



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 

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 Friday 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

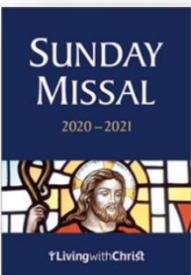


Knights of Columbus

Ron Pisoni - 403-526-1848

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

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



shipping.

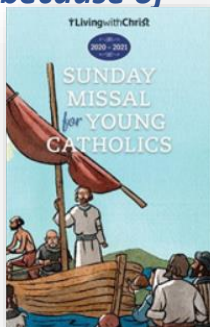
Adult Missal

\$7.00

&

Youth Missal

\$11.00



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

OPERATING FINANCES

November 19-26, 2020

Operating Budget 2020	\$ 15,000
General Envelope Collection	\$ 8,851
Loose Collections	\$ 137
Future Development	\$ 640
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 651
Youth Ministry	\$ 205
SHORTFALL	-\$ 4,516

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 442
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,134
Catholic Education Sunday	\$ 20
CARO	\$10
Mission Mexico	\$10

2020 TIA GOAL – \$71,214

TO DATE \$ 39,128 = 55% OF THE WAY

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

† Masses Intentions †

† November 28 - December 4 †

Saturday, November 28

5:00pm – Fr. tomy Manjaly

Sunday, November 29

8:30 am – Leo & Irene Bachmeier

10:30am – Larry & Carrie Bosch

6:00pm – Holy Family Parish

Monday, November 30

9:00am – Alfred L'Heureux †

Tuesday, December 1

9:00am – Florepina Lazada †

Wednesday, December 2

9:00am – Helena Mudri †

Thursday, December 3

9:00am – Ray Darr †

Friday, December 4

9:00am – Fr Jijaya Bathineni

First Sunday of Advent – Year A Sunday, November 29, 2020

1st Reading – Isaiah 63.16b-17;64.1,3-8

*O that you would tear open the heavens and
come down.*

Responsorial Psalm –23.1-3a,3b-4,5,6 (R3)

*R. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that
we may be saved.*

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

*We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus
Christ.*

Gospel – Mark 13.33-37

*Keep alert, for you do not know when the
master of the house will come*

BE ALERT! WATCH!

We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends; alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: "Would that you might meet us doing right." Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord.

🕯 How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ?

🕯 What will I say?

🕯 What will I do? The Works of Mercy can be a start.

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

Deacon Robert Risling

Friday, December 18th 6:00-
7:00pm

4th Sunday of Advent

God's Love is Completed in
the Manger

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Monday, December 21st
6:00-7:00pm

Nativity of Jesus

Word Became Flesh and
Dwelt Among Us

Fr. Roque Pereira

At Holy
Family
Parish

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

ADVENT
MISSION TALKS



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

It is mandatory to
wear a mask at all
times now in the
church.

We Need Volunteers for Ushering, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, for Front Desk and Disinfection

All meetings are suspended in Holy Family Parish until further notice!

Sorry for any inconvenience
this may cause!



Please join the Knights of
Columbus on Tuesday, December
1st at 6:30pm for a Memorial Mass
to honor Brother Knights who have
passed away.



WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO PURCHASE POINTSETTAS IN MEMORY OF
YOUR LOVED ONES. PLEASE MARK YOUR DONATION SO WE KNOW WHO IT IS FOR



GIFT GIVING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 - UNWRAPPED NEW TOYS,
NON-PERISHABLE FOODS & \$\$\$ FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00pm (will be live streamed) 6:30pm, 8:30pm & 10:30pm

