

OUR PRIESTS!!! HIT DELETE!!!

Family Church Live Attending Masses... MAKE SURE TO COME EARLY TO BE SCREENED Stream THE DOORS WILL NOW BE LOCKED WHEN MASS STARTS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY FROM PEOPLE https://www.youtube.com/c ENTERING THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SCREENED. hannel/UCG6zK-MASKS... XzuXdDHj79rV6ut Q IT IS MANDATORY TO WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES NOW IN THE CHURCH. You Tube

Medicine Hat Holy

OPERATING FINANCES	
January 1-31, 2021	
Operating Budget 2021	\$ 55,769
General Envelope	\$ 42,302
Collection	
Loose Collections	\$ 378
Future Development	\$ 4,563
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 4,987
Other Ministries	\$ 520
Shortage YTD	-\$ 2,269
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 2,910
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,906
Clergy Retirement	\$ 125
Seminarian Fund	\$ 130
Mission Mexico	\$ 170
CARO	\$ 85
2021 TIA GOAL - \$??,???	
TO DATE \$ 2,910 = ??% OF THE WAY	
Thank You for your Generous Contributions	

† Masses Intentions Feb 27th – Mar 5th †

Saturday, February 27

8:30am – Johanne Gaetz 5:00pm – Michael & Philomena Buscholl † Sunday, February 28 8:30 am – Holv Family Parish 10:30am - Lorraine Haaf 6:00pm – Joyce Risling † Monday, March 1 9:00am – George Corcoran † **Tuesday**, March 2 9:00am – Angie Strachan Wednesday March 3 9:00am – Jim & Joan Kaupp & Family Thursday, March 4 9:00am – Catherine Zacher Friday, March 5 9:00am – Don Zahn †

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B Sunday, February 21, 2021

1st Reading: Genesis 22

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Responsorial Psalm: 116.10+15,16-19 (*R.9*)

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

2nd Reading: Romans 8.31b-35,37++ God did not withhold his own Son.

Gospel: Mark 9.2-10

This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.



LISTEN TO HIM.

One week into Lent, we are simply told by the voice from the cloud: Listen to Jesus. He told us last Sunday to "believe in the gospel." What does belief in this Good News look and sound like this Lent, this year?

- [†] Since we are descendants of Abraham, how am I to behave with my cousins (that is, everyone)?
- † Since we are sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom do I listen? What am I told?
- † Since I am also "beloved", what will I do?



This letter was sent to us from Fr. Wilbert from the Diocese in Calgary, we urge everybody to read it!

There has been a noticeable increase in the Diocese of reports of fraudulent activities that have taken place over the course of last year in our Diocese wherein clergy and parishioners have fallen prey to malicious schemes. One possible explanation for such occurrences could be our increased reliance on computers and devices for daily ministerial work during the time of the pandemic.

We have to remember that anybody can be susceptible and can become a victim to such schemes. It only takes a particular circumstance on any given day, one's subjective disposition, and the perceived credibility/authority of these emails, websites, screen pop-ups, social media messages and posts, text messages, or phone calls for anyone to fall into a trap. Several individuals have shared that they felt like they had been cornered once they made the mistake of responding and could hardly get out of it. Most recently, even somebody who works in a bank has fallen prey to this because the person at the moment believed, without reflection, that the email came from the pastor of the parish.

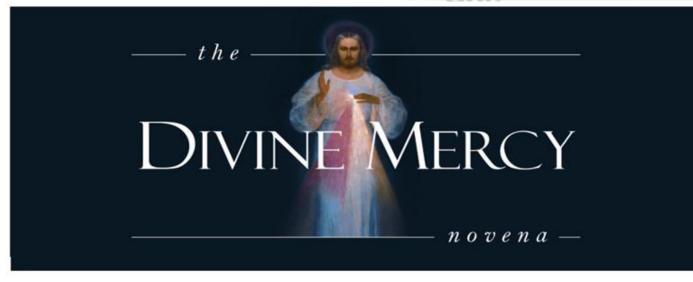
One of the key ways to prevent ourselves from falling into these traps is to remember that <u>we</u> <u>do not have to act or respond immediately</u>. When these unusual phone calls or emails come up, give yourself permission to not immediately act or respond. Time and distance will help us to recognize that something may be off or may be too good to be true. If you are unsure, do not press anything and move away from the computer or device to ask for a second opinion. Consult a trusted friend, the police, or any other authorities such as banking or financial institutions.

Never share any personal, financial, or any government-issued identification information and passwords, as established and trusted institutions do not require such information over the phone or email. One should consult and verify the information outside of that phone call, email, or that screen pop-up.

Woman loses \$340K in wire transfer scam — alleges 4 banks did little to stop it A woman who lost her family's life savings to scammers posing as Hong Kong authorities says she was "scared to death" and that four banks should have done more to protect her. A wire fraud expert says banks are obligated to make sure customers aren't exploited and should do more to protect victims.

