



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 – 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext. 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

Reconciliation is by appointment
only Tuesday to Saturday Call the
office to book a time with
Fr. Iqbal or Fr. Rodel

ADORATION IS IN THE
HOPE ROOM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9:30am to 4:00pm



MASSES

MONDAY to FRIDAY at 9:00AM Administration doors,

SATURDAY at 5:00PM Main Front Doors &

SUNDAY at 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM Main Front Doors

MAKE SURE TO COME EARLY TO BE SCREENED & WEAR YOUR MASKS

DOORS WILL BE LOCKED WHEN MASS STARTS

We do have masks available if needed! Please dispose of them in a responsible manor.



Catholic Women's League

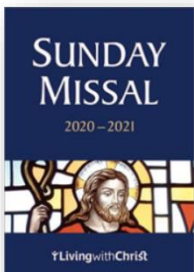
Vi Sheridan - 403-526-9091



Knights of Columbus

Ron Pisoni - 403-526-1848

*The New Missals or in the Foyer for you to
purchase. The price jump is because of
shipping.*



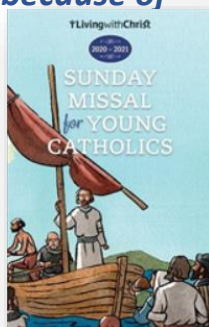
Adult Missal

\$7.00

&

Youth Missal

\$11.00



*Honor System so please have the right amount
of cash to put in the box... Thank You!!!*

Sunday 10:30am Mass Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q



OPERATING FINANCES

October 29 – November 5, 2020

Operating Budget 2020	\$ 15,000
General Envelope Collection	\$ 17,844
Loose Collections	\$ 42
Future Development	\$ 1355
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 756
Youth Ministry	\$ 247
	\$ 5,244

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 777
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,241
World Mission	\$ 60
CARO	\$ 60
Clergy Retirement	\$ 25
Catholic Education Sunday	\$ 980

2020 TIA GOAL – \$71,214

TO DATE \$ 37,336 = 52% OF THE WAY

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

† Masses Intentions †

† November 7 - 13 †

Saturday, November 7

8:30am – Foley – Special Intention

5:00pm – Shirley Schrenk & Family

Sunday, November 8

8:30 am – Shirley Martin & Family

10:30am – Joan Richard †

6:00pm – Holy Family Parish

Monday, November 9

9:00am – Fr. Vijaya Bathineni

Tuesday, November 10

9:00am – Van Ham Family Deceased †

6:30pm – All Deceased Babys †

Wednesday, November 11

9:00am – Ellis Hill †

Thursday, November 12

9:00am – Jim Buscholl †

Friday, November 13

9:00am – Linda Bokstyn

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
Sunday, November 8, 2020

1st Reading – Wisdom 6.12-16

*Wisdom is found by those who seek
her.*

Responsorial Psalm –Ps 63.1,2-3,4-5,6-7 (R.1a)

*R. My soul thirsts for you, O Lord my
God.*

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

*Through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have died.*

Gospel – Matthew 25.1-13

*Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.*

BEING WITH JESUS – OR NOT

The parable today of the ten lamp bearers is about vigilance. Not an idle standing by merely looking and waiting. No, a waiting that is prepared (extra oil!) for all that comes, a waiting filled with activity ready to accompany those who journey through doorways to heaven.

† How can I focus on the bridegroom, on Jesus, and all those he loves?

† How will I ready myself to do Kingdom of Heaven work this week?

† What will that work be? For whom will I do it?



Attending Masses...

MAKE SURE TO COME EARLY TO BE
SCREENED

THE DOORS WILL NOW BE LOCKED
WHEN MASS STARTS TO ENSURE YOUR
SAFETY FROM PEOPLE ENTERING THAT
HAVE NOT BEEN SCREENED.



MASKS

You are asked to wear a mask
entering and exiting the church.
You can remove only while in
pew.

It is mandatory to wear a mask
to go for Communion.

