



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MARCH 20, 2022 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca

Facebook: [Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish](#) ~ YouTube: [Medicine Hat Holy Family Church](#)

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

CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid & Fr Rodel Abanto
& Deacon Robert Risling

RECONCILIATION...

Friday 9:30am–10:30am. & Saturday 3:30–
4:45pm. Or by Appointment

MASS TIMES... MONDAY to FRIDAY at 9:00AM

FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH at 8:30AM, SATURDAY at 5:00PM

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

THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm

ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am

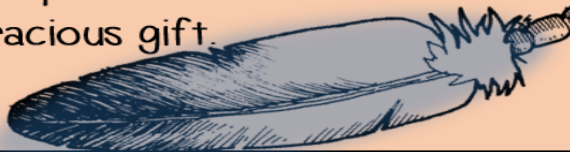
Knights of Columbus - Kirby Peterson

Catholic Women's League - Marjorie Bowlby

Parish Pastoral Council Chair - Gary Heinbecker

Parish Finance Committee Chair - Cheryl Pocsik

We acknowledge that Treaty 7 territory,
on which we stand, is the ancestral land
of the Indigenous peoples and is common
home to everyone in virtue of God our
Creator's gracious gift.



Reflecting on a Tree and a Bush

In Luke's parable, the gardener wants to give the unproductive fig tree a second chance. Here is an image of God's tending to all of us ~ always wanting the opportunity for second (and third and fourth and...) chances. In the Exodus account, God, in an unconsumed burning bush, speaks to Moses. Both vineyard and Horeb are holy ground, places for God's saving activity.

† How will I work the holy ground of my life this week, this Lent?

† What fruit will my life bear?

† How will I listen and respond to what God calls out to me?

Sunday 10:30am Mass

Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

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




3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



3rd Sunday of Lent , March 20, 2022

OPERATING FINANCES	
FEBRUARY 1-28, 2022	
Operating Budget 2022	\$ 59,708
General Envelope Collection	\$38,395
Loose Collections	\$388
Future Development	\$2,894
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$2,300
Other Ministries	\$440
Budget Vs Actual SHORT	-\$ 15,291
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$7,273
St Vincent de Paul	\$2,156
Clergy Retirement	\$ 110
Mission Mexico	\$ 460
CARO	\$ 185
World Missions	\$ 30
Holy Land	\$ 5
Seminary Fund	\$ 65
Loonies for Lent	\$ 265
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	



2022 Goal
\$70,938
total to date
\$11,883.00
which is 17%

Together IN ACTION
Annual Bishop's Appeal



Printable Faithfully - Feb/March 2022

[Download PDF of Feb/March edition](#) | or visit catholicyc.ca/Faithfully

Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 3.1-8a, 13-15
Moses, you will tell the children of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.

Responsorial Psalm: 103.1-4,6-7,8+11 (R. 8a)
R. The Lord is merciful & gracious.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10.1-6,10-12
Our ancestor's experience in the desert under Moses is recorded to instruct us.

Gospel: Luke 13.1-9
Unless you turn your back to God, you will perish as they did.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 4.4
Glory & Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory & Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

† **Masses Intentions** †



Saturday, March 19
8:30am - Addison Foley †
5:00pm - Virginia Cabral †

Sunday, March 20
8:30 am - Holy Family Parish
10:30am - Derrick Risling †
6:00pm - Lorraine Ries †

Monday, March 21
9:00am - Gino Pasquotti †

Tuesday, March 22
9:00am - Special Intention

Wednesday, March 23
9:00am - Dale Hicks †

Thursday, March 24
9:00am - Sydney Miguel Kauri

Friday, March 25
9:00am - Annemarie Derheim †

E-Transfer Donations accounting@holymfamilymh.ca

Listen to Mass on your phone...
Download the "Audio Fetch" app.
Our Network is: HFP_LIVE
The Password is: Liv3HFP*



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



VOLUNTEERS ROCK OUR WORLD



Sacramental Preparation

Sessions for both children and parents,
Children in Hall & Parents in the Church...

1st Holy Communion next class...

Thursday March 31, 2022, 6:30-7:30pm

Confirmation next class...

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 6:30-7:30pm

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!
BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

8:30 – 9:30 am @ St. Patrick's Church Hall

March 19, 2022

Theme: **A Life of Dissipation**

Presenter: **Jeff Joaquin**

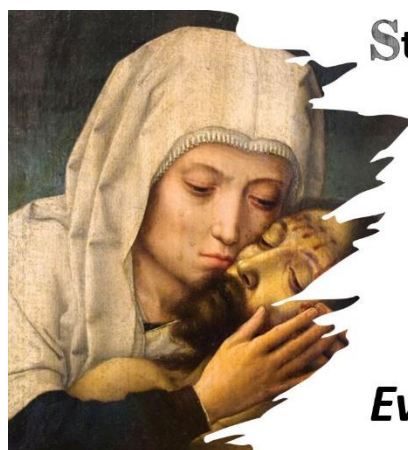
March 26, 2022

Holy Family Parish 8:30-10:30am

Synodal session for TMIY participants



PRAY THE
DIVINE MERCY
Daily THROUGH LENT
SUNDAY TO FRIDAY
9:30AM &
SATURDAY 9:00AM



Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 25

Starting at 6:00pm

Presented by:



Everyone Welcome

**SATURDAY MORNING MASS
DURING LENT
8:30 AM**



Annunciation of the Lord (Feast Day: March 25)

The announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit to be called Jesus (Luke 1:26–38). The angel's pronouncement is met with Mary's willing consent ("Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word"), and thus precipitates the Incarnation of Christ and his redemption of the world.