Read in CBC News: <u>https://www.cbc.ca/news/gopublic/wire-transfer-fraud-1.5917139</u>

2020 Income Tax Receipts have been mailed out.



You are invited and encouraged to join the praying of the Divine Mercy Novena every day after mass **commencing Tuesday, February 16** and continuing through **until Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11**. We will be praying the Daily Novena prayer for each of the nine days, followed by the Chaplet and the Litany of Trust in Divine Mercy. You may excuse yourself and depart after the conclusion of mass.

Weekdays immediately after 9:00 mass

Saturdays & Sundays immediately after 8:30 mass



Vincentian Corner

If you are looking to deepen your faith by helping those in need then St. Vincent de Paul may be for you. One of our members says this is the most rewarding thing she does. Another member says, "St. Vincent de Paul fills my cup in a world that empties it". Our meetings during the month of March will be held at Holy Family Parish. Our next meeting is March 2 at 4:00 p.m.

If you donated directly to St. Vincent de Paul in 2020 and did not pick up your tax receipt, it has been mailed to you.

LENTEN MISSION TALKS March 5, 2021 6:30pm THE THIRD WORD Speaker: Fr. Iqbal How do we Share our Life with Others?

"Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple: "This is your mother." John 19:26-27

Lenten Talks will be Livestreamed on YouTube or come listen in person.

Velichko Slide Show

March 12 - RCIA **March 19 - Parish Pastoral March 26 - Filipino Community** <u>Monday, March 29 - CWL with Margaret</u>

March 5 - Finance Committee

February 26 - Catholic Women's League

February 19 - Knights of Columbus

Stations of the Cross 2021 – 6:00pm followed by a Mission Talk each Friday night.

LENTEN MISSION TALKS 6:30pm following THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 6:00pm

February 19&

March 5, 12, 19, 26 & 30, 2021

March 5th, 2021 - Speaker: Fr. Iqbal How do we share our life with others? "Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son."

Then he said to the disciple: "This is your mother." John 19:26-27

March 12th, 2021 - Speaker: Jimmy Tablan Are we grateful for what we have? "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

March 19th, 2021 - Speaker: Deacon Robert Risling

Why Jesus is thirsty?

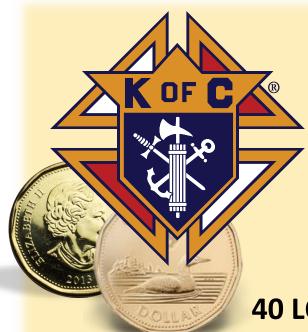
"I thirst." John 19:28

March 26th, 2021 - Speaker: Fr. Roque Pereira

What is our relationship with Him? When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished;" and he bowed his head and handed over the spirit. John 19:30

March 30th, 2021 - Speaker: Fr. Rodel Abanto Why trust in the Lord is important? Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46

Talks will be Livestreamed on You Tube



CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE \$ 2,945

40 LOONIES FOR LENT

This lent, let us commit to participate more fully in a Lenten spiritual discipline of reading the gospels, prayer, fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving. We encourage families to establish a daily program to pray for the less fortunate and to fast to become more empathetic for our hungry and starving brothers and sisters resulting in a spirit aligned for sacrificial almsgiving.

This year, Holy Family Parish and Knights of Columbus Council 9502 ask you to consider directing your Lenten sacrificial almsgiving to be equally split between the Mustard Seed and St. Vincent de Paul via our weekly parish donation envelopes collected at every weekend mass. Our goal this year is \$10000.

Simply write "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and the dollar amount on your weekly parish donation envelope. You may donate your full Lenten gift of \$40.00 one time or contribute an amount of \$7.00 or more each week. If sacrificial giving means you can give more, please do so.

For those who are not using weekly envelopes you may make your cheque payable to Holy Family Parish or donate cash in a separate envelope marked with your name, address & "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and place it in the weekly collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office. Alternatively, you may authorize the parish to process your donation on your credit card.

Look for updates on funds collected in the parish bulletin.

Please be generous. Thank you!





Greetings,

This year the World Day of Prayer service will be completely online. Resources from WICC have been provided in video format so people can access the service from home. The Vanuatu service video will be posted on Friday, March 5th at 10 a.m. on Westminster United Church's Facebook page: Westminster UC Medicine Hat.

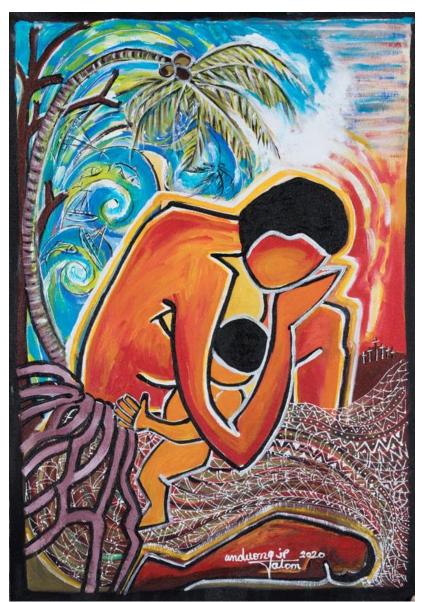
To help keep people safe during COVID-19, we are encouraging WDP donations to be completed online or by sending cheques directly to WICC. For more information, go to <u>wicc.org/donations/</u>

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Westminster United

Church office (403) 526 - 5247. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9

a.m. – ₄p.m.

