



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 12, 2021 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

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

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

## 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



Catholic Women's League

Marjorie Bowlby [marjoriembowlby@gmail.com](mailto:marjoriembowlby@gmail.com)

Knights of Columbus

Kirby Peterson [ktlpete@shaw.ca](mailto:ktlpete@shaw.ca)



Parish Pastoral Council – Chair

Gary Heinbecker, [heinbecker@telus.net](mailto:heinbecker@telus.net)

Parish Finance Committee – Chair

Cheryl Pocsik, [gpocsik@shaw.ca](mailto:gpocsik@shaw.ca)

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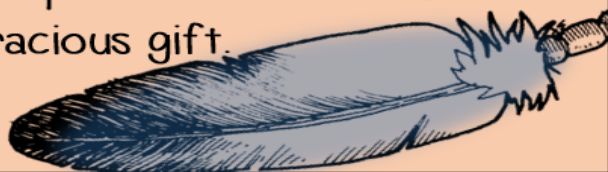
**IMPORTANT:** Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

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

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q)



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.



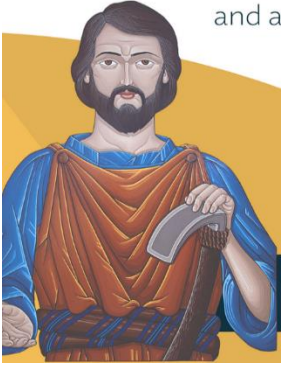
Listen to Mass on your phone...  
Download the "Audio Fetch" app.  
Our Network is: HFP\_LIVE  
The Password is: Liv3HFP\*



E-Transfer Donations [accounting@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:accounting@holyfamilymh.ca)



**1.4 MILLION** of the Diocesan goal will financially support the approved diocesan ministries, partner organizations, and agencies. See list at [catholicyc.ca/tia](http://catholicyc.ca/tia)



2021  
THE YEAR *of*  
ST. JOSEPH

**CATHOLICYYC.CA/TIA**

” Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord

1 CHRONICLES 29:9

## OUR PARISH GOAL

\$ 49,657

Everything raised **OVER**  
our parish goal will go to support\*:

Mustard Seed  
Medicine Hat Food Bank  
& Society of St. Vincent de Paul

TO DATE \$ 39,457.80 = 79%

↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑

## THE END OF THE YEAR IS NEAR

<u>OPERATING FINANCES</u>	
November 1-30, 2021	
Operating Budget 2021	\$ 55,019
General Envelope Collection	\$ 49,735
Loose Collections	\$ 792
Future Development	\$ 4,893
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 9,291
Other Ministries	\$ 490
Budget Vs Actual	\$ 10,182
<u>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</u>	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 5,220
Clergy Retirement	\$ 25
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 4,400
Seminarian Fund	\$ 70
Mission Mexico	\$ 100
CARO	\$ 40
Needs of the Cdn. Church	\$ 225
World Missions	\$ 42
Catholic Education	\$ 1,232
Mustard Seed	\$ 85
Gift Sharing Sunday	\$ 2,975
Food Bank	\$40
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	

† Masses Intentions †  
December 11-17, 2021



## Saturday, December 11

**5:00pm – Virginia Cabral †**

**Sunday, December 12**

## 8:30 am – Holy Family Parish

**10:30am – Lambert Streifel †**

**6:00pm – Cindy Anhorn †**

## Monday, December 13

9:00am – William Hecker † & Albert D'Amor †

**Tuesday, December 14**

**9:00am – Don Zahn †**

## Wednesday, December 15

**9:00am – John & Frances Hunder †**

Thursday, December 16

**9:00am – Randolph Hornung †**

Friday, December 17

**9:00am – Carline Clark †**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 12, 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18a

The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 12.2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (R 6)

*R* Shout aloud and sing for joy; great in the midst is the Holy One of Israel.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

The Lord is close at hand.

Gospel: Luke 3.10-18

The crowd asked, "What should we do?"

## EXHORTING AND EXPECTING

Even in these troubled times, we are urged to rejoice this day, this week, this season. The question posed by nearly everyone to John the Baptist – What should we do? – is also our question. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord is nearby. While we actively wait for Jesus Christ to come again, we are told to be merciful and just.