Graduation Attire- to make you aware of a new project in our city. Shirley Greenfield from St. Barnabas Church is planning to provide students (male and female) in the city with grad outfits at no cost. Making them look and feel their best. She is accepting donations of new or gently used formal wear. For more information contact Shirley at 306-314-9016(call or text) or email shirleyagreenfield@yahoo.com

Vincentian Corner

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps those in need within our community and surrounding area throughout the year. As volunteers, we are so blessed because of the consistent generosity of our supporters – our parishioners. We like to share with you some data every year to inform you of our charitable work from the previous year. Here is a snapshot from 2021:

Membership = 18 volunteers (1270 hours)

Number of homes assisted = 107

Number of Adults served = 271

Number of Children served= 143

Visits to Sick (homes/hospitals/ homes for aged) = 15

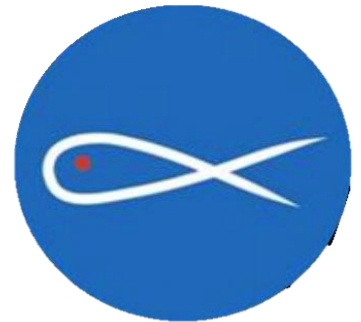
Value of food aid = \$5450 (food vouchers)

Average assistance totalled \$457 per family or individual (rent, security deposit, etc)

If you look at these numbers, you will see that we help a whole lot of people throughout each year. We could always use more volunteers – if you are interested, please call either church and leave a message. One of our volunteers will return your call and answer any questions you may have. You would be most welcome to our group!

If you wish to make a donation, we do have an e-mail address as of 2021. That address is: ssvpmehat@gmail.com. There is no password needed when you e-transfer. We will send you a tax receipt early the following year.

May God bless you all – thank you so much for helping us to do God's work among our own right here in Medicine Hat!



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 would like to make you aware of our **6th Annual 40 Loonies For Lent project**. Your donations will go to **Medicine Hat Food Bank** or what is now called the Root Cellar, **Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul, 5th Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs**.

Thank you and may the Lord bless you and keep you.

LOONIES TO DATE: \$3,439.00





Emergency Funds for Ukraine... To date we have raised... \$ 690.00



CATHOLICYYC.CA

EMERGENCY FUNDS *for* UKRAINE

DONATE NOW

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE
THROUGH THESE ORGANIZATIONS



**Development
and Peace**
CARITAS CANADA



CNEWA

Greetings,

Nurture Pregnancy Centre would appreciate your assistance to inform your church members of the following business.

- Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for: Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:00pm at Nurture Pregnancy Centre.
- In need of volunteers to serve as board members and for various positions within the Centre. Flexible hours available. If interested, please call 403-504-8560 or e-mail mhpscl@telus.net for more information.

Thank you for your support and prayers for our organization. Your involvement truly makes a positive difference in our community.

Blessings;

Teresa Kleinknecht, BSW, RSW





The Synodal gathering includes active listening, reflection and sharing in small groups. In the listening encounter, we are invited to open our hearts to the faith experiences of others and become active participants in discerning the will of God for each one of us, and for the community of faith.

The Gospels frequently show us Jesus “on a journey.” He walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns in their hearts. Jesus shows us that God is not distant but He walks at our side and meets us wherever we are, often on the rocky roads of life. This is the “style” of God who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity, in our life.

A synodal Church, faithful to Jesus in announcing the Gospel, must “journey together.”

Please prayerfully reflect and prepare some initial thoughts on these Synod Questions:

- **How have YOU experienced journeying together as the Church?**
- **What steps does the Holy Spirit invite US to take in order to grow in our “journeying together?”**

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal the thoughts you should consider in answering these questions, the experiences of Church you should remember, the joys or wounds they should reveal, and the insights you should gain.

*“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.”*

catholicyycc.ca/synod | synod@calgarydiocese.ca

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND VOICES

As we prepare to enter into the synodal experience in our Diocese
we invite you to prepare through reflection and prayer.

“The Synodal Process is first and foremost a spiritual process.
It is not a mechanical data-gathering exercise or a series of meetings and debates.
Synodal listening is oriented towards discernment.”*

We are being invited to listen to the Holy Spirit in the voices of the faithful.

ATTITUDES TO CULTIVATE

Listening

We are called to listen humbly and to speak courageously: to listen in a manner that invites others to share authentically while we ourselves share our experiences and hopes with mercy and charity.

Newness and Conversation

We are invited to embrace the action of the Holy Spirit, particularly in the ways in which the Spirit inspires us to new understanding and new ways of being Church.

Allow God to Lead

We are called to allow the Spirit to direct us. To set aside our own expectations so that we can listen more clearly to what God desires of us.

Focus on Others

“The Synodal Process is an opportunity to open up, to look around us, to see things from other points of view, and to move out in missionary outreach to the peripheries.”