Thank you and take care, Jennifer Johnson Westminster United Church Secretary





2nd SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

SACRIFICIAL OBEDIENCE

Last Sunday we reflected on The Covenant, which God made with Noah and promised him that he will never destroy the earth again. In the Gospel we saw even though Jesus is tempted by the devil, he remained faithful and steadfast against the cunningness of the devil. After emptying himself in the wilderness he was then strengthened by his Father, Jesus started his public ministry by these words "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news". What time is fulfilled? The time of God's covenant made with Noah is fulfilled because through Jesus his Son, God is to save the world and the Prophet Isaiah confirms it with these encouraging words:

Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth" (53:4-7).

Jesus is Lamb of God who takes away of the sins of the world. Though he suffered he was obedient even to the death; death on the cross as St. Paul writes to the Philippians. In obedience he gave himself up for us because he knew that his Father loves the world and wants to save it from the poison of sin and the slavery for devil.

A chaplain was ministering to a soldier in the hospital and said, "You have lost an arm in the great cause." The soldier replied, "I didn't lose it—I gave it." Jesus did not lose His life either. He willingly gave it for us so we could be reconciled to God.

We are all aware of the meaning and definition of obedience and we read a lot about it. We teach about obedience to others and we even learn to obey through the word. "OBEDIENCE" in our secular world is almost becoming extinct. People have drawn the wrong conclusion about obedience; for example, some people obeying means losing one's self esteem or dignity and becoming subject to others. However today through the Sacred Scripture Reading we find another form of obedience and that is Sacrificial Obedience. What does it mean?

Let us walk with Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Elijah, Jesus, and disciples. In the First Reading we see the story of a father and son. A couple receives a miracle of a son at a very old age. We can imagine the joy and happiness of the parents having their first child after many years of marriage. We can imagine the emotional attachment of the parents. Would it be easy for those parents to let that child go away from home or die? I would say no. I met a couple few days ago who have two sons. During our conversation I asked the kids if they were going to school. The oldest son said yes, but for the younger one, the reply came from the mother, she said that she would love to keep him closer to her as much as she could. Is there anything wrong with that, no, because that is the love of the parents and this mother.

Despite emotional attachment, a serious and tough test is placed before Abraham "take your son and sacrifice him on the mountain". Serious goosebumps! How in the world is it possible for a father to let go of his son, who is his only son and who will continue his offspring? What would be our reaction in this kind of situation? The

reaction of Abraham is of "Sacrificial Obedience". He is willing to sacrifice his son because for him obedience is more important than the sacrifice. Even the son is part of his father's obedience and wants his father to carry out what he has decided to do. The outcome of the obedience is that God promised the multitude of nations and offspring as numerous as the stars in heaven and the sand on a seashore. "What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:1-3). The author to the Letter to Hebrews explains the reward of Abraham in this way "When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise." (6:13-15).

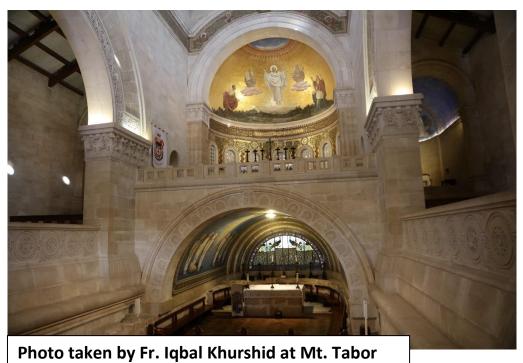
In the Second Reading St. Paul while writing to Romans, explains the purpose of Jesus' sacrifice who died for us all and who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. If he died for us to unite with his Father then who can separate us from his love; "no, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us". There is one requirement to remain united with this sacrificial obedience and then we will have the crown of eternal glory "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" St. John says in the Book of Revelation.

The Gospel Reading invites us to contemplate the Transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus just finished talking with his disciples about his suffering, death and resurrection and off course St. Peter did not like the idea of Jesus's suffering and dying and he almost fights with the Lord. "This message led to crisis for Peter and the entire group of disciples, who rejected the idea that Jesus would be scorned by the leaders of the people and then put to death. Indeed, they were waiting for a powerful, strong, dominating Messiah, whereas Jesus presented himself as a humble and gentle servant of God, and servant of mankind, who would offer his life in sacrifice, passing by way of persecution, suffering and death. But how could one follow a Master and Messiah whose earthly existence was to end in that way? That is what they were thinking. And the answer came precisely from the Transfiguration" as Pope Francis reflects on the Gospel. Is Peter wrong to stop Jesus talking about his death? None of us like to hear from someone who is very near to us that he/she is going to die. What would be our first reaction? "Stop talking about the death." I remember while

talking to my sisters about my dad, they told me that dad said he does not have much time to live and he will be soon gone to the Lord. My sister's reaction was "No, don't talk like that, you will be fine".