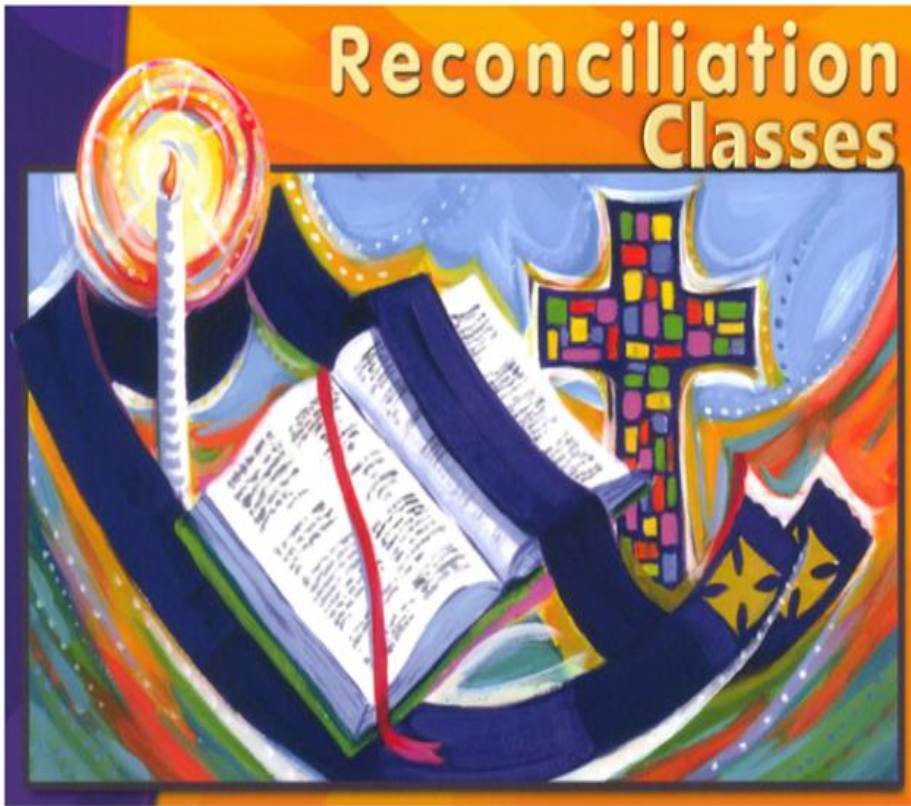
Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

8:30am & 10:30am (will be live streamed)

1/3 capacity will be allowed in for each Mass. Masks must be worn.

**SIMBANG GABI
MASSES
STARTING
DECEMBER 16
@ 7:30PM**





Next in person class for 1st
Reconciliation will be this
Thursday December 3rd
starting at 6:30pm. Because
of new restrictions please
observe the following:

1. MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
Please wear your masks. The
church will provide a mask to
you and your child if you do not
have one.
2. When entering please proceed
immediately to the hall. There
will be NO signing in.
Attendance will be taken once
children are seated.

3. Parent meetings will continue in the sanctuary. Once you are seated attendance will
be taken as well.

DATES FOR RECEIVING 1ST RECONCILIATION

The sacrament will be celebrated at Holy Family Parish ONLY. The dates are:

Wednesday Dec. 9th from 4:00 – 6:30pm

Thursday Dec. 10th from 4:00-6:30pm

Please note this is DROP – IN only. No sign up is necessary. Come at your convenience
between 4:00pm-6:30pm. Again because of restriction please observe the following:

1. MASKS ARE MANDATORY again if you and your child do not have a mask one will be
provided.
2. Please enter through the main entrance where you and your child will be greeted and
attendance taken.
3. There will be 5 priests in total to hear confessions. Your child can choose which priest
they would like to go to.
4. Family members are also invited to go to confession.
5. While in line please observe social distancing.

If there is a conflict with these dates and your child cannot attend, please call Holy Family
Parish office 403-527-6933 to book an appointment with one of the priests.

**STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY IN ALBERTA**

WEAR A MASK

OR FACE COVERING

AT ALL TIMES



Mask use is mandatory in churches and offices in the Diocese of Calgary. Parishioners who are not able to wear a mask for medical reasons can be exempt from this regulation except when receiving Holy Communion.

For more information
call Health Link 811
or visit www.ahs.ca



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

MEMORANDUM



DATE November 25, 2020

TO Clergy and Parish Office Staff

FROM Rev. Wilbert Chin Jon

SUBJECT New Mandatory Restrictions – State of Public Health Emergency

Due to a state of public health emergency which has been declared by the Province, the following are mandatory restrictions that apply to the Diocese and the parishes effective immediately.

All parishes under the Diocese of Calgary are expected to comply with these restrictions, even in municipalities that currently do not fall under the list of *communities under enhanced status*.

Current health and safety measures in the Diocese remain in place unless otherwise indicated by the following new restrictions which must be observed in our churches and offices.