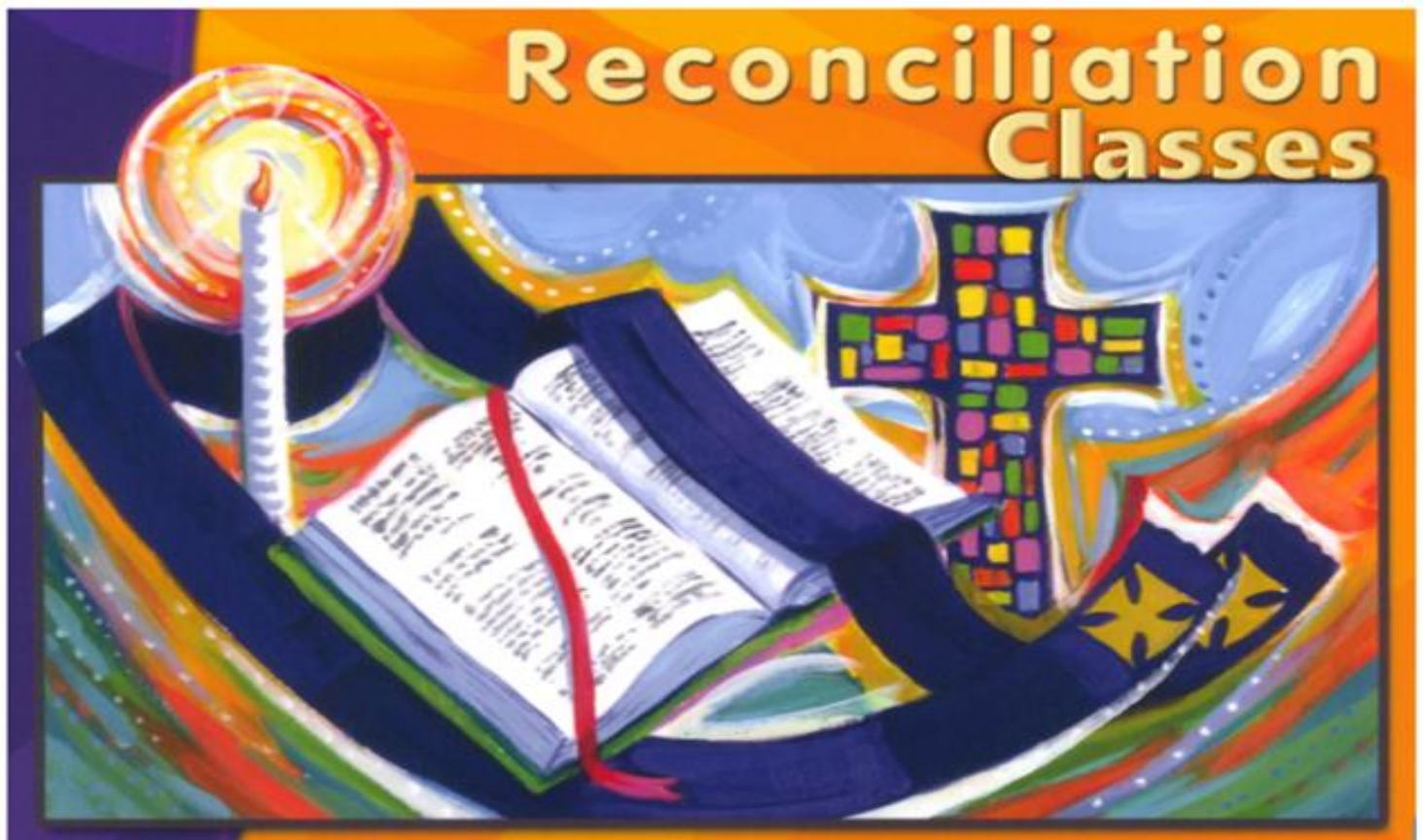
All Men are Welcome

November 14, 2020

8:30 - 9:30am HFP Hall

Theme: The Prophetic Vision of St. John Bosco

Presenter: Mark Hartfiel



Kids are in Holy Family Parish Hall & Parents in the Sanctuary of the Church

Thursdays at 6:30pm

November 19th & December 3rd, 2020

All Souls Day *Mass*

Thank You to everyone who volunteered their time and all the participants in this years All Souls Day Memorial Mass. You made it the beautiful success that it was!

Mass of the *Angels*

Tuesday

November 10, 2020 @ 6:30pm

For all the unborn babies, still born babies
and their families

We ask that you bring a living flower with
your family name attached in memory
of your baby to place at the altar.



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

THE GIFT OF WISDOM TO ACT

There was a person coming to a new village, relocating, and he was wondering if he would like it there, so he went to the Zen master and asked: do you think I will like it in this village? Are the people nice?

The master asked back: How were the people in the town where you came from? “They were nasty and greedy, they were angry and lived for cheating and stealing,” said the newcomer. Those are exactly the type of people we have in this village, said the master.

Another newcomer to the village visited the master and asked the same question, to which the master asked: How were the people in the town where you came from? “They were sweet and lived in harmony, they cared for one another and for the land, they respected each other, and they were seekers of spirit,” he replied. “Those are exactly the type of people we have in this village, said the master.

This is the exact message we receive today from the Sacred Scripture Readings. In the first Reading we come to know the attributes of the wisdom. It is a song of wisdom which not only appreciate the gift of wisdom but also hail the person who desires and seek for it. This is a very interesting fact that as we are coming closer to start our new liturgical year, we are asked to desire for wisdom. Why are we asked to reflect on the gift of wisdom? It has a twofold meaning: first of all, to understand our relationship with the Lord and secondly to prepare ourselves for his Second Coming.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis explains this mystery of Jesus’ Second coming and says, “In the Creed we profess that Jesus “will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead”. Human history begins with the creation of man and woman in God’s likeness and ends with the Last Judgement of Christ. These two poles of history are often forgotten; and, at times, especially faith in Christ’s return and in the Last Judgement, are not so clear and firm in Christian hearts. In his public life, Jesus frequently reflected on the reality of his Final Coming”.