Soon after the confrontation with St. Peter, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John, "and led them up a high mountain; and showed them his glory, the glory of the Son of God". This may have made his disciples change their perspective of his suffering, death, and resurrection. The Holy Father reflects "They saw him, as he would be after the Passion: glorious". The story does not end there but continues with the important personalities of the Old Testament: Prophet Moses & Prophet Elijah. These two prophets are the persona Christi in many ways (please read about them). These two had gone to the mountain of the Lord to meet with God. Moses represents the Law and Prophet Elijah represents the Prophets. These two are there to confirm what is written in the Law and Prophets about Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. The event of Jesus transfiguring himself on the mountain enables us to better understand his Resurrection. To understand the Mystery of the Cross, it is necessary to know ahead of time that the One who suffers and who is glorified is not only a man, but is the Son of God who, with his love, faithful to the end, saved us. In this way the Father renews his messianic declaration about the Son, which he had made previously on the bank of the River Jordan after his Baptism, exhorting: "listen to him". The disciples are called to follow the Master with trust, with hope, not withstanding his death; the divinity of Jesus must be made manifest precisely on the Cross, precisely in his dying "in that way", so that here Mark the Evangelist places in the mouth of the centurion the profession of faith: "Truly this man is the Son of God!".

These two prophets have prepared Jesus for the Sacrificial Obedience to the Father who loves him so much "this is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to him". This is the message the Father gives to the Apostles. Jesus' message is preparing them by showing them his glory; the Father's message is: "Listen to him". There is no moment in life that cannot be fully lived by listening to Jesus. In beautiful moments, let us stop and listen to Jesus; in difficult moments, let us stop and listen to Jesus. This is the way. He will tell us what we must do. Always. The apostles are taken up so much by what they witness that they want to stay and prepare tents for themselves. Who in the world would talk about their death especially when they are young? I guess only Jesus does because he knows the purpose of his coming to the world and he wants to gather everyone under his pinions as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. In his obedience, after his transfiguration, he does not go anywhere but to Jerusalem where the events of human salvation are going to take place. His own people will betray him, arrest him, torture him, crucify him, and will deny him. His obedience will bring him to the point where he will say "Father, if you are willing,



remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done". Luke 22.42.

At the end I would like to leave all of you with these questions to contemplate while you read the story below. What are the times when I disobeyed the Lord? When did I really feel that I have obeyed the Lord and have listened to him?

"St. Germanos of Constantinople, in one of his works on repentance, writes that a certain Christian who was overcome by the demon of fornication, fell into this sin every day, and every day confessed it again with tears, saying: 'Lord, have mercy on me and take this temptation from me, because I am overcome by sensual pleasure and there is no person in whose face I am capable of seeing your pure image and of taking joy in your most sweet countenance.' He went out of the church and again fell into sin. However, he did not despair but, repentant, ran straight back to church. And this went on for many years - it must have been more than ten. And God, in his love for man, patiently awaited and sought his repentance."

"So, one day, having sinned yet again, he ran back into church, fell on the ground and sighing from the depth of his heart, lamented, and wailed, compelling God in his mercy and love to take pity on him and help him, so that he could be set free from the mire of his sin. The devil, however, seeing that he was being defeated through his repentance, become insolent and, making himself visible, appeared before the door of the church and, turning away his gaze, cried out: "Damn and blast it! Why do you pursue me so, Jesus, Son of God? Your infinite compassion defeats me. Why do you accept back this impure fornicator who lies to you and spurns you every day? Why don't you reduce him to a cinder with a thunderbolt instead of showering forbearance and waiting for him to return? You are not just, therefore, but you judge unjustly and overlook man's sins whenever it suits you. As for me, you cast me down from heaven and did not take pity on me at all, just because I showed a little pride. And yet, how is it that just because he howls before you, this liar and fornicator, you have compassion on him and heed him so you can show him mercy? Why are you called just then? For I see that you accept people and in your great love for them you overlook what is just.' And saying all this with much bitterness, he puffed out flames from his nostrils."

"At once a voice from the holy altar was heard saying: 'You evil and destructive dragon, you who are not satisfied with swallowing up the whole world, but rush to seize this man also, who has fallen on my infinite mercy. Can you show me enough of his sins which would be equal to the blood I shed for the salvation of sinners? My sacrifice and death atoned for his sins. When he comes to you with his sins why do you receive him with glee, hoping to gain him, and not turn him away? And I, who am merciful and good, and commanded my apostle Peter to forgive his brother seventy times seven a day, or four hundred and ninety times, that is without measure, why should I not forgive him? Yes, I will forgive him and because he hastens to me, I will not turn him away until I have won him; because I was crucified for the sake of sinners and I laid out my hands on the cross in order that whoever desires to be saved might find refuge in me. In my kindness I do not turn anyone away, even if that person comes to me countless times a day and then leaves me again; for I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

"And all the while the devil stood trembling, unable to move from the spot. Then the voice was heard again saying: 'Listen, you deceiver and enemy of truth, as to what you accuse me of: since I am indeed just, as I find man so shall I judge him. And since this man humbles himself before me in repentance, confessing his sins and pleading for mercy, I will take his soul now and I will give him a crown like that of a saint; for he endured for so many years trusting in my goodness and did not despair of his salvation. As for you, O tormentor, see how much honour his soul will be granted." "And then the brother, prostrate on the floor of the church before the icon of Christ the Saviour and lamenting and wailing, gave up his spirit. And immediately a company of angels appeared and took up his soul with much glory and rejoicing and brought it to a place of rest. Then the wrath of God fell upon Satan like a tongue of flame."





GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS with Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick C.S.Sp.

APRIL 2 – WATCH DURING YOUR REGULAR TV MASS TIMES

We come face to face with Christ in those who suffer. Through these Stations of the Cross, we follow in Jesus' footsteps from Pilate's palace, to Calvary. We mark ourselves with the sign of the cross and walk with Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick on the way to the cross. This production is not the traditional Way of the Cross, as it invites us to join with the faithful followers of Christ, especially his mother, and to enter into the passion and death of Jesus our saviour.

In appreciation of your kind support, please check the appropriate box on your donation form if you would like us to send you the new booklet based on these reflections.



HOLY SATURDAY THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

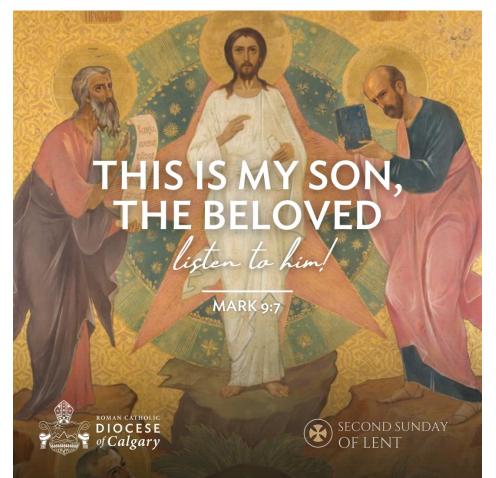
with Fr. John Bertão

APRIL 3 – WATCH DURING YOUR REGULAR TV MASS TIMES

"With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the School of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love." St. John Paul II

Holy Saturday is a time of contemplation for Catholics as we wait for the joy of our Easter celebration. Father John Bertão will be sharing a reflection on the Luminous Mysteries. (Baptism of Christ, Wedding at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, Institution of the Eucharist.) These newest of the mysteries of the Rosary, established by St. Pope John Paul II in 2002, have been called "Mysteries of Light" and are messages of enlightenment and hope.

FROM THE DIOCESE...



Lenten Spiritual Renewal #2

• Watch Reflection #2 from the Bishop: *The Primary of Grace* - <u>Youtube</u> | <u>Website</u>

COVID-19 Resources

- Sacraments & Liturgies
- Spiritual Resources

- <u>Sacrament Preparation</u> (First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation) - <u>Online Formation Opportunity</u> Visit the <u>Diocesan Event</u> <u>Calendar</u>

Follow us on Social Media Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

Weekly reflections can be found here: <u>Vatican News | The Sunday</u> <u>Website</u> <u>Sunday Connection | CCCB</u> <u>Reflection (new link)</u>

Daily and Sunday Mass Prayers & Readings: <u>CCCB Daily</u> <u>Readings</u> (pick the desired date)

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses: <u>https://www.catholicyyc.ca</u> | TEL US Optik TV Ch. 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit <u>Salt+Light TV</u>, <u>Shalom World TV</u>, <u>EWTN</u> and <u>Vision TV</u>

February Edition of Faithfully

The February edition of Faithfully was released last Thursday, Feb. 11. This month, Faithfully is featuring the Bishop's Lenten message, the faith stories from those who are sick and their carers, Catholic schools advocates and stories highlighting the month of the Holy Family.

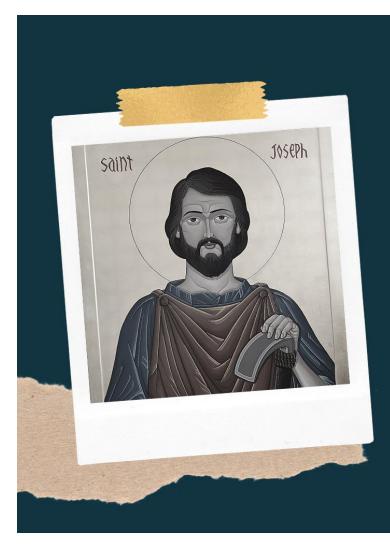
- Read Faithfully <u>here</u>
- Subscribe to Faithfully

• Watch Reflection #1 from the Bishop: *Ash Wednesday* - <u>Youtube</u> | <u>Website</u>

• Read the Bishop's Lenten Message <u>here</u> Upcoming reflection themes:

- Feb. 28, Second Sunday of Lent: The Call to Holiness
- March 7, Third Sunday of Lent: Prayer
- March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent: Listening to the Word of God
- March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent: Proclaiming the Word of God
- March 28, Palm Sunday: Reconciliation and Healing
- April 4, Easter Sunday: The Holy Eucharist

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph



CELEBRATE

The Jean of St. Joseph

December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021



Parishes: please read the <u>Guidelines</u> on the Celebration of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Year of St. Joseph!