Note: *Lines that are italicized are from the Government of Alberta.*

- The total maximum attendance allowed for Mass is limited to 1/3 of regular pre-COVID capacity or less if required for proper physical distancing.
- The maximum number of attendees for baptisms, weddings and funeral Masses and services is 10.
 - This also applies to Masses for the Dead, i.e. “Memorial Masses,” as these involve families.
 - *This includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses.*
 - For funerals, the Diocese of Calgary does not consider the officiant as one of the 10 guests allowed.
 - Priests must always wear masks when meeting with the family for funeral preparation and with couples preparing for marriage. Proper physical distancing must always be observed.
 - *This does not include staff or organizers who are not considered an invited guest.*
 - For funerals and weddings, instrumentalists and soloists fall under staff. Funeral Directors are staff.
 - *This applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes.*
 - *This includes services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated.*
 - *Receptions are not permitted.*
 - This especially applies to parish halls that offer hall rentals.
- Mask use is mandatory for everyone who enters our churches and offices.

- Mask use is mandatory for all the faithful. Parishioners who are not able to wear a mask for medical reasons can be exempt from this regulation except when receiving Holy Communion. All parishioners must wear masks when lining up for the distribution of Holy Communion, including those receiving a “blessing.”
- Proof of eligibility for exemption is not required when entering the church without a mask, however, we should remind everyone to wear a mask as they enter since they may have just forgotten to put them on.
- After consulting with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, the mandatory mask regulation is now expanded to celebrants, concelebrants, lectors, deacons and cantors. The mask must be worn at all times, including when reading, preaching, celebrating the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and for cantors, including when chanting or singing.
 - Priests who have difficulties wearing a mask while celebrating the Mass can be excused from celebrating Masses with a congregation. Please inform the Chancellor or the Moderator of the Curia.
 - Priests should consider finding acceptable ways to shorten the length of the Mass while ensuring the dignity it deserves, such as the omission of chanting/singing/music and providing a brief homily.
- *Masks are mandatory in all indoor workplaces, except when working alone in an office or a safely distanced cubicle or an appropriate barrier is in place.*
- *This applies to all employees, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors.*
- *This includes all locations where employees are present and masks won't pose a safety risk.*
- *Working from home should be considered, where possible.*
- **No indoor social gatherings are permitted in any setting (private homes, public spaces or workplaces).**
 - Social gatherings are where people:
 - move freely to mix with others
 - have two-way conversations
 - share food, laugh, play games
 - Examples of social gatherings include:
 - wedding or funeral receptions
 - induction or award ceremonies
 - luncheons or potlucks
 - parties: birthday, retirement, baby showers, house/backyard
- *Indoor close contacts must be limited to people in the same household.*
- *Work and support group meetings are not social gatherings, but attendance should be limited and public health measures followed.*
- *This does not apply to service visits from caregivers, health or child care providers.*
- *In-person faith group meetings can continue but must maintain physical distancing and public health measures must be followed.*
 - The in-person format for **baptismal preparation** is suspended at this time as these involve families. The parish should consider offering an online format of delivery or encourage them to enrol in the online course offered by Ascension

Press. <https://ascensionpress.com/products/belonging-baptism-in-the-family-of-god-certification-course>. Enrolment cost is \$9.95 US per family. The family will be given a certificate to show that they have completed the program.

- The in-person format for **sacrament preparation** for children and youth is suspended at this time as these involve families. Instead, the parish should consider offering an online format of delivery. Portal for parish offices: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/preparation.html>.
- The Diocese of Calgary at this time has chosen to suspend in-person sessions for the RCIA. We ask that parishes offer an online format for meeting.
- Lay associations are not allowed to gather in parish facilities at this time. They should use an online format for meeting and programs.
- **Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people and must not have an indoor component.**
 - Backyard gatherings that require movement in/out of homes are not permitted.
 - Attendees should remain distanced at all times and follow public health measures
- **Festivals and events are prohibited (indoors and outdoors).**
 - Only liturgies are allowed while observing the mandatory restrictions.

