



# Communitas

January 2026

RCDV Catechists' Newsletter



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA





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***Dear Lord,***

***As we celebrate the Epiphany,  
we come before You, asking for  
spiritual insight and enlightenment.***

***Open our eyes to see the wonders  
of Your truth and grace.***

***Let Your light guide us through the darkness  
of confusion, fear, and uncertainty.***

***May we always walk  
in the path of righteousness and light.***

***We pray that, like the Magi, we may recognize  
and honor the presence of Christ  
who walks with us  
every moment of every day.***

***Amen***





## ***Territory Acknowledgement***

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria  
acknowledges with gratitude  
that we work, play, and pray  
on the territories and traditional lands  
of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and  
Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples.

In the light of this truth, and in humility,  
we commit ourselves to continue to work  
for reconciliation,  
and for respectful relationships  
with the Creator  
and all creation.





## *January Liturgical Calendar*

- 1** Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
- 2** St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen
- 4** Epiphany of the Lord
- 7** St. Andre Besette
- 11** Baptism of the Lord
- 12** St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- 17** St. Anthony
- 18** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 21** St. Agnes
- 24** St. Francis de Sales
- 25** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 26** St. Timothy and St. Titus
- 28** St. Thomas Aquinas
- 31** St. John Bosco





## *Epiphany*

*Epiphany is a feast from the Eastern Churches and the original Eastern celebration of Christ's birth. It now commemorates the "manifestation" of Christ to the nations and is kept on January 6th or the Sunday after January 1st.*

*The liturgical texts center on the magi, but include as well references to Jesus' baptism and his first miracle at Cana as images of his appearance to the world.*

*From the CCCB*

### **Pope Leo's Homily Jan. 7**

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260106-epifania.html>

### **Video**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnIG4\\_VT66Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnIG4_VT66Q)



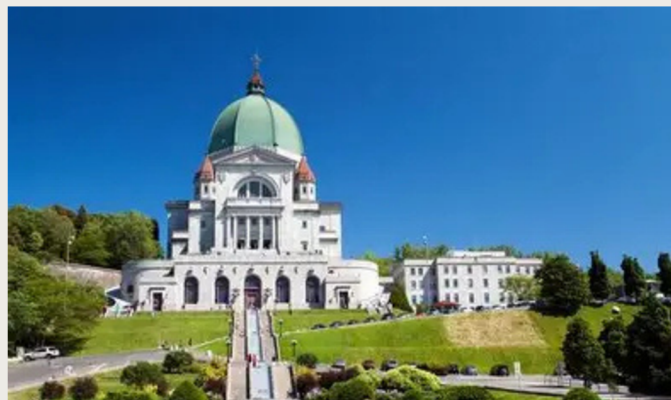


# *Radiant Lives*

## **St. Andre Bessette**

*St. Andre Bessette is the First Canadian-born Saint who built a modest shrine on a hill which has become the most dominant structure in all of Montreal.*

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukRRNldT21g>**



**St. Joseph's Oratory**



# **Camp Homewood Annual Youth Retreat**

## **Quadra Island**

**Friday, Jan. 31 - Sunday, Feb. 2**

*All youth in grades 7–12 are invited for a weekend of knowing Jesus through faith, fun, and friendship.*

**Registration closes close January 9!**

Buy tickets here: <https://camp-homewood-2025.eventbrite.ca>

*Please note:*

**Participants** must also complete this registration form after purchasing a ticket: <https://forms.gle/XfyojRs3KmEW2CtQ8>

**Chaperones** must also complete this registration form after signing up for a ticket: <https://forms.gle/EV9MdkYyjCvNyaqd6>

For more information, please contact: [stpattrickhw@gmail.com](mailto:stpattrickhw@gmail.com)

Please read the Code of Conduct for participants here.