- ✝ What in my closet can be given to clothe someone in need?
- ✝ What actions in my job or my retirement can be fairer and more just?
- ✝ What words from my mouth will speak only truth?



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

December 18, 2021

8:30 – 9:30 am

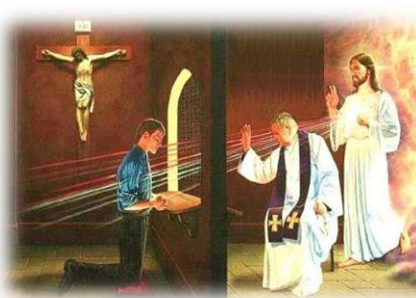
St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Theme

The Kingdom is Like Weeds  
Among the Wheat

Presenter

Fr. Leo Patalinghug



*Congratulations  
to all of the  
1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation  
Candidates that took  
their next step in  
their spiritual journey.*

*Sacramental  
Preparation*



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

**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion  
next class...**

Thursday January 6, 2022 –  
6:30-7:30pm

**Confirmation next  
class...**

Wednesday, January 5, 2022  
– 6:30-7:50pm

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEMBERS AND  
PERSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS.  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME  
or CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA**



Our dues for 2022 are \$30.00. They can be paid by using the CWL marked envelope in your church envelopes or use any envelope but mark it well with "CWL and your name". Then they can be dropped in the collection basket at mass or at the church office or mailed to 1451 Strachan Rd SE, T1A 4V3.

Thank you to all our faithful members and we welcome any new members.

Any questions please call **Lynn O'Byrne at 403-878-0881**

**Photo Directories Available for \$20.00 at the office**





# *Christmas Mass Schedule 2021*



## The Nativity of the Lord

Friday Dec. 24

5:00pm, 8:30pm &  
10:30pm

Saturday Dec. 25

9:30am

Regular Sunday Mass on  
Sunday

## Simbang Gabi

is a Filipino Christmas  
tradition.

It will be celebrated in  
the evening this year.

December  
15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>  
7:30pm

## Solemnity of Mary

Friday Dec. 31

5:00pm

Saturday Jan. 1

9:30am

Regular Sunday Mass on  
Saturday Evening &  
Sunday





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**You are invited to bring your Baby Jesus to Mass this Weekend for this special blessing...**

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy

where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home.

John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer.

*As I bless your little statues, beloved children, I think with serene hope of you, of the immense good that you can do, precisely because you are little, within your family, the school, the Associations, and society itself. Not for nothing did Jesus himself choose you as models for those who wish to have a part in his Kingdom (cf. Mt 18:4; Mk 10: 15). Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of the Pope's love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with intense faith, with that faith wherewith the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger (cf. Lk 2:7). Invite your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, the whole of your family, to gather round the Crib in these days of the Christmas Novena, to recite together the prayers learned on your mother's lap, to sing the sweet carols, so charged with human and Christian sentiment. May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a limpid and sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide, and direct your life and that of your dear ones.*

Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition, and in recent years it has started to expand to other places outside of Rome.

It is a beautiful Advent tradition, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event.





**3rd Sunday of Advent – Year C**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

## REJOICING IN THE LORD

This Sunday's liturgy opens with ""Gaudete in Domino semper"" "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near". This Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday". Today also we start second phase of Advent season which will help us to reflect on the first coming of Jesus through the prophecies of the old and, we will be reflecting "O Antiphons". Let's reflect why this Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday"? Why must we rejoice so early when Christmas is two weeks away? Someone described the Gaudete Sunday as follows: "Nature's annual cycle is characterized by two phenomena, light and life. Out of the darkness of night comes light; out of death comes life. The transition from night to light characterizes the winter season; the transition from death to life is proper to summertime. The holy year of the Church is likewise divided into two phases which have similar characteristics." Similar way we are reminded by the Sacred Scriptures that we must rejoice in the Lord because our Salvation has come near. Someone asked St. Mother Teresa what the secret of her joy is in serving the poor and marginalized people and her answer stunned the world "Joy is prayer -- joy is strength -- joy is love -- joy is a net of love. . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise."