Added Notes

- **Celebrants, Concelebrants, & Deacons**
 - Only the celebrant partakes of the Precious Blood from the chalice. Only the celebrant can drink from any chalice.
 - A separate chalice is provided whenever there is a concelebrant or a group of concelebrants. They are not to sip from the chalice but instead must self-intinct. Concelebrants are obliged to partake of the Precious Blood.
 - The celebrant will be responsible for the purification of the vessels.
 - Deacons are only given the host. They are not obliged to receive of the Precious Blood.
 - Self-intinction is reserved for priests only.
- **First Reconciliation** – The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance must take place in a well-ventilated area. Every family should be seated and separated from other families at least 6 feet away from each other while waiting for their turn. At this time, we ask that we limit the people in the area 10 people at a time.
- **Penitential Services** – It is highly recommend that parishes do not offer a penitential service similar to pre-COVID days where large numbers of people gather in the church. Instead, we recommend that confessions be made more readily available and much more frequently.
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** – This liturgy can only be held in the nave of the church. The total maximum attendance allowed for Mass is limited to 1/3 of regular pre-COVID capacity or less if required for proper physical distancing.
- **Funeral Vigils & Viewings** – The priest or deacon is advised to only have 10 in attendance of the immediate family and friends in the funeral home for the funeral vigil. Some families may arrange for a rotational viewing to take place with 10 individuals present at a time. Priests and deacons are advised not to remain for the viewing once the vigil service has concluded.

- **Interments and Graveside Services** – The maximum number of attendees is 10. *This does not include staff or organizers who are not considered an invited guest.*
- **House Blessings** – At this time, entering homes for house blessings is discouraged. It is recommended that the priest or deacon bless the house from the outside or schedule the blessing at a later time.
- **Christmas Food Hampers** – The Diocese of Calgary will recommend to St. Vincent de Paul Society and other similar lay associations that food hampers be assembled in homes by the people in the same household. Parish facilities should not be used for the assembly of these hampers. Curbside drop-off and pickup are strongly recommended either in the parish parking lot or at the address of the recipients. Please continue to support charitable initiatives but avoid any form of gathering at this time.
- **The Use of Parish Halls for Christmas Masses** – Guidance on this matter will be provided before December 17, 2020.

For more information:

Enhanced Public Health Measures

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Resources for the Reintroduction of the Public Celebration of Holy Mass

<https://www.catholicyc.ca/resources.html>



1st Sunday of Advent- Year B

OUR HOPE LIVES FOREVER

Once, there was a farmer who was tired of various natural factors ruling the quality of his crop. So, one day he called God and said, “I am tired of all the natural nonsense happening. Obviously, you are not a farmer. You do not know what it means to farm so why don’t you leave nature in my hands? I am a farmer. I know when it should rain, I know when there should be sunlight, everything is happening at the wrong times. You leave it to me.”

Whether you have a good deal or a bad deal, whatever the situation is, it is very useful – you use that for your wellbeing.

God said, “Okay, nature is in your hands.” Then the farmer planned his crop. So, he calls out “Rain!” And it rains. He pokes the land with his finger and sees, “Okay it’s soaked up to six inches,” “Stop!” Then he ploughed his field and planted maize seeds and waited for two days, “Rain!” then “Sunlight!” One day he was working in the field so, “Cloud!” Everything just happened the way he wanted, and a beautiful maize crop came. He was overjoyed.

When it was time for the harvest, he wanted to see that no birds come. He was surprised about that because when he said, “No birds!” – no birds came. He went down to his fields to harvest the maize but when he looked at the crop, there was no grain in the plants. Then he thought “What the hell is this? What did I do wrong?” He could not figure it out because he had managed everything – rain, water, and sunshine – properly.

He went back to God and asked, “I did everything right but there is no grain. Did you sabotage my crop?” God said, “I have been watching; you were in charge, so I didn’t want to interfere. The rain was great, the sunshine was great, everything was fine, but you stopped all the winds. I used to always send fierce winds which would threaten your crop

but because the plants felt pushed and threatened, they put their roots deeper into the earth and so grain happened. Now you have a great maize crop but no maize.”

As the maize crop used the winds to strengthen themselves, various situations in your life can either be used to make yourself stronger and better or you can sit and cry. This is the choice you have. Everything, it does not matter what happens, even the most horrific event in your life can also be used for your growth and your wellbeing. The small events of your life – your business, your marriage, your children – all these things are just a steppingstone. All these things move around the element of hope and hope for the good to come. St. James says in his letter that “never say we will do but say God willing we will do”.