Let us remember first of all that in the Ascension the Son of God brought to the Father our humanity, which he had taken on, and that he wanted to draw all to himself, to call the whole world to be welcomed in God's embrace so that at the end of history the whole of reality may be consigned to the Father. Yet there is this "immediate time" between the First and the Final Coming of Christ, and that is the very time in which we are living. The parable of the ten virgins fits into this context of "immediate" time. They are ten maidens who are awaiting the arrival of the Bridegroom, but he is late, and they fall asleep. At the sudden announcement that the Bridegroom is arriving they prepare to welcome him, but while five of them, who are wise, have oil to burn in their lamps, the others, who are foolish, are left with lamps that have gone out because they have no oil for them. While they go to get some oil, the Bridegroom arrives, and the foolish virgins find that the door to the hall of the marriage feast is shut. They knock on it again and again, but it is now too late, the Bridegroom answers: "I do not know you". It must have been very painful for those women who have been waiting for the Bridegroom for hours and hours. They must have been filled with anger and hatred. I remember last Sunday someone who couldn't enter our Church as the doors were locked as per Covid Protocol and the person came for the next mass and his first question to me was "why did we close the doors? Just imagine if it happens to us, what would be our feelings? Are we going to blame other people or going to take responsibility that we could not get ready on time to join the celebrations?

Here are some interesting facts in the Gospel today:

1. There is a wedding taking place.
2. People are invited to join.
3. There are ten bridesmaids of which five wise and five foolish.
4. The wise are carrying extra oil and foolish do not care.
5. The Groom is delayed.
6. Lamps are running out of oil.
7. The Groom arrives very late.
8. The wise get ready to join.
9. The foolish beg for the oil but are refused.
10. The wise joined while the foolish went to buy more oil.
11. The doors are locked after everyone who was invited to join along with the wise virgins entered.
12. The foolish are denied entry to the wedding banquet.
13. The foolish virgins receive a heartbreaking and painful answer "they are not known to the groom".
14. The conclusion of the parable is "Keep awake".

These amazing facts from the parable prepare us to get ready for action and wisdom and the role this plays in order to do it. We read in the First Reading "she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her". This short story will help us to understand

how and where to start action in order to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus. Once upon a time a little old wise man sitting in the village and a young man who comes onto him and says, "Little old wise man, how do you become a little old wise man?" He smiled and said, "Well, Sonny, when I was your age, I wanted to convert the world. "And I tried my best, but the world didn't want to be converted. "And so, I said, well maybe I am aiming too high, so what I will try to do, this time, is concentrate on my village. I will talk to my villagers so that they will understand the realities of life. And I will give them the wisdom and gather them together and show them how they can be saved. "And I tried it for a while, but they didn't want to be saved either. "So, then I said, well, I'll try my family. And so, I talked to my family and tried very hard to change their ways, to make them perfect in the ideal way that we should all be. "And I found out that even my family didn't want to have anything to do with this. "So, finally," he said to the young man, "finally, I decided I would convert myself. "And that's when I became a little wise old man."

What does Jesus wish to teach us with this parable? He reminds us that we must be ready for an encounter with him. Many times, in the Gospel, Jesus exhorts keeping watch, and he also does so at the end of this narrative. He says: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour". But with this parable he tells us that keeping watch does not only mean not to sleep, but to *be ready*; in fact all the maidens were asleep before the bridegroom's arrival, but upon waking some are ready and others are not. Thus, here is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is a matter of not waiting until the last minute of our lives to cooperate with the grace of God, but rather to do so as of now. It would be good to consider for a moment: one day will be our last. If it were today, how prepared am I? But I must do this and that.... Be ready as if it were the last day: this will do us good.

At the time Covid-19 pandemic crisis started, the whole world got into panic and it still is. The pandemic has woken the whole humanity and people have learned some very important lessons of life. The parable of the virgins is keynote for us who believe in Jesus that we must be ready all the time to welcome Jesus. Which group of virgins do we choose to be?

The Holy Father Pope Francis explains the Gospel in these words " The lamp is a symbol of the faith that illuminates our life, while the oil is a symbol of the charity that nourishes the light of faith, making it fruitful and credible. The condition for being prepared for the encounter with the Lord is not only faith, but a Christian life abundant with love and charity for our neighbour. If we allow ourselves to be guided by what seems more comfortable, by seeking our own interests, then our life becomes barren, incapable of giving life to others, and we accumulate no reserve of oil for the lamp of our faith; and this — faith — will be extinguished at the moment of the Lord's coming, or even before. If instead we are watchful and seek to do good, with acts of love, of sharing, of service to a neighbour in difficulty, then we can be at peace while we wait for the bridegroom to come: the Lord can come at any moment, and even the slumber of death does not frighten us, because we have a reserve of oil, accumulated through everyday good works. Faith inspires charity and charity safeguards faith".

Last Sunday we celebrated All Saints Day which sought to open the doors to understand our relationship with the Lord in spite of our failures, shortcomings, and sins. All holy men and women always helped us prepare for his Final Coming with mercy and patience. It is a time of watchfulness; a time in which we must keep alight the lamps of faith, hope and charity, a time in which to keep our hearts open to goodness, beauty and truth. It is a time to live in accordance with God because we do not know either the day or the hour of Christ's return. What he asks of us is to be ready for the encounter — ready for an encounter, for a beautiful encounter, the encounter with Jesus, which means being able to see the signs of his presence, keeping our faith alive with prayer, with the sacraments, and taking care not to fall asleep so as to not forget about God.

During this pandemic let us prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus in our day to day life and keep the lamps of our faith lit and become the light of the world. If we fail to do so, St. John in the Book of Revelation will draw the thin line in this way for us "I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent".