- Parishes, families, and the faithful are encouraged to pray the **Novena to Saint Joseph** which begins on **Thursday March 11, 2021**. Novena is available at <u>catholicyyc.ca/stjoseph.html</u>
- Parishes are invited to simultaneously celebrate the Mass for the Solemnity with the Bishop in their own churches on Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5 pm.
 Bishop McGrattan will be celebrating the 5 pm Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral. This Mass will be livestreamed.
- Download <u>guidelines</u> in PDF | Find resources and downloadable St. Joseph's icon, prayer card, Novena at <u>catholicyyc.ca/stjoseph.html</u>

Persecution of Uighurs in China

Faith leaders, activist groups and governments have alleged genocide against the ethnic Uyghur Muslims in China's remote Xinjiang region. According to many international human rights bodies, more than 1 million Uyghur Muslims are held in internment camps. Following Pope Francis' mention in passing of the Uyghurs as persecuted in a new book, the Chinese foreign ministry said the claim is groundless. Read more

- Two days ago, Canada's House of Commons has voted to declare China's treatment of its Uighur minority population a genocide. <u>Read article here</u>
- Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Uighur who suffer persecution so they
 may be protected and strengthened. Please also pray for leaders of government
 to uphold religious freedom and care for the well-being of all people, especially
 the poor and vulnerable.

We want to share your great photos

Got a great photo? Whether it's of parish life, ministry life or home life, the Diocese of Calgary is wanting to promote Catholic life in action. Through *Faithfully*, social media, videos, or marketing materials, we want to share your great photo and spread the joy diocesan-wide. Submit your photo by emailing communications@calgarydiocese.ca - please include information on photo (who, where, a story or what occasion).

Worth Sharing

1. Second Sunday of Lent - Bulletin Shorts, free to use

<u>Mass Readings</u> | **Listen to Him.** One week into Lent, we are simply told by the voice from the cloud: Listen to Jesus. He told us last Sunday to "believe in the Good News." What does belief in this Good News look and sound like this Lent, this year?

- 1. Since we are descendants of Abraham, how am I to behave with my cousins (that is, everyone)?
- 2. Since we are sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom do I listen? What am I told?
- 3. Since I am also "beloved", what will I do? *Source: Diocese of Springfield*

2. 2021 Lent Guide

Together we prepare for the great Easter mysteries by committing ourselves to fulfill our baptismal call to maturity, holiness, service, and community. The Diocese of Calgary have prepared a Lent Resources page for individuals, family, children, ministries and pastoral leaders in the Diocese: <u>catholicyyc.ca/Lent</u>

3. IWIN raffle to support survivors of human trafficking

February 22 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition, IWIN (I'm Worth It Now) launched a raffle with some great prizes to support survivors of human trafficking. Ticket can be purchased by emailing your name and phone number to iwincalgary@gmail.com - payment is by etransfer to the same email. <u>See the poster</u> for more details.

4. A Story from Lebanon

Around the world, millions of women, children and men risk their lives on perilous journeys as they flee conflict zones or ecological disasters. Take a moment to watch a short video about Aysha, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon, whom Development and Peace's partners are helping. She is just one of the 80 million people displaced in the world today. <u>Watch Video</u>

5. Prayer of the Faithful highlighting social justice issue

For Second Sunday of Lent: For humanitarian workers around the world who bring hope and comfort to people affected by natural and man-made disasters as well as the current pandemic, let us pray to the Lord.

6. 24th Annual God Squad Men's Conference

Men of the Diocese: don't miss this. God Squad Canada invites you to join their 24th annual conference. The theme for this virtual conference is St. Joseph: Sanctifier of the Hidden Life! Leading up to the conference, God Squad also ask that participants pray the Consecration to St. Joseph. God Squad Conference this year is a truly Canadian conference, with speakers from across the country:

Bishop Scott McCaig, Andre Regnier, Jake Khuym, and Fr. Cristino Bouvette! For more information or to register, visit: <u>godsquad.ca/2021-conference</u> | <u>Download</u> <u>Poster</u>

7. Catholic Education & Indigenous People

You are invited to: *CROSS ROADS: Catholic Education and Indigenous People* | *Where are we and where do we go?* When: **March 3, 2021 at 7 pm to 8:30 pm.** Panelists: Julie Showalter, Edward Jean, Sarah Twomey, Pam Sparkingeyes. To register: visit <u>stmu.ca/event/crossroads2021</u>

8. Printable family reflection for each Sunday of Lent

Go get your crayons! This printable family reflection tool from D&P includes six illustrations to colour in every Sunday throughout Lent along with discussion questions for everyone. <u>Download reflection here</u>

9. How Lenten fasting helps us become more generous with others

Fasting has essentially been transformed into an act of repentance, conversion, and charity — moderating one's own eating habits to feed the hungry. It is something we continue to do today as throughout Lent people give to the needy. <u>Read the benefits fasting offers to the body and the soul</u>

10. Almsgiving during Lent

During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is *a witness to fraternal charity and a work of justice pleasing to God*. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2462). There are several special opportunities for almsgiving through donations. Find ways to donate to your parish community and other ministries in the Diocese. Visit our <u>Giving page</u>

A Guide to Lent



Together we prepare for the great Easter mysteries by committing ourselves to fulfill our baptismal call to maturity, holiness, service, and community. The Diocese of Calgary have prepared a Lent Resources page for individuals, family, children, ministries and pastoral leaders in the Diocese: <u>catholicyyc.ca/Lent</u>

What's Happening?