I believe we can not rejoice in the Lord unless and until we share that joy with other people. We need to create a circle of joy to bring everyone closer to the Lord. Our First Sunday of Advent was a gift sharing Sunday and looking at people who were bringing gifts, it made me to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas filled with joy. However, that joy is incomplete without hope and peace because hope comes from the Lord which never dies, and peace makes to seek the presence of the Lord during this season of Advent. How important the joy is, the following story will help?

One day, a countryman knocked hard on a monastery door. When the monk tending the gates opened, he was given a magnificent bunch of grapes.

"Brother, these are the finest my vineyard has produced. I've come to bear them as a gift."

"Thank you! I will take them to the Abbot immediately, he'll be delighted with this offering."

"No! I brought them for you."

"For me?" The monk blushed, for he didn't think he deserved such a fine gift of nature.

"Yes!" insisted the man. "For whenever I knock on the door, it is you who opens it. When I needed help because the crop was destroyed by drought, you gave me a piece of bread and a cup of wine every day. I hope this bunch of grapes will bring you a little of the sun's love, the rain's beauty and the miracle of God, for it is he made it grow so fine."

The monk held the grapes and spent the entire morning admiring it: it really was beautiful. Because of this, he decided to deliver the gift to the Abbot, who had always encouraged him with words of wisdom.

The Abbot was very pleased with the grapes, but he recalled that there was a sick brother in the monastery, and thought:

"I'll give him the grapes. Who knows, they may bring some joy to his life."

And that is what he did. But the grapes didn't stay in the sick monk's room for long, for he reflected:

"The cook has looked after me for so long, feeding me only the best meals. I'm sure he will enjoy these."

When the cook appeared at lunch, to bring him his meal, he presented him with the grapes:

"They're for you," said the sick monk. "Since you are always coming into contact with that which nature produces, you will know what to do with this work of God."

The cook was amazed at the beauty of the grapes and showed his assistant how perfect they were. So perfect, he thought to himself, that no one would appreciate them more than the sexton; since he was responsible for the Holy Sacrament, and many at the monastery considered him a holy man, he would be best qualified to value this marvel of nature.

The sexton, in turn, gave the grapes as a gift to the youngest novice, that he might understand that the work of God is in the smallest details of Creation. When the novice received them, his heart was filled with the Glory of the Lord, for he had never seen such beautiful grapes.

Just then, he remembered the first time he came to the monastery, and of the person who had opened the gates for him; it was that gesture which allowed him to be among this community of people who knew how to value the wonders of life.

And so, just before nightfall, he took the grapes to the monk at the gates.

"Eat and enjoy them," he said. "For you spend most of your time alone here, and these grapes will make you very happy."

The joy brings love and love made God to take human shape to dwell among us. St. Peter Chrysologus reflecting on that mystery of love said "When God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear, he immediately acted to call it back to himself with love. He invited it by his grace, preserved it by his love, and embraced it with compassion. When the earth had become hardened in evil, God sent the flood both to punish and to release it. He called Noah to be the father of a new era, urged him with kind words, and showed that he trusted him; he gave him fatherly instruction about the present calamity, and through his grace consoled him with hope for the future. But God did not merely issue commands; rather with Noah sharing the work, he filled the ark with the future seed of the whole world. The sense of loving fellowship thus engendered removed servile fear, and a mutual love could continue to preserve what shared labor had affected".

Further he says “God called Abraham out of the heathen world, symbolically lengthened his name, and made him the father of all believers. God walked with him on his journeys, protected him in foreign lands, enriched him with earthly possessions, and honored him with victories. He made a covenant with him, saved him from harm, accepted his hospitality, and astonished him by giving him the offspring he had despaired of. Favored with so many graces and drawn by such great sweetness of divine love, Abraham was to learn to love God rather than fear him and love rather than fear was to inspire his worship”.

Today we are given a personality from the Old Testament to walk with is Prophet Zephaniah who proclaims the message of joy his people; “Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!” He is among twelve minor prophets who encourages people to trust in the Lord. Do we help people to experience the joy of the Lord?