Once upon a time, there was a high-classed rich man. As he became older, he realized that the suffering of old age was about the same for the rich and poor alike. So, he gave up his wealth and class position, and went into the forest to live as a poor monk. He practiced meditation and developed his mind. He freed himself from unwholesome thoughts and became contented and happy. His peacefulness and friendliness gradually drew 500 followers to his side.

At that time, long ago, most monks usually looked pretty serious. But there was one monk who, even though he was quite dignified, always wore at least a little smile. No matter what happened, he never lost this glimmer of inner happiness. And on happy occasions, he had the broadest smile, and the warmest laughter of all.

Sometimes monks, as well as others, would ask him why he was so happy that he always wore a smile. He chuckled and said, "If I told you, you wouldn't believe me! And if you thought I spoke a lie; it would be a dishonor to my master." The wise old master knew the source of the happiness that could not be wiped from his face. He made this happiest monk his number one assistant.

After the rainy season, the old monk took them to the city and as the king heard about their visit, he went to visit them. He paid his respects to the chief monk. However, the one from the forest just kept saying, "What happiness! Oh, what happiness!" He did not even stop to greet the king and show proper respect. This disturbed him, and he thought, "With all my worries, as busy as I am looking after the kingdom, I take time out for a visit and this monk does not respect me enough to even recognize me. "How insulting!" He said to the senior of the two

monks, "Venerable sir, this monk must be stupid from overeating. That must be why he is so full of happiness. Does he lie around here so lazy all the time?"

The head monk replied, "Oh king, have patience and I will tell you the source of his happiness. Not many know it. He was once a king, just as rich and mighty as you! In search of wisdom and peace he left his throne and now he thinks his old happiness was nothing compared to his present joy!" Now, sitting alone in the forest with nothing to fear, he has no need for armed guards. He has given up the burden of worrying about wealth that has to be protected. Instead, free of the worry of wealth and the fear of power, his wisdom protects him and others. He advances in meditation to such inner peace and wisdom that for him earthly happiness is nothing compared to the heavenly.

Are we awake to use the gift of wisdom to act and keep the lamps of faith burning to gain inner peace and wisdom?