This week we begin our Advent season to prepare ourselves to celebrate the miraculous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is a time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our hearts each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to “judge the living and the dead”. Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him.

The Advent season has two parts: First part (which is from 1st Sunday of Advent to December 16) addresses the importance of the second coming of Jesus. All the readings are focused on the preparation to welcome Jesus with hope, in our midst with various signs and symbols though sometimes we don’t like to hear about the end time because it seems very scary. However, Jesus always reminds us He is with us as he carries us - his name is Emmanuel.

The Second part of Advent (which is from December 17 to 24) emphasizes the importance of Jesus’s first coming through the prophecies we find in the Bible. Moreover, we are also reminded that our Salvation is at hand and we need to rejoice in the Lord who was, who is and who is to come.

Today, as we light our first Advent candle, we reflect on the theme “Hope” which keeps reminding us not to lose our hearts but trust in the Lord. The two words Hope & Wait, during this Covid-19 pandemic are very crucial. Everyone is waiting with hope to see an end to this pandemic. Once again, our Province is hit with new restrictions which for many people are not encouraging but stressful. What should we do in this situation? The Holy Father encourages everyone with these words: “The person who *takes heed* is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost *for others*. With this

manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. The heedful person then also turns *toward the world*, seeking to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us”.

This pandemic should not let us down from the Love of Jesus as St. Paul says, “who can separate us from the Love of Jesus”. In our discipleship we are asked to hope in the Lord because hope does not die. The one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment; and at the same time it wards off the allurements of the many vanities with which the world is brimming over and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed. It is the painful experience of the people of Israel, recounted by the Prophet Isaiah: God seemed to have let his people err from his ways (63:17), but this was a result of the unfaithfulness of the people themselves (64:4b). We, too, often find ourselves in this situation of unfaithfulness to the call of the Lord: He shows us the good path, the way of faith, the way of love, but we seek our happiness elsewhere. The Psalmist says “but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. (147:11). King Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes says “Vanity, vanity, everything is vanity” but on the other hand St. Peter reminds even as everything is vanity but “Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1Peter 1:3).

St. Cyril of Jerusalem once said “We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom. In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will come in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will

address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming. Again, he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await. That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

Through this Sunday's Gospel our Lord is calling out to everyone "Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come". These words are not to scare us but to prepare us for his Second Coming. In today's busy & hectic world we have been lost. We do not know our identity, who we are as humans and as Christians. We are led by the world, which is in a state of denial of everything, realities of life and of faith. We are just left to follow what is happening in the world with no option and very specially during this pandemic we are left with hopelessness. However, St. Peter strengthens us and encourages us to fight against the evil "The Devil is looking like a roaring lion to eat someone, be strong in faith and stand against him".

Today as we begin our Advent season, let us trust and believe in the Lord who is our living hope very especially during this pandemic. We may be somewhat slow to understand but once we open our hearts and minds, then hope will bring new things in our lives just like the following story.

Once there was a frog and toad. One day the Frog ran up the path to the Toad's house. He knocked on the front door. There was no answer. "Toad, Toad," shouted the Frog, "wake up. It is spring!" "Blah," said a voice from inside the house. "Toad, Toad," cried the Frog "The sun is shining! The snow is melting. Wake up!" "I am not here," said the voice. The

Frog walked into the house. It was dark. All the shutters were closed. "Toad, where are you?" called the Frog. "Go away," said the voice from a corner of the room. The Toad was lying in bed. He had pulled all the covers over his head. The Frog pushed Toad out of bed. He pushed him out of the house and onto the front porch. The Toad blinked in the bright sun. "Help!" said the Toad. "I cannot see anything." "Don't be silly," said the Frog. "What you see is the clear warm light of April. And it means that we can begin a whole new year together, Toad. Think of it," said the Frog. "We will skip through the meadows and run through the woods and swim in the river.

In the evenings we will sit right here on this front porch and count the stars." "You can count them, Frog," said Toad. "I will be too tired. I am going back to bed." Toad went back into the house. He got into bed and pulled the covers over his head again. "But, Toad," cried Frog, "you will miss all the fun!" "Listen, Frog," said Toad. "How long have I been asleep?" "You have been asleep since November," said Frog. "Well then," said Toad, "a little more sleep will not hurt me. Come back again and wake me up at about half past May. Good night, Frog." "But, Toad," said the Frog, "I will be lonely until then." Toad did not answer. He had fallen asleep.