LEAVE BEHIND

Self-centeredness

We need one another. When we set aside self-centeredness, we are able to learn from each other, journey together, and be at the service of one another.

Division and Discord

We are challenged to suspend our judgements and ideologies in order to enter into dialogue that promotes mutual understanding and unity.

Fear

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control” (2 Tim 1-7). We are reminded that change is a necessary part of growth and fear inhibits growth.

Self-doubt

The participation of each person is essential for the synodal process. You are called by virtue of your Baptism, to listen to the Holy Spirit in your life and to share your experience of God and His Church for the good of all His people.

* Vatican Synod Handbook 2.2 – 2.4

In what ways do I hear God calling me to listen and embrace the thoughts, desires, struggles and hopes of others, especially those on the margins?

What do I need to leave behind in order to enter this process with an open heart, an open mind, and a willingness to share my experiences boldly and honestly?

In what ways is God inviting me to allow this experience to transform me and to strengthen my relationship with Him and with the Church?

2021-2023 SYNOD
ON SYNODALITY

PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.





Registration to Participate in the Synod Listening (Please print)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Please choose one of the following listening sessions

☐ April 5 - 6:30 pm - In person at Holy Family

☐ April 9 - 10:00 am - Zoom meeting

* Please note that if we do not have at least 6 registered for each session it will be canceled. The deadline for the April sessions is on April 2.

Optional

There will be small groups sharing doing the listening session. Please indicate if you are able to serve as a small group facilitator to record ideas. Training will be provided.

☐ Yes

☐ No



3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

Sunday, March 20, 2022

GOD'S MERCY & OUR CONVERSION

We continue our Lenten journey as we deepen our faith and spiritual life by meditating on the Word of God. First Sunday of Lent invited us to walk with Jesus as he was tempted by the devil to examine our own temptations and weaknesses and learn to rise above temptations. On the Second Sunday of Lent we climbed a mountain with Jesus to experience his splendid glory as he opened our hearts and minds to understand the true meaning of his greatest sacrifice which will never be offered again as we read in the Letter to Hebrews "But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once and for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!" (9:11-14).

St. Augustine reflecting on the passion of Christ says "This is generally understood of Christ, the head, as every Christian acknowledges. When day was fading into evening, the Lord laid down his life on the cross, to take it up again; he did not lose his life against his will. Here, too, we are symbolized. What part of him hung on the cross if not the part he had received from us? How could God the Father ever cast off and abandon his only Son, who is indeed one God with him? Yet Christ, nailing our weakness to the cross (where, as the Apostle says: Our old nature was nailed to the cross with him), cried out with the very voice of our humanity: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? The evening sacrifice is then the passion of the Lord, the cross of the Lord, the oblation of the victim that brings salvation, the holocaust acceptable to God. In his resurrection he made this evening sacrifice a morning sacrifice. Prayer offered in holiness from a faithful heart rises like incense from a holy altar. Nothing is more fragrant than the fragrance of the Lord. May all who believe share in this fragrance. Therefore, our old nature, in the words of the Apostle, was nailed to the cross with him in order, as he says, to destroy our sinful body, so that we may be slaves to sin no longer".

The holy men and women in our Christian faith are the extraordinary examples of God's mercy and our conversion as someone said, "saints have past and sinners have the future". I just like to share the conversion story of St. Augustine who was born in 354 A.D in Africa. His mother, St. Monica, was a devout Christian, who raised her son with a Christian education; however, he was not

baptized. Augustine's father was a pagan who did not convert to Catholicism until on his death bed and he had taught his son to be more concerned with worldly goods and pleasures. At age 16, St. Augustine stole fruit he did not want from a neighboring garden simply because it was forbidden, as described in his autobiography, *The Confessions*. "It was foul, and I loved it. I loved my own error—not that for which I erred, but the error." (*Confessions* 2:4). St. Augustine's friends were boys that bragged about their sexual conquests. He himself had a lover for fifteen years and fathered an illegitimate son. Throughout these experiences, St. Monica continued to pray for the conversion of her son and husband. At the age of 32, St. Augustine heard a young voice tell him to take and read St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. St. Augustine was converted. He received baptism from St. Ambrose, returned home, and gave all to the poor. He was consecrated Bishop of Hippo in 395.

St. Augustine's story reminds us first and foremost, that hope is never lost. God can work and move in the most hardened of hearts for conversion, perhaps when we least expect it. All sin, no matter how grave, can be forgiven if we repent. This is especially good to remember in this year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. Like St. Monica, we should never tire of praying for the conversion of family members, friends, and acquaintances just as St. Monica prayed unceasingly for the conversion of both her son and her husband. St. Monica's prayers were eventually answered.

In the First Reading today Moses is having a beautiful encounter with God in the burning bush. The close encounter of Moses with God is the beginning of his conversion as he opens his heart and mind to listen to God's voice. God says to Moses that this hidden cry of the people has reached up to him: He has heard, He has seen their oppression and sufferings ... And He has decided to take action by sending Moses to rise and nourish the dream of freedom in the Israelites and to reveal to them that this dream is His will: to make of Israel a free people, His people, bound to him by a Covenant of love, called to witness the faithfulness of the Lord before all the people. But for Moses to be able to fulfil his mission, God instead wants him to descend with him in the midst of the Israelites. Moses' heart must become God's, attentive and sensitive to the suffering and dreams of men and women, to those who cry in secret when they raise their hands towards heaven, because they have nothing else to hold onto on Earth. It is the groaning of the Spirit, and Moses must listen not with his ears but with his heart. Today we can ask ourselves, to learn how to listen with our own heart. The one who teaches how to listen this way is the Spirit. He is the one who teaches us to listen with the heart. To open it. He teaches to call God "Abba, Father".