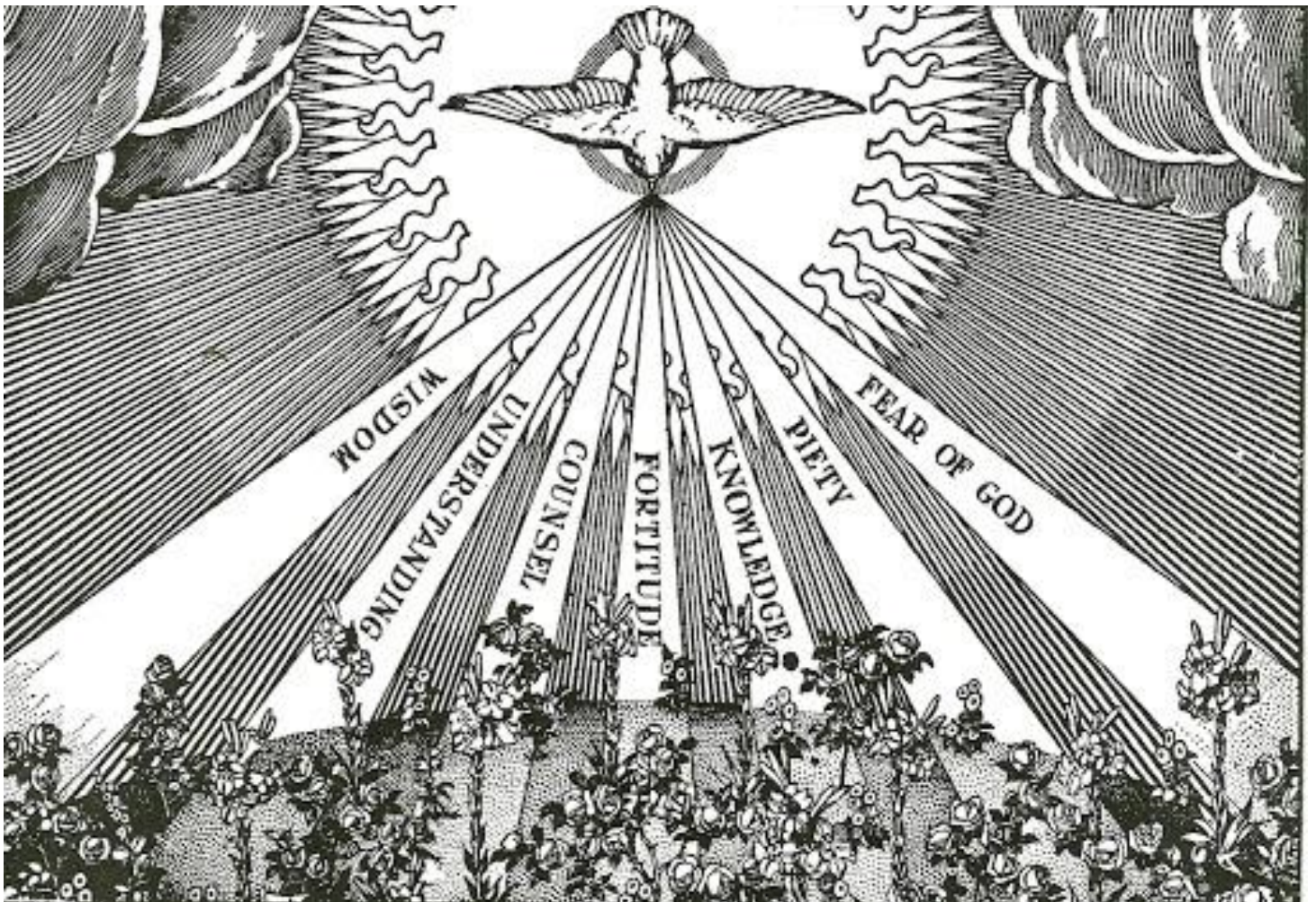


Photo by Fr. Iqbal Khurshid



Novena

For Catholic Education

*Those who hope in
the Lord renew their
strength* ISAIAH 40:31

OCT. 29 TO NOV. 6, 2020

We are grateful for our Catholic Schools. We invite you to join us in prayer for Catholic Education by praying the following novena daily, from Oct. 29 until Nov. 6, 2020, asking Our Lord to send forth His Spirit.

Leader Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created,

All And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader Let us pray:

All Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your
consolation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

All as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.



The Catholic Bishops
of Alberta and the
Northwest Territories

Les évêques catholiques
de l'Alberta et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Catholic Education Sunday is an annual event that celebrates the important and critical role which our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta. Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift, which provides faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta. The Alberta Bishops' commitment to Catholic education is steadfast and we continue actively to work with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah. In the context of our current pandemic, it offers us the prophet's words of solicitude, prophetic fulfillment, and hope in the face of challenge.

Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength.

(Isaiah 40:31, NRSV.)

The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Alberta Bishops released the Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal. The Pastoral Statement describes this as a "time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all." Some significant societal issues, which were hidden by the distractions of pre-pandemic life, are now very evident. This calls people of Faith, and especially our Catholic educators, to chart a prophetic path in addressing these issues now and in the future.

"Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social

Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.”
(Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal)

This call for renewal will be embraced by our young people through the role that Catholic education must play in strengthening authentic human development, which is essential for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal for the future of our society.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, proposes such a renewal by rediscovering the value of human fraternity and recognizing ourselves as sisters and brothers, who are responsible for one another and called to stand by those who suffer.

“Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 167)

Another example of this spirit of renewal can be found in recently beatified Carlos Acutis, a young man of our era. He lived the faith by devoting himself to the Eucharist and responding to this Grace in his life by caring for the poor, advocating for those living with physical or mental challenges, and using technology to further evangelization. Blessed Carlos Acutis has been called “a millennial saint.” His example can guide young people in our Catholic schools to learn about him and to be inspired by his active witness to the Catholic Social Teachings of our faith!

Catholic Education fosters high academic achievement and provides students with personal and communal spiritual formation. Catholic Education invites students to see each other and, indeed, the peoples of the world as their sisters and brothers. This fraternity calls the students to respond to those in need locally and globally. These good works help young people to seek the common good and to bring Christ’s love and hope to others.

May the efforts of everyone bring hope and renewed strength to all those committed to Catholic Education. In this time of pandemic, we extend to our Catholic school communities our prayers and blessing for the celebration of Catholic Education Sunday.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan

Bishop of Calgary

Most Reverend David Motiuk

Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR

Archbishop Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Paul Terrio

Bishop of St. Paul

Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR

Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith

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Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR

Archbishop Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Paul Terrio

Bishop of St. Paul

Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR

Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Friday, November 27 6:00-7:00pm

1st Sunday of Advent

Hope in the Times of Pandemic

Fr. Rodel Abanto

Friday, December 4th 6:00-7:00pm

2nd Sunday of Advent

Why Peace is Important for our
Families, Society and World

Fr. Roque Pereira

Friday, December 11th 6:00-7:00pm

3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy Changes our Perspective of Life

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Friday, December 18th 6:00-

7:00pm

4th Sunday of Advent

God's Love is Completed in
the Manger

Deacon Robert Risling

Monday, December 21st

6:00-7:00pm

Nativity of Jesus

Word Became Flesh and
Dwelt Among Us

Fr. Roque Pereira

*Talks will be
live streamed
or you may
attend in
person. With*

*Covid
Restrictions.*

At Holy
Family
Parish

ADVENT
MISSION TALKS

FORMED.org

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

LOG IN WWW.FORMED.ORG

- Go to Formed.org
- Enter our PARISH CODE: **GPQWK7**
Create a personal account with your personal username/email and password.
- Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

IMPORTANT: Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

LIVESTREAM

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses in the Diocese of Calgary is available at: <https://www.catholiccy.ca>.

You can also watch parish Sunday Masses via TELUS Optik TV Ch. 876 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#).