St. Peter continue to help us to understand the mystery of his Incarnation “In all the events we have recalled, the flame of divine love enkindled human hearts and its intoxication overflowed into men’s senses. Wounded by love, they longed to look upon God with their bodily eyes. Yet how could our narrow human vision apprehend God, whom the whole world cannot contain? But the law of love is not concerned with what will be, what ought to be, what can be. Love does not reflect; it is unreasonable and knows no moderation. Love refuses to be consoled when its goal proves impossible, despises all hindrances to the attainment of its object. Love destroys the lover if he cannot obtain what he loves; love follows its own promptings and does not think of right and wrong. Love inflames desire which impels it toward things that are forbidden. But why continue?

It is intolerable for love not to see the object of its longing. That is why whatever reward they merited was nothing to the saints if they could not see the Lord. A love that desires to see God may not have reasonableness on its side, but it is the evidence of filial love. It gave Moses the temerity to say: If I have found favor in your eyes, show me your face. It inspired the psalmist to make the same prayer: Show me your face. Even the pagans made their images for this purpose: they wanted actually to see what they mistakenly revered”.

The season of Advent and Christmas encourages everyone to share joy and encourages everyone. Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room’s only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn’t hear the band – he could see it in his mind’s eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived



to bring water for their baths, only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall.

She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

St. Paul through the Second Reading is doing the same to encourage us to believe and rejoice in the Lord. As days are drawing near to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the spirit of joy is growing tremendously, reminding us to rejoice in him "who become flesh and dwelt among us". He exhorts us to have no anxiety, to have no despair about anything, but rather, in every circumstance, to make our requests, our needs, our worries known to God "by prayer and supplication". The awareness that we can always turn to the Lord in our difficulties, and that he never rejects our invocations, is a great reason for joy. No worry, no fear will ever be able to take away this serenity which comes not from human things, from human comforts, no: the serenity that comes from God, from knowing that God lovingly guides our lives, and he always does so. Even in the midst of problems and suffering, this certainty fosters hope and courage. How can we rejoice in the Lord? I believe today's Gospel has the answer and solution. There is a question posed three times: "What shall we do?". It is raised to John the Baptist by three categories of people: First, the crowd in general; second, the publicans or tax collectors; and third, some soldiers. Each of these groups questions the prophet on what must be done to implement the conversion that he is preaching. John's reply to the question of the crowd is sharing essential goods. He told the first group, the crowd, to share necessities, and therefore says: "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise". What a solid answer to the question "how can we rejoice in the Lord?". The Author to the Letter to Hebrews encouraging everyone to continue to share love, joy and hospitality with everyone; "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

St. John the Baptist helps the second group, the tax collectors, to collect no more than the amount owed. What does this mean? No taking 'bribes', John the Baptist is clear. One of the aspects I believe, if we want to rejoice in the Lord, is to learn to be contented in what we have. Why we need to be contented, the Book of Proverbs has the answer? "Two things I ask of you; do not deny them to me before I die. Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say,

“Who is the Lord?” or I shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God” (30:7-9). Moreover, wishing to have more will lead us to greed and envy. And he tells the third group, the soldiers, not to extort anything from anyone and to be content with their wages. There are three answers to the three questions of these groups. Three answers for an identical path of repentance, which is manifested in concrete commitments to justice and solidarity. It is the path that Jesus points to in all his preaching: the path of diligent love for neighbour.

If we want to rejoice in the Lord, we must feel that this question — “What shall we do?” We can do:

If we judge, let's love  
If we criticize, let's love  
If we hate, let's love  
If we fight, let's love  
If we hurt, let's love  
If we divide, let's love  
If we fight, let's love  
If we gossip, let's love

(If we.....add your own weaknesses and shortcomings during this week)

If we want to rejoice then it is necessary to repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity, sobriety: these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely Christian life. Repent! It sums up the message of the Baptist. And the Liturgy of this Third Sunday of Advent helps us to rediscover a special dimension of repentance: joy. Whoever repents and approaches the Lord, feels joy. Let me conclude my reflection with following story:

A woman who was traveling alone in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, the woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his great fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the woman. *I've been thinking,* he said, “I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.”