Cardinal John Henry Newman once talking about his conversion wrote "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about. We learn from Cardinal Newman to follow the words of scripture and "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." (1 Peter 3:15).

God through Moses freed Israelites from bondage of Egyptian slavery with his mighty right hand. God loves his people, and he never leaves them alone as St. Paul says "he can not deny himself" for he has written our names on the palms of his hands, and he will never forsake or forget us.

In the Second Reading St. Paul wants us to look back to ancestors and believe that God's mercy is needed for our conversion "Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. And do not complain as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer". How wonderful to believe in the mercy of God so that our hearts may be converted back to our heavenly Father? Prophet Ezekiel right quoted "Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right— if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live" (33:10-16). Also please do read (Psalm 95 & Luke 15:1-32).

The Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent speaks to us about God's mercy and of our conversion. Unfortunately, every day the press reports bad news: homicides, accidents, catastrophes and recently war between Russia and Ukraine has shaken the whole world and everyone is praying for the peace in the world and especially between these two countries. Why there is so much suffering? Why can't people live in peace and harmony? And there are many other questions we raise and ask ourselves. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus refers to two tragic events which had caused a stir: a cruel suppression carried out by Roman soldiers in the temple, and the collapse of the tower of Siloam in Jerusalem, which resulted in 18 deaths. Why is Jesus using these two examples? I think this could be the possible answer to these questions:

Jesus mentions the tower in Siloam in the context of answering a question about a recent tragedy in Jerusalem. Some people told Jesus about a group of Galileans (Galileans) was used to refer to members of a fanatical sect (Zealots), followers of Judas of Galilee, who fiercely resented the taxation of the Romans. Galileans was also term used by some in the Roman Empire to name the followers of Christianity, called in this context as the Galilean faith. Judas Iscariots was also one of the Zealot members) who had come to the temple to sacrifice, and Pontius Pilate slaughtered them, probably due to a public disturbance the Galileans were causing (Luke 13:1). The men who related this story to Jesus, may have been trying to lure Him into taking sides, either for or against Pilate, or they may have simply been curious about Jesus' reaction to the massacre. Whatever their motivation, Jesus' response is sobering: "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (verses 2–3). Jesus continues the conversation by mentioning another current event, this one involving the tower of Siloam: "Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:4–5). The fall of the tower of Siloam is not mentioned in other historical records, and, since the Bible gives no more detail of the structure's collapse, we cannot be sure what the tower was for or why it fell. The tragedy was obviously well-known to Jesus' hearers. Siloam was an area just outside the walls of Jerusalem on the southeast side of the city. A spring-fed pool was there, which was the scene of one of Christ's miracles (John 9). The tower of Siloam may have been part of an

aqueduct system or a construction project that Pilate had begun. In any case, the tower fell, and eighteen people were killed in the catastrophe.

Jesus is aware of the superstitious mentality of his listeners, and he knows that they misinterpreted that type of event. In fact, they thought that, if those people died in such a cruel way it was a sign that God was punishing them for some grave sin they had committed, as if to say, “they deserved it”. Instead, the fact that they were saved from such a disgrace made them feel “good about themselves”. They “deserved it”; “I’m fine”.

Jesus clearly rejects this outlook, because God does not allow tragedies to punish sins, and he affirms that those poor victims were no worse than others. Instead, he invites his listeners to draw from these sad events a lesson that applies to everyone, because we are all sinners; in fact, he said to those who questioned him, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish”.

Today too, seeing certain misfortunes and sorrowful events, we can be tempted to “unload” the responsibility onto the victims, or even onto God himself. But the Gospel invites us to reflect: What idea do we have of God? Are we truly convinced that God is like that, or isn’t that just our projection, a god made to “our image and likeness”?

Jesus, on the contrary, invites us to change our heart, to make a radical about-face on the path of our lives, to abandon compromises with evil — and this is something we all do, compromises with evil, hypocrisy.... I think that nearly all of us has a little hypocrisy — in order to decidedly take up the path of the Gospel. But again there is the temptation to justify ourselves. What should we convert from? Aren’t we basically good people? — How many times have we thought this: “But after all I am a good man, I’m a good woman” ... isn’t that true? “Am I not a believer and even quite a churchgoer?” And we believe that this way we are justified.

Unfortunately, each of us strongly resembles the tree that, over many years, has repeatedly shown that it’s infertile. But, fortunately for us, Jesus is like a farmer who, with limitless patience, still obtains a concession for the fruitless vine. “Let it alone this year” — he said to the owner — “we shall see if it bears fruit next year” (cf. v. 9). God gives us the chance to bear fruit and convert by repenting from our sins.