Sunday 10:30am Mass

Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q



For more Livestreams, visit
CATHOLICYC.CA/LIVESTREAMMASS

SCHEDULE



MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6 pm - Rosary

(WEDNESDAY - ROSARY AND MASS)

BILINGUAL: PORTUGUESE & ENGLISH
OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, CALGARY



SATURDAY

5 pm - Anticipated Sunday Mass

ST. PAUL'S PARISH, AIRDRIE



SUNDAY

10:30 am - Sunday Mass

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH, CALGARY

Noon - Sunday Mass

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, CALGARY
IN PORTUGUESE

5 pm - Sunday Mass

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, CALGARY



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

THANK YOU  **TELUS**
FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!

EMAIL SCAM

Several reports of email scams have been brought to our attention. The emails have been written in a compelling way that the email addresses of the senders were not visually verified and responses were sent. Perhaps this is a reminder that when someone you know asks you to email them back and sounding desperate to perhaps check the sender's email address. The scammers have become more intelligent in acquiring the tone of how we write as clergy.

ONLINE GIVING

Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyyc.ca/give> [or contact your Parish to set up a direct debit deposit].



Faithfully November's Edition is out

November edition of Faithfully is out! This month Faithfully highlights the hope found in Christ's redemption as we remember the souls of our departed beloved ones. Read an important message from Bishop McGrattan about the two important legislative matters (Bill C-6 & C07) and what the Bishops of Canada urge you to do, so that we can make a difference.

Also highlighted in this edition: stories from two teachers on the importance of Catholic Education, the joy of volunteering, and an insight on caring and serving our children well. Two highlighted events in November: Field of Crosses Memorial Park (Nov. 10 & 11) and the Memorial Liturgy for those mourning the loss of a child through miscarriage or stillbirth.

[Read November edition of Faithfully online](#)

<https://subscribepage.com/faithfully>

LINKS

- News.CalgaryDiocese.ca | Announcements from the Diocese of Calgary
- Events.CalgaryDiocese.ca | Diocesan events and registrations
- Blog.CalgaryDiocese.ca | Catholic Pastoral Centre Blog
- Careers.CalgaryDiocese.ca | Employment opportunities in the Diocese of Calgary
- Connect to the Diocesan [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)
- To share with parishioners:
 - [Sacraments & Liturgies](#)
 - [Spiritual Resources](#)
 - [Sacrament Preparation](#)
 - [Online Formation Opportunity](#)



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MCGRATTAN

Please read the letter of Bishop McGrattan to the Faithful on the financial status of the Diocese and the decisions that impact the parishes and the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Read Letter
Share the social media text video being released to raise the awareness of parishioners on this letter. Click on "Download" button on the page that opens up from this link.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e1uRoZLIBgsGHVjvwdnq4awM1Zn6yTY/view?usp=sharing> -
or repost or share the Diocesan posts:

- Facebook: [Letter announcement](#) | [Video announcement](#)

Twitter: [Letter announcement](#) | [Video announcement](#)

I AM BLESSED 2020



POPE FRANCIS' "CIVIL UNION" CLARIFICATION

At the request of the Holy Father, the Secretariat of State has prepared the explanatory document (in Italian) in response to the release of the documentary entitled, Francesco.

The document, received from the Apostolic Nunciature, clarifies the context of certain statements made by His Holiness and contained in the said documentary. It has been unofficially translated in English and in French.

Links are also provided for further context and clarification

- • Explanatory document in Italian - [Download](#)
- Explanatory document - unofficial translation from CCCB/CECC - [English](#) | [French](#)

- **Catholic News Agency** | Vatican Secretariat of State provides context of Pope Francis Civil Union Remark: <https://pos.li/2h5fcz>
- **Aleteia** | Vatican Secretariat of State clarifies pope's civil unions comment: <https://pos.li/2h5fdg>
- Zenit** | Letter of Vatican on Pope's Words in Documentary "Francis" <https://pos.li/2h5fdm>

COVID & THE CALL TO FAITH

WEEK 7: Value and Dignity of Human Work

The global pandemic had (and continues to have) a devastating effect upon our economy, affecting employers and employees alike in virtually every sector of society.



- Watch Panel Discussion: <https://grandinmedia.ca/bishops-reflections-on-covid/>
- Download Weekly Reflection (PDF) [here](#)
- Social Media images here: [Cover](#) | [Reflection](#) | [Panel Discussion](#)

Parishioners and all viewers are invited to respond to the prepared reflection questions or otherwise to send thoughts/comments to communications@calgarydiocese.ca

EVENTS & RESOURCES

1. 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Bulletin Shorts, free to use

[Mass Readings](#) | Being with Jesus – or Not. The parable today of the ten lamp bearers is about vigilance. Not an idle standing by merely looking and waiting. No, a waiting that is prepared (extra oil!) for all that comes, a waiting filled with activity ready to accompany those who journey through doorways to heaven.

- How can I focus on the bridegroom, on Jesus, and all those he loves?
- How will I ready myself to do Kingdom of Heaven work this week?
- What will that work be? For whom will I do it?