Lenten Prayer with Bishop McGrattan

St. Luke Parish is organizing a virtual Lenten Prayer Service for all of the faithful of the Diocese for the intentions of his Excellency, Bishop McGrattan, and the priests of the Diocese. The Prayer Service will consist of the recitation of the Rosary (Sorrowful Mysteries), a Gospel Reading, a talk given by Bishop McGrattan, a blessing by the Bishop and opening and closing hymns. The Lenten Prayer Service will take place from 2 pm to 3 pm on **Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021** via Zoom. To register, email Valerie DeGagne at vdegagne@shaw.ca or call 403-208-3217. For more information, <u>click here</u>

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An Evening in Conversation with Fratelli Tutti

You are invited to: Imagining a More Just World After Covid-19: An Evening in Conversation with Fratelli Tutti" on **March 2 at 6 pm MT**, in partnership with, the Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon. This free event will consist of a moderated, interdisciplinary panel with four panelists: Dr. Peter Baltutis (CWL Chair for Catholic Studies, St. Mary's University); Dr. Susanna Barnes (Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan); Ms. Georgina Jolibois (Mayor of La Loche, Saskatchewan); Dr. David McGrane (Political Studies, St. Thomas More College). The panelists will reflect upon Pope's Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti to imagine - together with the audience - a more just post-pandemic world. Archbishop Murray Chatlain (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Keewatin - Le Pas) will provide an initial response to the panel. Small group discussion will follow. For more info or to register, <u>click here</u>.

The Bishop's Dinner

This year, our annual Bishop's Dinner will be a little different. With so many of our community members facing food insecurity, we've redirected our efforts to provide care packages to those in need.

Feed the Hungry is a Diocese of Calgary provides care packages to 300 guests every Sunday at St. Mary's Hall. We are currently providing food bundles that guests can take with them.



You can help us support this important initiative in 3 different ways:

- Share this with your community to help spread the word
- Make a bigger impact with your donation. Donations gifted through #Birdies4Kids program will be matched up to 50%! Donate to Feed the Hungry here: <u>https://shawcharityclassic.com/donatenow</u>
- Provide items to cover 300 food bundles (store-wrapped sandwiches, fruit, snacks and bottles of water. Email feedthehungry@calgarydiocese.ca for more information

40 Days for Life

As people of faith, we affirm that *all* human life is sacred from the moment of conception to natural death. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion through prayer and fasting,



community outreach, and peaceful vigils outside of abortion clinics. The spring campaign is from **Ash Wednesday**, **Feb. 17 to Mar. 28, 2021.**

Here are some ways your parish can be involved for the protection of life, to pray for the aborted babies, their mothers, fathers, families, those experiencing unexpected pregnancies, and for staff and physicians working in abortion clinics.

- Offer Mass
- Choose a day in the week to pray the Rosary for these intentions
- Choose a day to fast
- Choose a day to pray before The Blessed Sacrament
- Share the pro-life message via parish communication methods homilies, video clips, online church bulletins, announcements, etc.
- Choose a day to pray outside of the Kensington Clinic by signing up here
 <u>https://www.40daysforlife.com/vigil-hours-signup.aspx?l_id=359</u>
- View "Unplanned" and other movies, documentaries and informative and inspirational videos concerning abortion
- Read books that have a strong pro-life message
- Visit <u>www.40DaysforLife.com</u>
 - Sign up and listen to their free podcasts
 - Sign up to receive weekly prayers/devotions via email
 - Read the 40 Days for Life blog
- Study the Church's teachings on Abortion in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 2270-2275

<u>Please see the attached Pre and Post Pregnancy Resources Sheet.</u> This is a helpful tool to know where you may refer those who need these resources.

Nurturing Friendship Webinars

<u>The CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis</u> will offer a four-part webinar series, "Nurturing Friendship, the <u>Directory for Catechesis</u> in Dialogue with the Encyclical Letter <u>Fratelli Tutti</u>." Beginning 2 March 2021, the series will explore how the themes of these two documents call catechists to be people of hope who promote human dignity and communion with God by building bridges and asking 'Who is my neighbour?'

The series is designed for those who have responsibility for evangelization and catechesis including, clergy, consecrated persons, laity involved in ministry, directors and coordinators of evangelization and catechesis, and Catholic educators.