There is a little story from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, when she prayed for that man who was condemned to death, a criminal, who did not want to receive the comfort of the Church. He rejected the priest, he didn’t want forgiveness, he wanted to die like that. And she prayed in the convent, and when, at the moment of being executed, the man turned to the priest, took the Crucifix and kissed it. The patience of God! He does the same with us, with all of us. How many times, we don’t know the Lord saves us because he has great compassion for us. And this is his mercy. It’s never too late to convert, but it’s urgent. Now is the time! Let us begin today.

Let me conclude my reflection with this story which will always help us to understand that when we believe in the mercy of God, there is always a conversion of hearts and minds.

There was a boy, whose family was very wealthy. One day his father took him on a trip to the country, where he aimed to show his son, how poor people live. So they arrived to a farm of a very poor family, as he considered. They spent there several days. On their return, the father asked his son, did he like the trip.

“Oh, it was great, dad” — the boy replied. “Did you notice how poor people live?” “Yeah, I did”- said the boy. The father asked his son to tell in more details about his impressions from their trip.

“Well, we have only one dog, and they have four of them. In our garden there is a pool, while they have a river that has no end. We’ve got expensive lanterns, but they have stars above their heads at night. We have the patio, and they have the whole horizon. We have only a small piece of land, while

they have the endless fields. We buy food, but they grow it. We have high fence for protection of our property, and they don't need it, as their friends protect them."

The father was stunned. He could not say a word.

Then the boy added: "Thank you, dad, for letting me see how poor we are."

Thank you, Jesus, for your mercy and gift of conversion that we are able to call ourselves your disciples. Thank you for dying on the Cross for us to make us feel special in spite of our shortcomings and failures. Thank you, Jesus, for being patient with us to wait to see that we can bear fruit which will last forever. Thank you, Jesus, for being our Saviour and saving us everyday against the evil forces of the world.

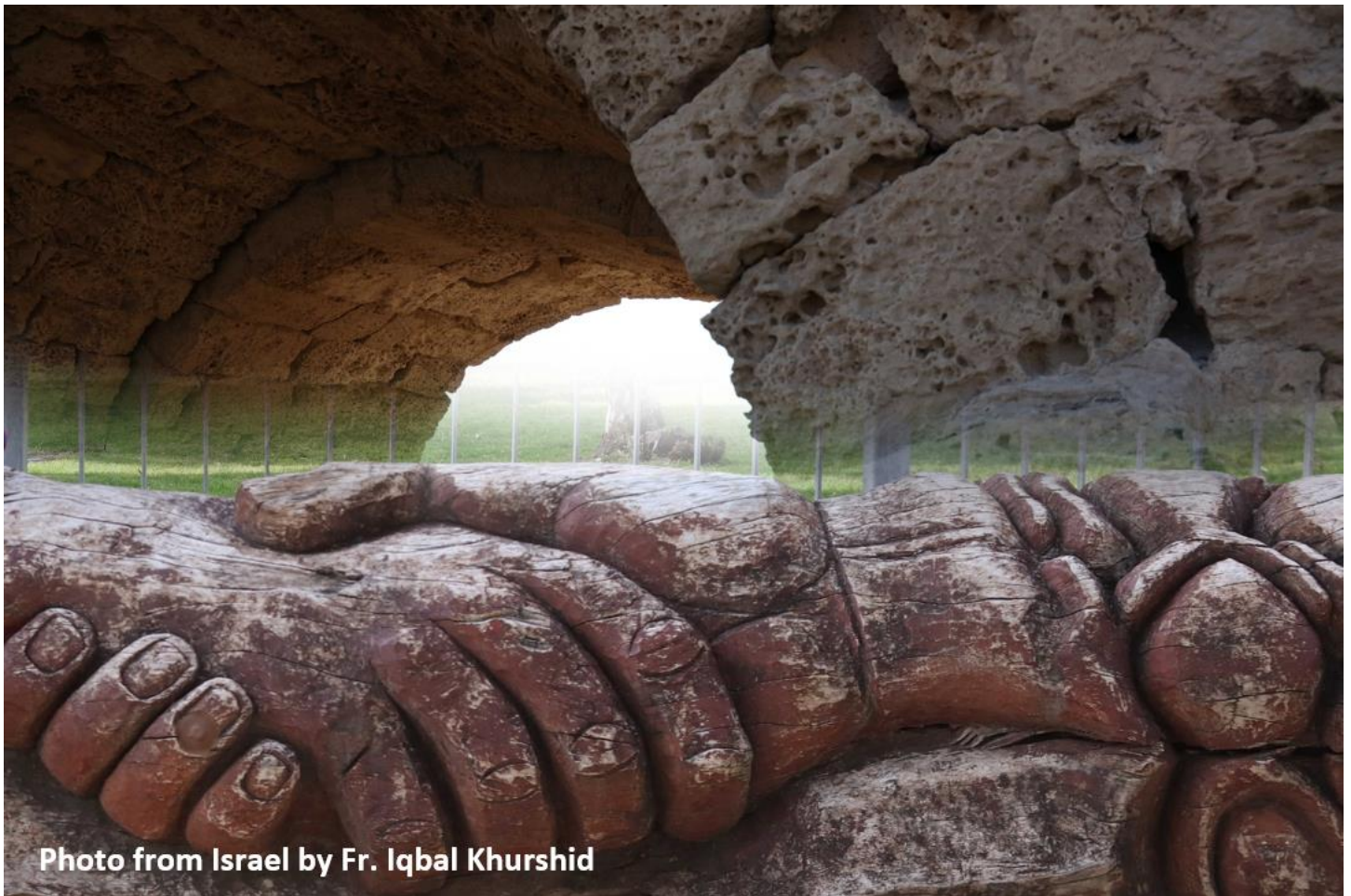


Photo from Israel by Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Sunday Updates