The Frog looked at Toad's calendar. The November page was still on top. Frog tore off the November page. He tore off the December page. And the January page, the February page, and the March page. He came to the April page. Frog tore off the April page too. Then Frog ran back to Toad's bed. "Toad, Toad, wake up. It is May now." "What?" said Toad. "Can it be May so soon?" "Yes," said Frog. "Look at your calendar." Toad looked at the calendar. The May page was on top. "Why, it is May!" said Toad as he climbed out of bed. Then he and Frog ran outside to see how the world was looking in the spring and how there was greenery and brightness of the day.

Let us ask the Lord to help us to prepare ourselves during this time of this pandemic and uncertainties

with prayer and hope to welcome Jesus our Saviour who became flesh and dwelt among us. Come Lord Jesus come and fill our hearts with your love and peace.



Photo by
Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

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.catholicyc.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](#)



Jesse Tree Devotional for Children



A printable Advent Devotional for children (age 5-9) "Jesse Tree" will be downloadable via the upcoming [Faithfully](#), to be released at the end of this week. This is an awesome Advent companion for children preparing for First Reconciliation, or any children age 5-9. The Jesse tree devotional helps children connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. Read one amazing story a day, from December 1 to December 24 and get inspired

to create your own Jesse Tree! Written by Pat Grappolini for Faithfully.

- Get this free printable Advent Devotional for children this week via Faithfully - you can subscribe here: <https://subscribepage.com/faithfully>
- Here is a free [Jesse Tree slideshow](#) from Loyola Press (reflection) if you can't wait until the end of the week!

Journey through Advent Reflections

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents Journey through Advent with the Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, OMI, Bishop of Hamilton. The videos will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration (23 November, 30 November 7 December and 14 December). To follow the series, the CCCB offers several ways to stay informed:

- Subscribe to the CCCB's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/cccbadmin/>
- Follow the CCCB on Twitter @ [CCCB CECC](#)

Typhoon victims in the Phillipines

In the past month alone, five storms have hammered the Philippines, from Typhoon Molave (locally named Quinta) on October 25 to Vamco (Ulysses) last week, which came less than a fortnight after the season's strongest storm, Typhoon Goni (Rolly).

- Help our brothers and sisters in the Phillipines now via Development & Peace - Caritas Canada - Emergency Fund for the Phillipines: <https://pos.li/2hawqd>

Events & Resources

1. **First Sunday of Advent - Bulletin Shorts, free to use**

[Mass Readings](#) | **Be Alert! Watch!** We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends: alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: "Would that you might meet us

doing right.” Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord.

- How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ?
- What will I say?
- What will I do? The Works of Mercy can be a start.

▪ *Source: Diocese of Springfield*

2. ***Waiting & Watching* is a special Advent experience for youth in Gr. 7-12**

With the effects of the pandemic on our spiritual and social life, we recognize the need of young people for encouragement and hope — a need that is further amplified with Advent & Christmas approaching. *Waiting & Watching* is a special Advent experience we’re excited to host for youth in grades 7-12. Together with Michael Chiasson and Access52, this evening will feature music, prayer, testimonies from other youth, and inspiring talks that will help set our hearts for Advent and Christmas. **When: Friday, December 11 at 7 pm** in the main sanctuary. Join us via live stream at saintmichael.ca

3. **CWL Annual Advent Retreat**

The Catholic Women's League is hosting their 14th Annual Advent Retreat this Saturday, **Nov. 28 beginning at 10 am**, and it will be livestreamed from St. Peter's in Calgary. The retreat ends with Bishop McGrattan celebrating Mass at noon. Livestream will be available at <https://www.facebook.com/calgarydiocesecwl>

4. **Volunteers with the Calgary Seniors Resource Society**

Calgary Seniors Resource Society has been mobilizing volunteers to provide essential services to seniors for more than 25 years, especially now as the COVID-19 situation continues. Find opportunity to help seniors during these difficult times. Volunteers can help in various different ways, check calgaryseniors.org/volunteer-with-seniors

