- Participates in Committees as directed;
- Follows up on tasks, projects and files to ensure progress is on track;
- Coordinates meetings, including the preparation of agendas, minutes and other relevant material;
- Develops and maintains an electronic and paper record management system;
- Assists in developing and deploying time management strategies and tools;
- Additional administrative support duties as required and assigned.

Position Requirements

- High level of initiative, judgment, confidentiality and discretion;
- Excellent command of the English language including writing, editing and proof-reading skills;
- Organizational skills with the ability to prioritize, multi-task and meet tight deadlines;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- Must be proficient with MS Office Suite in particular Outlook and Word;
- Attention to detail essential;
- Knowledge of the organization and workings of the Catholic Church;
- Previous experience in a highly professional office environment along with relevant education;
- Compliance with the Responsible Ministry & Safe Environment policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a résumé and cover letter by **January 13, 2017** to:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Attention: Cynthia Bouchard, Chancellor

#1- 4044 Nelthorpe Street - Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

Email: chancery@rcdvictoria.org

Website: www.rcdvictoria.org/employment.php

The position will remain open until filled. Please note that only those short-listed for an interview will be contacted.

Anawim House

This Christmas Season, Anawim welcomes your gifts to the poor. Christmas trees will become available commencing the 1st week of December. Thank you for being partners with us in caring for God's precious poor, the anawim. Drop off your donations directly at Anawim House: 973 Caledonia Avenue.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA

NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE

2500 promenade Don Reid Drive,

Ottawa, Ontario K1H 2J2

Tél./Tel.: (613) 241-9461 - Téléc./Fax: (613) 241-8117

Site internet/Internet: <http://www.cccb.ca>

Courrier électronique: E-mail: nlo@ccb.ca

Hymn Compositions for Consideration in New Hymnal

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) upon the recommendation of the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and the Sacraments (ECLS) has approved the publication of a new Hymnal to replace Catholic Book of Worship III published in 1994. The third edition of the Roman Missal and the adoption of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation of the Scriptures in the Canadian edition of the Lectionary have rendered much of the material in the CBW III out of date.

A National Hymnal Committee has been appointed to work on the content and structure of the new Hymnal.

New hymn compositions and acclamations are being sought. All music being considered for the Hymnal must meet the criteria established by the Bishops of Canada with the assistance of the National Council for Liturgical Music (NCLM):

<http://www.nlo.cccb.ca/images/stories/composer-guide.pdf>

Submissions should preferably be made by e-mail in PDF Format to: nlo@ccb.ca If that is not possible, they may be mailed: National Liturgy Office

Attention: Hymnal Submission

2500 Don Reid Dr., Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2

The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2017**

Pilgrimage to Poland & Italy

Pilgrimage Chaplain - Fr. John Domotor

Pastor of "Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish"

From: April 18 to May 2, 2017

For more info please contact:

"Our Lady Queen of Peace" ☎ 250.384.3884,

Leszek Richmond ☎ 778.350.7899

e-mail: 2017@PeaceTravel.ca

Virtual visit recommended: www.PeaceTravel.ca

ITINERARY:

Daily Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. John Domotor

POLAND: Kraków-Lagiewniki-Częstochowa-Oświęcim-Wieliczka

ITALY: Tarvisio-Asissio-Cascia-Orvieto-Bolsena-Rome & Vatican-Monte Cassino-Pompei-Alberobello-Bari, San Giovanni Rotondo-Monte –

San Angelo-Foggia - Lanciano, Loreto-Osimo-Rome

COST: \$3,300.00 includes: Flights, transfers from the airport in Poland on arriving, in Rome for departure,

accommodation in three star hotels.

Two meals a day: solid breakfast, full dinner

Tour guide English speaking + audio equipment,

Entrance fees: Museums in Vatican included

Sistine Chapel with fresks by Michael Angelo,

Transportation in cities as well in between.