Third Sunday of Lent



Visit the [Diocesan Event Calendar](#)

Follow us on Social Media

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Weekly reflections can be found here:

[Vatican News](#) | [The Sunday Website](#)
[Sunday Connection](#) | [CCCB Reflection \(new link\)](#)

Daily and Sunday Mass Prayers & Readings: [CCCB Daily Readings](#)
(pick the desired date)

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses:

<https://www.catholiccyyc.ca> | TELUS Optik TV Ch. 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#)

COVID-19 Resources

- [Sacraments & Liturgies](#)
- [Spiritual Resources](#)
- [Sacrament Preparation](#)
- [Online Formation Opportunities](#)

Resources for children

- **Kid's challenge this week:** This Sunday's readings remind us of the many situations of need in the world. [Pray together using the five finger prayer.](#) (CAFOD)
 - [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
 - [Colouring page this Sunday](#)
- [Sunday Connection - Third Sunday of Lent](#) (Gr. 1-8 & family)
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday**
 - [Children's Liturgy for leaders/parents](#) (with intercessions and activities) - by CAFOD | [Illustration](#)
 - [Children's Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi](#) (Catholic TV)

Pope Francis to consecrate Ukraine & Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary | Mar 25

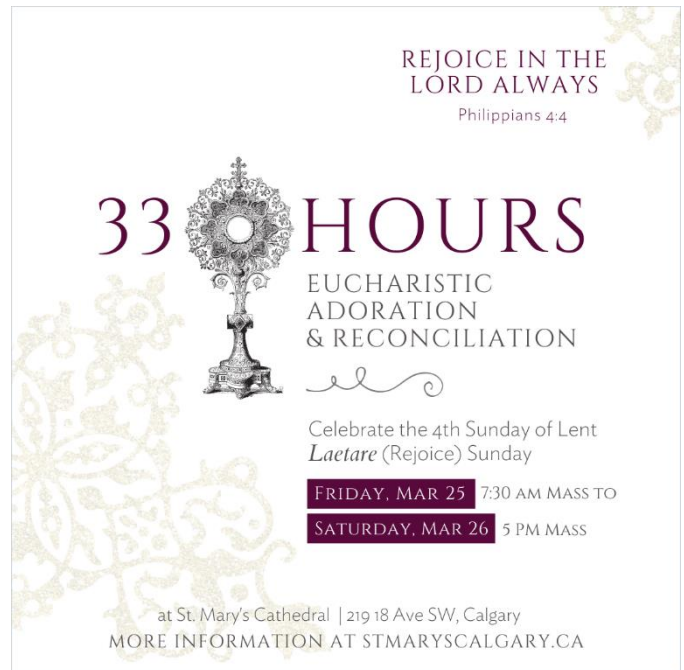
The consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Francis will take place during the Celebration of Penance on Mar 25 (Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord) in St Peter's Basilica.

In the apparition of 13 July 1917, in Fatima, Our Lady had asked for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, stating that if this request were not granted, Russia would spread "its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church." [Read more](#)



Memorial Mass for Loved Ones Lost during the Pandemic | Apr 6

33 hours of Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation | Mar 25-26



To celebrate the 4th Sunday of Lent: Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, everyone is invited to St Mary's Cathedral to spend 33 continuous hours in Eucharistic Adoration along with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation starting Friday, Mar 25 at the 7:30 am Mass and concluding on Saturday, Mar 26 at the 5 pm Mass. Visit 33 Hours to sign up.

Resources in support of Indigenous Delegation to the Holy See

In solidarity with the Indigenous Delegation to the Holy See, Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle has developed two resources: a prayer card and a document entitled Sacred Fire and Prayer Wave for Healing and Reconciliation.

- The resources can be found on the Circle's [here](#)

An interview with Angie Crerar

Angie is a Métis knowledge keeper and elder, from Grande Prairie. Angie has volunteered for more than 50 years. She has been a board member of the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre. She is president of the Metis Local 1990. She started an Elders Caring Shelter, the first of its kind in the country. She is a survivor of residential school.

Angie Crerar will be among the delegates traveling to Vatican City on Mar 28 to meet with His Holiness Pope Francis as part of national healing and reconciliation efforts.

- [Watch the interview with Angie Crerar by Archdiocese of Edmonton](#)

Synodal Lenten Retreat with Bishop Emeritus Henry

All are welcome! A three-evening Lenten Synodal Retreat with Bishop Emeritus Henry on Sunday to Tuesday (March 20, 21 & 22) at 7 pm. Where: St. Joseph's Parish (640 19 Ave NW, Calgary). The retreat will be livestreamed on Facebook Live (@calgarydiocese, @stjosephcalgary) & Youtube. [Download graphic/poster](#)



How have you experienced WALKING TOGETHER AS THE CHURCH?