Source: Diocese of Springfield

2. Formation Weekend: I am Priest, Prophet, King

In partnership with St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, St. Mary's University invites you to come and join in person or virtually for a 2-day formation weekend. On the "I am Priest, Prophet, King" weekend, you will learn about your baptismal call to be priest, prophet and king, and how to live it out in your life. When: Nov. 20-21, 2020. Cost is FREE but we need \$25 refundable deposit - given after the completion of the formation weekend. To register, visit: <https://www.imppk.ca/stmu> | [Download poster](#)

3. Jesus Heals - Healing Mass & Adoration

Last year, Jesus Heals programs were held in about 21 dioceses around the USA and in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and Diocese of Victoria in Canada. Nearly 20,000 people attended at 80 different parishes. During the time of Healing Mass, Praise and Worship and Eucharistic Adoration, Jesus touches lives in ways we cannot fathom. Join and experience the Healing touch of Jesus live at Shalom World Prayer Channel (<https://swprayer.org>). Join in prayer through livestream, **starting Nov. 6, every Friday at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**. For more details visit <https://www.shalommedia.org/jesus-heals/>

4. 8 Ways to honour the Holy Souls this November

For Catholics, November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030). Here are some easy ways to remember the dead this year. [Read more](#)

5. Ways to connect with a spouse, even after they've passed away

After the death of a husband or wife, the remaining spouse knows that the one who's left is still present in their heart. This is a real presence. Since Christ is in our hearts, and is one with all members of his Mystical Body, we have the right to think that our deceased dwells in our heart, loving us and praying for us. If we suffer thinking that we should have asked them for more forgiveness when they were still on earth, we should keep in mind that in their eternity, they have no problem forgiving us. [Read more](#)

6. How to talk to children about martyrs?

Those who have given their lives for the Faith offer inspiring examples to us all — no matter our age. We are all called, even little children, to offer our lives on a daily basis, at every moment.

What do the martyrs teach us to help us offer our lives to the Lord? Read ways to talk to children about martyrs without all the gory details. [Read more](#)

7. Why married couples must be open to children

Unfortunately, our world often tells us that marriage doesn't need to be open to life. People will even sometimes say it's selfish and reckless to bring children into a world that is so broken. But the truth of the matter is that a marriage can't be sacramental without an openness to life, and that's a big deal. [Listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcast](#)

8. Remaining faithful during COVID

Our hunger for God cannot be forgotten, even during COVID we can find ways to encounter him. Today, Dr. Edward Sri uses St. John Paul II's leadership and perseverance in communist Poland to inspire us to seek the sacraments and cling to Christ in a safe but faithful way during COVID. Dr. Sri speaks about seeking God with all of our hearts no matter how difficult our external circumstances are. [Read or listen to podcast](#)



Many people from our parish attend this conference every year in Los Angeles. Because of COVID 19 this year it is being offered online. It is only \$35. US. and offers so many interesting topics and speakers. Online at www.RECongress.org

RECongress 2021

RECongress Dates

February 18-21, 2021

2021 RECongress Theme

Proclaim the Promise! /
¡Proclama la Promesa! /
Tuyên Xưng Lời Giao Ước!

2021 RECongress Pricing

The registration fee for the four days of RECongress -- Thursday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 21 -- is \$35.

2021 Location

Since 1970, you have had to travel to the Anaheim Convention Center to attend RECongress. Now that our upcoming event will be virtual, you can attend right from home or work!

What is RECongress?

Begun as an Institute in 1956, our first event was held at Mount Carmel High School in Los Angeles. There were some 500 teachers and catechists in attendance at the two-day conference. Our last gathering brought together 30,000 over a four-day event.

Director's Welcome

See the welcome by Sr. Rosalia Meza, Director of the Office of Religious Education.

[See it here »](#)

Theme Reflection

Read a reflection on the theme and the artwork created by artist Val MacRae.

[Read it here »](#)

REC Milestones

1956 - first two-day CCD Institute (500 teachers in attendance)

1967 - the first three-day "Southern California Confraternity Congress" held with 7,000 in attendance

First Glance at Virtual RECongress

RECongress 2021 begins on Thursday, February 18 and concludes on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

For a registration fee of \$35, you will experience:

- Keynote Presenters
- Dynamic Workshops
- Entertainment
- Sacred Space
- Intercultural Prayer Experience
- Youth Track on Friday and Saturday from 2-5pm



Youth Day Turns 50!

For the last 49 years, Youth Day has kicked off the RECongress weekend, gathering over 13,000 teens together to connect and share their faith. **This year, teens will have the opportunity to be part of the entire virtual weekend!**

Teens from around the Los Angeles Archdiocese and beyond have embraced the theme – **Proclaim the Promise!** – and encourage us all to remember that God's covenant remains even through the chaos. The youth have been working very hard to create a space for young people by young people. They are inspired to share their faith with YOU!

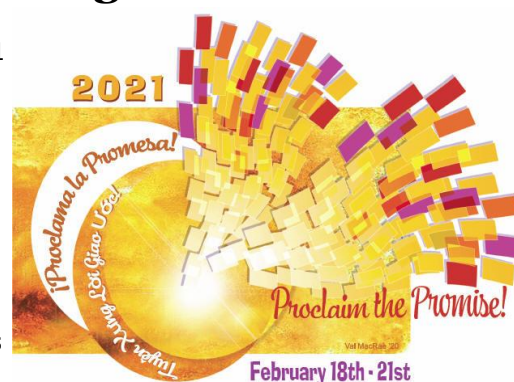
We look forward to welcoming high school-aged youth to our 2021 *virtual* Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

Primer vistazo RECongress 2021

RECongress 2021 comienza el jueves 18 de febrero y termina el domingo 21 de febrero de 2021.