- Program (or check on <u>catholicyyc.ca/news</u>)
 - Session 1: Tuesday, March 2, at 11 am, "The catechist brings hope: Navigating the signs of our time" with Msgr Murray J. Kroetsch and Michelle Dabrowski
 - Session 2: Tuesday, March 9, at 11 am, "The Catechist asks: Who is my neighbour? Parable of the Good Samaritan as a paradigm for encounters of mercy" with Elisa Lollino and Dr. Josephine Lombardi
 - Session 3: Tuesday, March 16 at 11 am, "The Catechist Promotes Human Dignity and Communion with God" with Dr. Nick Olkovich & Dr. Anne Walsh
 - Session 4: Tuesday, March 23 at 11 am, "The Catechist builds bridges with diverse faith communities" with Julien Hammond and Charlene Peters.
- Register here

Follow us on Social Media

Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

Weekly reflections can be found here:

Vatican News | The Sunday Website Sunday Connection

Daily and Sunday Mass Prayers & Readings: <u>CCCB Daily Readings</u> (pick the desired date)

Livestreams

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

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



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EMAIL SCAMS

Sunday 10:30am Mass

Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel /UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut Q



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 preauthorized 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 <u>https://www.catholicyyc.ca/give</u> [or contact your Parish to set up a direct debit deposit].

LINKS

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



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



<u>Check out opportunities to join online</u> <u>programs run by the FCJ Centre (retreats,</u> <u>spiritual exercises, daily examen, prayers</u> <u>etc.). Visit their events calendar</u>



Spiritual Centre of Peace, Healing and Prayer

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where 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.

March 5-7: Women's Weekend

- March 12-14: Outside Group Private Booking
- March 19-21: Outside Group Private Booking
- March 26-28: Women's Serenity Weekend
- March 31: Charity of the Cross
- April 9-11: Men's Serenity Weekend
- April 16-18: Couple's Weekend
- April 23-25: Anglican Weekend
- April 30 May 2: Women's Weekend
- May 7-9: Young Christian Professionals (Ages 20-40)
- May 14-16: Outside Group Private Booking
- May 17-21: Diocese of Calgary RC Clergy
- May 28-30: Outside Group Private Booking
- June 4-6: Women's Weekend
- June 11-13: Men's Weekend
- June 14-19: Outside Group Private Booking
- June 21-27: 6 Day Preached Retreat
- July 17: Brother Sun-Sister Moon
- July 18-25: 7 Day Directed Retreat

Lenten Online M/ Study



We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and have started the new year with the peace and joy that only the Christ child can bring.

On February 3, I invite you to join me and the Endow team for our first online Endow study of the year. In anticipation of the season of Lent, we will be studying <u>Salvifici</u> <u>Doloris</u>, John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on the Christian meaning of suffering. This letter invites women to approach what is

ultimately the fundamental theological question-why is there suffering?

We will begin on Wednesday, February 3 and will meet weekly until March 24th from 10-11:15 PST. Teresa Hodgins will return as our Host and joining her will be Annette Bergeon (Executive Director), Laura Zambrana (Director of Content), Katie Smith (Director of Development), Janeth Chavez (National Coordinator for Magnifica) and myself.

This online study will be different from our online studies in 2020! The first part of the meeting will be done in the classic Endow format of reading the chapter out loud and having the panelists answer the discussion questions.

During the second part of the meeting, we will be placed into breakout rooms on Zoom! Each "room" will have one of the panelists leading the reading of the second part of the chapter and then facilitating the discussion questions in these small breakout groups. This means that each participant will have the opportunity to join in the discussion, if she chooses. We are so excited to interact with you more personally and intimately in this way!

There will be two ways you can participate in this study:

• Live – Register <u>here</u> to participate live on Wednesdays and be placed in a virtual Endow group in one of our breakout rooms led by an Endow panelist!

• After hours— Register <u>here</u> if you can't participate live during the 8 weeks but would like to watch the recording later and go through the Endow Study at your own pace or watching with your own group of friends at time which is convenient for you.

We look forward to having you join us for this Lenten study. Please register <u>here</u> to join us live or to receive the recording after.

For a free download of Chapter 1 of this study, please click <u>here</u> and to purchase the study <u>click here</u>.

For those who are unable to participate but would like to tithe their Lenten alms in sponsorship of this study please <u>click here to donate.</u> We are grateful for your generosity in support of women.

Please email any questions you may have to me at <u>simone.rizkallah@endowgroups.org</u>.

All blessings, Simone, Director of Program Growth

Register Now or Purchase the Study

Sneak Peek Endow Group

Interested in joining or leading an Endow group, but unsure what it is like? We would like to invite you to join us for a sneak peek of an Endow Group on the study, Lumen Gentium. This will be an interactive meeting showing you what to expect in an Endow group.

Join us!



LUMEN GENTIUM



Mentorship Meeting

Join Simone Rizkallah, Director of Program Growth, in a personal mentorship meeting to discuss your questions or excitement of hosting an Endow Group.

Register now!

Join a Group

Seeking intellectual formation through intentional community? Please prayerfully consider hosting or joining an Endow group for women in your parish, neighborhood, or community.