LENTE SYNODAL RETREAT Synod 2021 2023

JOURNEYING TOGETHER
WITH BISHOP EMERITUS HENRY

Join us at St. Joseph's Church, Calgary | 640 19 Ave NW, Calgary

March 20	March 21	March 22
Sunday at 7 pm	Monday at 7 pm	Tuesday at 7 pm
Beginning the Journey	My Name, Sent in His Name	Food for the Journey

Also available **LIVE** @stjosephcalgary @calgarydiocese

Raising Awareness of Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning in Alberta

Covenant Health Palliative Institute invites you to join the **"Building Compassionate Communities"** online forum on **Saturday, March 19**. This event is **free, virtual and open to the public**.

The forum will bring together experts in palliative care and advance care planning to facilitate conversations, share insights, and examine the issues most important to individuals facing life-limiting illness and the communities that serve them.

- [Registration](#) (by Mar 18) | [View program](#)



2022 BUILDING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES VIRTUAL FORUM

DR. ALLAN KELLEHEAR
FOUNDER, COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES MOVEMENT

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, WORKSHOPS AND WORLD CAFE
PALLIATIVE CARE & ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

SHYLA MILLS
CEO, PALLIATIVE CARE QUEENSLAND

DR. CATHY PAYNE
ALL IRELAND INSTITUTE OF HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

REGISTRATION
WWW.COMPASSIONATECOMMUNITIES.CARE

SATURDAY 19 MARCH 8:30AM- 4PM MT
ENTRY FREE

Lenten Resources

Welcome what God can do in your life with just a Lenten email subscription, reflections, activities, or an open heart. [Visit our Diocesan Lenten Resources](#)

This Lent, let's put people and planet first

This Lent, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's *People and Planet First* campaign calls you to support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their rights and the planet. Do this by:

- Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on April 3, the 5th Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 85 projects in 27 countries around the world!
- Learning more by reading the [Mini-magazine](#) and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources
- Signing the petition for strong laws to control Canadian corporations' behaviour abroad at devp.org/act

For more information, contact [Carol Hollywood](#).



This Lent, let's put **PEOPLE & PLANET first**

Share Lent 2022 Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA

God Squad Conference with Jeff Cavins

Men of the Diocese: don't miss this. God Squad Canada invites you to join their 25th annual conference. The theme for this virtual conference is **"Change on the Rise; Ushering in the New Springtime!"** When: **March 18 & 19.** Where: **St. Michael's Catholic Church (800 85 St. SW, Calgary).** God Squad is excited to host amazing speakers: Jeff Cavins, Brett Powell and Bishop William McGrattan.



BONUS – Registrants receive as a gift the "Rise A 30 – Day Challenge" course by Chris Stefanick – a \$45 CDN value. Visit: godsquad.ca/25th-anniversary-conference-list/ | [Download Poster](#)

Employment Opportunities

There are a number of employment opportunities that are currently available in the Diocese of Calgary and beyond.

- Support Staff (Part-time), Elizabeth House Calgary
- Support Staff (Casual), Elizabeth House, Calgary
- Assistant Coordinator, Feed the Hungry Calgary
- Caretaker (Casual) - St. Ambrose, Coaldale
- Pastoral Assistant (Part-time) - Ste. Famille, Calgary
- Administrative Assistant (Casual) - St. Michael's, Pincher Creek
- Administrative Assistant (Part-Time) - Our Lady of the Rockies, Canmore

Please visit catholicyc.ca/careers for more information and application details.

Resources & Announcements

1. St. Turibius of Mongovejo (Feast day March 23)

Here is a bishop who brought sacraments to half a million people. Turibius Alfonso de Mongovejo wasn't even a priest when God, working through the king of Spain, chose him as a bishop for the New World.

[Read more](#)

2. Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. Learn what the [central focus of this special Solemnity](#).

3. Upcoming Lenten Retreats & Missions

Thank you for submitting Lenten parish missions to the Diocesan Calendar!

See listing of the [upcoming Lenten Retreats & Missions](#) throughout the Diocese

4. Marriage preparation with Catholic Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter invites engaged couples to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage guided by experienced couples in the Diocese. Next preparation date is April 30/May 1 2022. Sign-up online at ceewest.com/calgary

5. Calgary Ukrainian Churches find overwhelming support

Two Ukrainian Catholic Churches in Calgary have joined a worldwide movement to support the devastated people of Ukraine who have suffered from the vicious Russian military invasion of their country. Faithfully interviewed Fr. Michael Bombak of St. Stephen's Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary, who says the response is incredible and he's been "blown away" by the support. [Read more](#)