Una cuota de registro de \$35 te dará acceso a:

- Presentadores principales
- Talleres dinámicos
- Entretenimiento
- Espacio sagrado
- Una experiencia de oración intercultural
- El programa para jóvenes el viernes y sábado de 2-5 pm.



¡El Día de Juventud cumple 50 años!

Durante los últimos 49 años, el Día de la Juventud ha comenzado el fin de semana del RECongress, reuniendo a más de 13,000 adolescentes para que se encuentren y compartan su fe. **¡Este año, los adolescentes tendrán la oportunidad de ser parte de todo el fin de semana virtual!**

Jóvenes de todas partes de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles han adoptado el tema – **¡Proclama la Promesa!** – y nos inspiran a todos a recordar que la alianza de Dios permanece incluso durante el caos. Los jóvenes han estado trabajando muy duro para crear un espacio que sea para los jóvenes y creado por los jóvenes. ¡Están motivados a compartir su fe CONTIGO!

Esperamos darles la bienvenida a los jóvenes en edad de high school a nuestro Congreso *virtual* de Educación Religiosa de Los Ángeles 2021. Saluda a algunos de nuestros conferencistas del RECongress 2021.

Meet Some of Our 2021 Speakers

1970 - CCD Congress moves from Los Angeles to Anaheim Convention Center

1973 - first "Religious Education Congress" as CCD office renamed to Office of Religious Education

2021 - RECongress goes virtual
[See the REC Milestones here »](#)

RECongress.org

You can find information and updates about RECongress online. Our RECongress Emailings feature our RECongress Spotlights.

RECongress Emails

Be sure to sign-up for our Emailings about Congress. You may opt out from our Congress Emailing at any time from the "Manage Your Subscription" link below.

[Sign up here »](#)

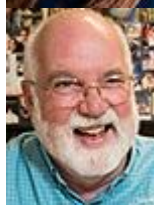
Find us online:



Katherine Angulo

(workshop presenter in Spanish)

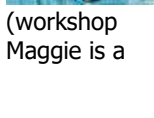
Katherine is the Program Director of the Thriving in Ministry Initiative at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.



Rev. Gregory Boyle, SJ

(workshop presenter in English)

Fr. Greg is founder and Director of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program based in Los Angeles, and former Pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles.



(workshop presenter in English)
Maggie is a



Maggie Craig

presenter in the Youth Track)

full-time Catholic speaker and retreat leader.



(workshop presenter in English)
Sr. Thi Ly Congregation



Sr. Bich Quyen Thi Ly

presenter in Vietnamese)

serves as a member of the General Council for the of Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Rome, Italy.



Hosffman Ospino, PhD

(workshop presenter in Spanish)

Dr. Ospino is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Religious Education at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry, and serves as Director of Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry.

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FCJ



RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

A corporate ministry of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) since 1980

TO SEE ALL FALL/WINTER OFFERINGS

Visit Our Website

WWW.FCJCENTRE.CA



[Spiritual Centre of Peace, Healing and Prayer](#)

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where we are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

Our retreats are organized through a group of dedicated volunteer Captains that oversee the registration. Please see our retreats page for more information.

We have strong ties with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; other Christian Churches, schools and organizations; as well as others not affiliated with any particular faith but who are in accord with our mission of peace, healing and prayer. We value the many loyal friends and benefactors that have supported us in our ministry for over 70 years.

Advent 2020 at Mount St. Francis

Twilight Retreat - Prepare the Way

Wednesday, November 25

6:00 pm (Supper at 6:30 pm)

\$30

Advent Retreat - Wonder's of God's Love

Friday, December 4 – Sunday, December 6

Register with Linda & Russ @ 403-932-1804 or lindamnicol50@gmail.com

\$195

Each Advent Season the air is filled with Christmas carols which constantly fast forwards the season to the Feast of Christmas. Rather than fast forwarding the season, this retreat has taken the theme “Wonders of God's Love” from a much-loved Christmas carol to anchor us in Advent. This retreat invites you to stay in the waiting of Advent while reflecting on the gifts of love, wonder and awe.

Presenters:

Christa Hesselink is a well-respected keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, retreat leader and certified spiritual director. She is the founder of SoulPlay. She holds a Master's of Leadership, and a Master's of Theology degree. Due to COVID-19, Christa will not be traveling from Ontario to be onsite at Mount St. Francis but will join us virtually to help guide the retreat.

Br. Michael Perras, ofm is part of the Retreat Team at Mount St. Francis. He has presented retreats for various age groups and settings and is a certified spiritual director. He holds a Bachelor's of Theology Degree and certificates in Youth Ministry and Lay Ministry.

Day Away - The Price and Promise of the Gospel

Wednesday, December 9

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$30 (\$40 for private room)

Winter Stillness Retreat

Friday, December 11 – Sunday, December 13

A quiet weekend to be still in the silence during the season of Advent.

\$195

Twilight Retreat: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Tuesday, December 15

6:00 pm (Supper at 6:30 pm)

\$30

To Register for any of these Advent Retreats contact Deb at 403-932-2012

Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 6

Check our website for updated information on this year's virtual event.