Taxes and fees on highways, hotels, entrance to the cities, environmental fees etc., Insurance:

Supplement for single room EXTRA \$300.00

Deposit of \$500.00 to the **31st of December 2016**

Registration fee \$100.00 NON refundable should be **paid by 24th of December 2016** will go as a credit for the cost of the trip ONLY for registered person.

For more information please contact

"Our Lady Queen of Peace" ☎ 250.384.3884,

Leszek Richmond ☎ 778.350.7899

e-mail: 2017@PeaceTravel.ca

Virtual visit recommended: www.PeaceTravel.ca

Christmastime

For most, Christmas is over by December 26 and life has resumed its normal activities. The Church, on the other hand, observes an Octave of Christmas until January 1 (after the Jewish practice of an 8 day celebration) and an extended **Christmastime** until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. (It is now celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.) The popular Christmas song, "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**," is rooted in the festive celebration of **Christmastime** and a celebration of the Catholic faith, from a time in England and Ireland when Catholics had to disguise their Catholic beliefs. During **Christmastime**, there are feasts of three martyrs: St. Stephen on December 26, who represents those who went to their death willingly; St. John the Evangelist on December 27 who represents those who were willing to die but were not put to death, and the Holy Innocents on December 28, representing those who were put to death without their choice, recalling the events surrounding the Birth of Christ. On the Sunday between **Christmas** and January 1, the Church celebrates the Holy Family. This feast is especially important today as many families today face struggles and challenges in living their Faith.

Origin of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"
You're all familiar with the **Christmas** song, "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else.

Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disembowelled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over

them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith.

The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."


The other symbols mean the following:


- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

EWTN--Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet

ADVERTISE: Your ad can be in the bulletin.
 Call the parish office at: 250-388-5571 for more information.
 Please call **384-3884**, or email: office@gop.ca. We appreciate the support of these sponsors. Please support them:

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www.carefuneral.com
funerals@carefuneral.com

Diocesan Website

Bishop Gary will be doing a series of videos during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, each filmed in a location where the mercy of God meets the people of God.

Website: www.rcdvictoria.org

Short film Samuel

The premiere of the film of Samuel on **Sat. Dec. 10 at 10am at Silver-City Cinema, Tillicum Centre**, as a benefit for four ministries to the marginalized. Admission is by donation. Registration is required at www.livingedge.ngo. The film is the first Christian movie produced by Vancouver Film School.

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St. Andrew's Cathedral – July 2017

Sunday, July 9th, 2017- Diocesan Mass at 11 am followed by a picnic at St. Ann's Academy, a terrific event, with music, children's games, food and opportunities to visit the Academy Chapel (our first cathedral) and to socialize.

Journey of Faith Pilgrimage - Sept. 2017

Sept. 18 – Oct. 5, 2017 - Tour Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem's old city; trace the Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa; see Bethlehem, the Dead Sea & Masada, plus many other places where Jesus and his Disciples walked.

Price: \$5,390 based on double occupancy, from Victoria (+\$175 for pilgrims outside the Victoria area) Includes return airfare, breakfast & dinners daily, entrance fees, daily Mass, luxury air-conditioned tourist bus, 16 nights' accommodation.

For detailed itinerary or to sign up, contact Denise at two-bucks@shaw.ca or call (250)339-1807.

Pilgrimage Chaplain: Fr. John Laszczyk.

Pilgrimage Organizer: Denise Buckley

Eastern Caribbean Cruise Jan. 2018

Mary Hof, parishioner of St. Edward's Parish, invites those who would like to travel as part of a group to a spectacular cruise. It's a way of making new friendships, and for some not having to travel alone. Jan. 2018 seems to be far off but once the cruise lines puts out their itinerary, rooms must be secured. The trip will be 11 days, 4 nights in Puerto Rico and then a 7 day cruise from Puerto Rico to Fort Lauderdale, on Celebrity Summit. Deposit is refundable until Jan. 16, 2017. For more info. on pricing and itinerary contact Mary Hof: mhof126@gmail.com or 250 743 4074. A truly spectacular way to experience the Caribbean and make memories to last a lifetime!