# *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

## *January 18-25*

*Start here!*

- *International booklet*
- *How to organize an ecumenical service or event*

### *Resources for Ecumenical Worship Service*

- *Annotated ecumenical worship service*
- *Order of worship* (Word document format)
- *Hymn suggestions* (available only in English)

### *Resources for Bible Study*

- *“Eight Days of Prayer”* (daily Scripture readings, reflections, discussion questions, and prayers)
- *Resources for Campuses / Post-Secondary Schools*
- *Abridged chapel service* (Word document format)
- *Suggestions for campus ministry*
- *Resources for Children and Youth*
- *Activities for children and youth*
- *Promotion*
- *Graphic for social media* (bilingual PNG)

# *Hallow App for all RCDV Catechists*



For the second year in a 3-year partnership, we are very pleased to gift all Catechists with a one-year subscription to the Hallow app!

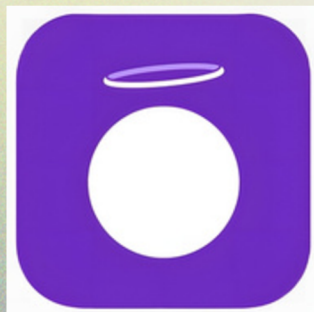
You are invited to spend time daily with this incredible tool to deepen one's prayer life!

## **Did you know?**

You can customize your experience!

Click the setting icon 2nd from the left at bottom of screen to add background music, choose your guide, change playback speed.

Click the book icon to read along with the text.







# *Project YM*

**Exciting, new one-year partnership with  
Project YM  
for all Youth Ministers/Catechists/Leaders  
in the Diocese of Victoria!**

## **How to login**

**<https://thriveinvite.com/victoriaBC>**

*Check out this great platform for communicating with  
other Youth Leaders and Sharing of Resources!*





# *Signs of Grace*

## *Approved Program for Preparation for the Sacraments in the Diocese of Victoria*

*A reminder and invitation to all parishes  
in the Diocese of Victoria*

*By September 2026, all parishes in our diocese will have embraced the approved program for Preparation for the Sacraments, Signs of Grace, from the Augustine Institute.*

*Kindly contact Joelle Dressler for details on ordering this wonderful resource for your parish.*







# ***Catechesis of the Good Shepherd***

The first atrium in the Diocese of Victoria at  
**Queen of Angels School in Duncan**  
began serving children in September 2025!

Children from Angel Care Pre-School, Kindergarten,  
and Grade 1 attend weekly sessions.

Children ages 3-6 years from the greater community  
gather with catechists for 2 hours every Saturday.

Our wonderful, dedicated team of Catechists include:  
**Rachel Anderson, Charmaine Cardin, Debby Fernandez,**  
**Angelique Rasmussen, Sister Janet, Sister Selfiana,**  
**and Eriko Yamamoto!**

**St. Joseph Elementary/St. Joseph the Worker Parish**  
team of Catechists are excitedly preparing to open their  
atrium in **Sept. 2026** in the **new Early Learning Centre!**



## ***Call for Submissions!***

**We would love to share your successes!**

Please send photos and a brief description  
of the amazing activities and events  
for children and youth  
from your parish community!

**[jdressler@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:jdressler@rcdvictoria.org)**





# *Calendar of Events*



**Jan. 25** - Prayer for Christian Unity Service 4:00 pm with Reception to follow, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria

**Jan. 30-Feb. 1** - Camp Homewood Youth Retreat Gr. 7-12

**Feb. 1 - Feb. 7** - Catholic Schools Week: Proclaiming our Faith

**Feb. 18** - Ash Wednesday

**April 5** - Easter Sunday

**April 25** - RCDV Catechists' Spring Retreat (Venue TBA)

**May 2** - Illuminate Retreat Gr. 4-7 St. Joseph's School

**May 8-10** - DYR Camp Imadene Gr. 7-12

**Aug. 20-23** - Diocesan Family Camp and Conference, Nanoose Bay

**Sept. 26** - Catechists' Fall Retreat (Venue TBA)

**Oct. 23, 24** - National Gathering Catechesis of the Good Shepherd hosted by Diocese of Victoria! (Venue TBA)



## *Closing Prayer*

***Saint Andre,  
You healed the sick and found time to  
attend to all who came to you.  
You encouraged those who sought you  
to confess their sins and to go to Mass.  
Intercede for all believers  
so that we see in Jesus,  
our divine physician,  
a healer of souls and body.***

***Amen***