5. **St. Anne's Haven in Lethbridge**

The Government of Alberta issued a [news release](#) to announce that construction is underway for Covenant Care’s newest supportive living centre, St. Anne’s Haven, in Lethbridge. See [video announcement](#) featuring Covenant leaders and Minister of Health Tyler Shandro. For more information about St. Anne's Haven, [click here](#)

6. **Prepare the Way - Online Advent Retreat with Scott Hahn & friends**

Join the free virtual events from St. Paul Centre, an Advent retreat with Dr. Scott Hahn, Kimberly Hahn, Chris Stefanick and many other great Catholic speakers. **When: December 5, at 7 am MT.** [Register here](#)

7. Lectures & talks with Dr. Bernard McGinn on Mysticism

Join distinguished historian Dr. Bernard McGinn as he delivers the Chair of Christian Thought Swanson Lecture on Christian Spirituality. McGinn considers the meaning of “mysticism”, a word that for many indicates something bizarre, uncanny, peculiar. He argues that mysticism means an ever deepening awareness of God’s presence in everyday life. These talks are hosted by the Calgary Public Library & Department of Classics and Religion, U of C.

- Perspectives on Prayer from Meister Eckhart and Julian of Norwich - **Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 pm to 8 pm** | [Register here](#)
- The Compassion of the Mystics - **Friday, Dec. 4 at 2 pm to 3 pm** | [Register here](#)
- What is Mysticism? An afternoon with Dr. Bernard McGinn - **Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 pm to 3 pm** | [Register here](#)

8. Five quotes from the Saints to help you deal with disappointment

Disappointment is an inevitable part of life, and it can be hard to handle these setbacks with grace. When your hopes and expectations are dashed, the feelings of sadness and frustration can feel overpowering. Fortunately, we have the examples of the saints to guide us here, as in so many other ways. [Read more](#)

9. The true meaning of Advent

What is the true meaning of Advent? What is the best way to prepare for Christmas? You’re free to do what you know will help you prepare the best, but if decorating and so forth does not help you prepare for the coming of Christ, you can be the judge of whether it’s worth doing. Listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz talk about the [true meaning of Advent here](#)

10. Advent in Two Minutes

What is Advent all about? How is Advent different than Christmas? In a brand new version of our classic video, Busted Halo explains the significance of this special season in the Church and why the experience of waiting, hope, and preparation is still so important in our lives today. [Watch video](#)



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)

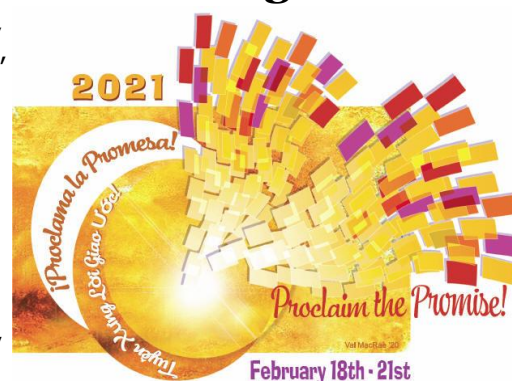
1967 - the first three-day "Southern California Confraternity Congress" held with 7,000 in attendance

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!

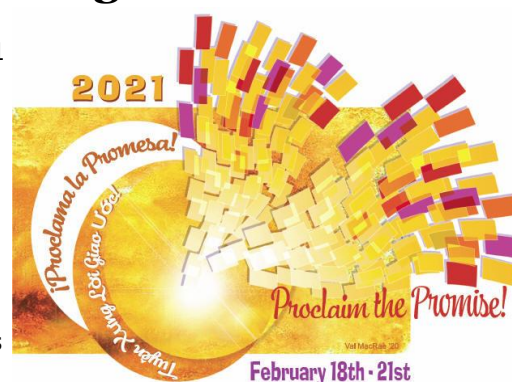
We look forward to welcoming high school-aged youth to our 2021 *virtual* Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

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.

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:



Meet Some of Our 2021 Speakers



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
Maggie is a



Maggie Craig

presenter in the Youth Track)

full-time Catholic speaker and retreat leader.



Donna A. Heckler

(workshop presenter in English)

Donna is a global marketing executive, Catholic speaker, author and strategist.

(workshop
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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Education Congress | Online
at www.RECongress.org

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

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.