The Kids' Bulletin

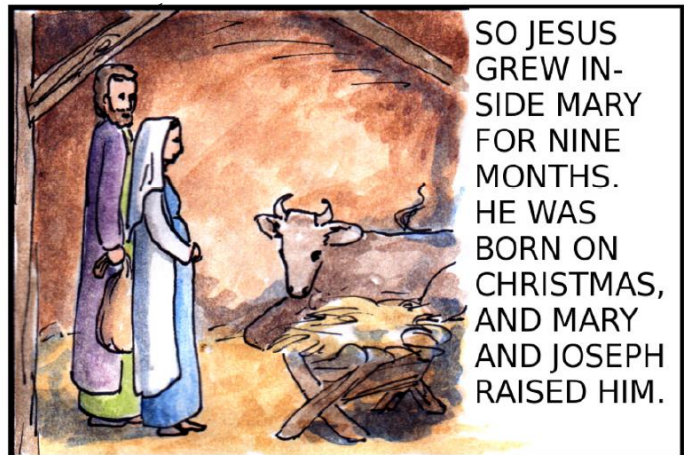
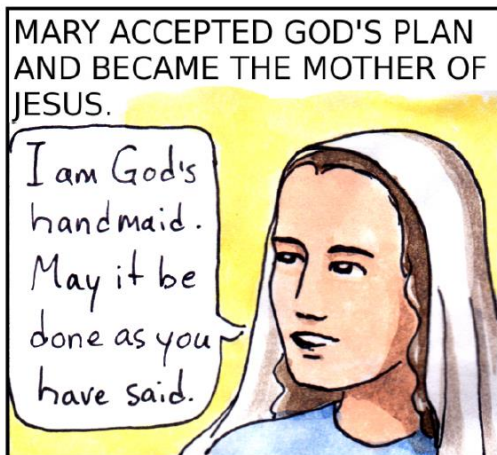
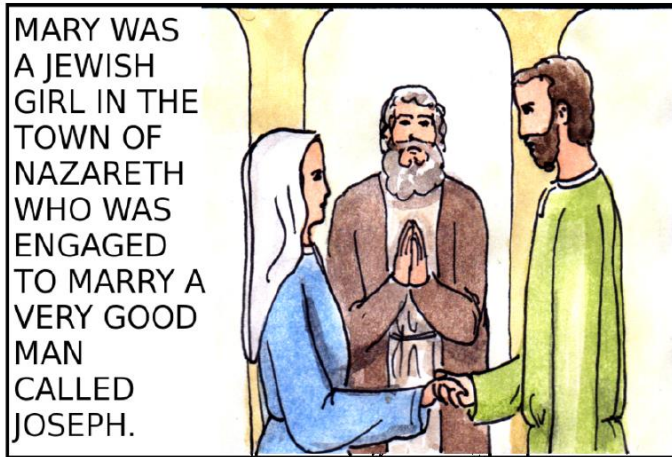
Third Sunday of Lent
March 20th, 2022



*What's wrong with this fig tree?
See what the two men want to do with it by
reading what they say in a mirror.*

The Annunciation

March 25



WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR GOD TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN, HE CHOSE MARY TO BE HIS MOTHER. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BECOME HIS MOTHER; HE GAVE HER A CHOICE. BECAUSE MARY CHOSE TO SAY "YES" TO GOD, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AND DIED TO LET US INTO HEAVEN!

The Burning Bush Word-Find

A F R A I D O F F R E E
B D E L I V E R O M F S
R G O D J E T H R O R U
A L O R D E A O W S E F
H A V E F S K L A E J F
A N I L I H E Y R S A E
M D S G R O U N D A C R
F L A M E E G Y P T O I
A O A B U S H O R E B N
C O C N D B L A Z I N G
E K M I S E R A B L E S

*See if you can find
all the words
in CAPITALS
in this story.*



*The left over letters
tell what the
Israelites in Egypt
wanted:*

A _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _

MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

What Kind of Fig Tree are You?



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a fig tree. The owner waited three years for it to grow some figs, but it still wasn't producing any. He told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener said he would try just for one more year to get it to bear fruit- and if it didn't give any then he would cut it down.

The fig tree is like a person who can do good things but doesn't. The owner shows the justice of God- he has given the tree enough chances so its time is up. But the gardener is like God's mercy. He wants to give the tree one more chance. And he's going to give it extra fertilizer to try to help it.



Lent is a good time to look at our own life and see if we are doing all the good things we can. Maybe there's something nice that we know we could do for someone but we just never bother to. Or maybe we aren't praying quite as much as we know we should. God is giving us a chance to become better people this Lent, and it's your job to make it happen!

Answer to Word-Find: Free land

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Retreat Centers in Southern Alberta

AN "OASIS" IN THE HEART OF CALGARY

FCJ Retreat & Conference Centre is seen by many as a spiritual home where God feels very present both in the building and the surrounding landscape, and every year welcomes thousands of visitors to a unique experience of warm hospitality and deep spirituality.

Our hope is that those who come to the FCJ Centre will encounter God, whether in prayer, in the Word, in the silence and the beauty; and that this encounter will touch many other lives too.



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.

Martha Retreat Centre, situated on the edge of the beautiful Lethbridge coulees, is a ministry of the Martha Retreat Centre Society, which was established in 2018. Originally founded by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia in 1968, the Centre continues to be supported by and aligned with the mission of the Sisters of St. Martha: inspired by God's graciousness, we strive to hear, embrace and respond to the cry for gospel hospitality.



HIRING FAIR!

Grow your career at The Mustard Seed!

We're looking for full-time shelter support staff for our Medicine Hat shelter.

Apply in person at our upcoming Hiring Fair!

Date: March 16, 2022

Time: 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Community Centre
503A Allowance Ave SE

*Attendees need to bring proof of eligibility to work in Canada and proof of vaccination.



TheSeed.ca

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