The woman smiled, “The joy of giving!” Can we rejoice in the Lord without giving?

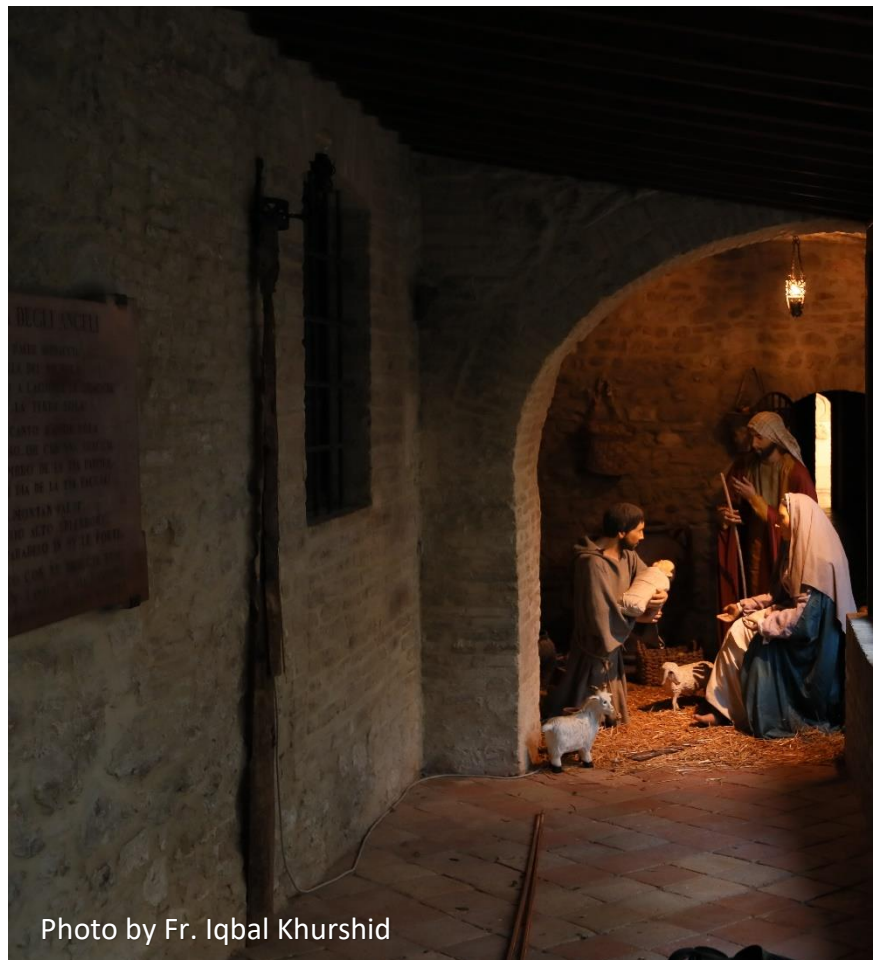


Photo by Fr. Iqbal Khurshid





# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

It is said that one of the most precious gifts you can give is time. When you give your time, you give a little of yourself. In the short time that I have been honoured to be your president, I have witnessed the power that we hold as members of this CWL. Time flies and 2021 is nearing its end. We have been through a lot this year and what lies ahead is both hopeful and uncertain. I extend my sincere thanks to all CWL ladies. It's your goodwill toward others and your willingness to work together that are the keys to our council's success. At this special sacred season, I hope you take time to reflect on the many blessings of your life and the privilege to be of service to others. I wish you each a happy, joyous and love-filled Christmas. Your President, Marjorie Bowlby

*To our indigenous sisters and their families we extend our deepest sympathy to you with the tragic discovery of the unmarked graves found at former residential school sites.*  
*"God of compassion and love, heal the families of lost children as they struggle to overcome this great injustice."*

## Who are we?

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

## Where are we

There are CWL representatives in over 71 dioceses in Canada. In our Calgary Diocesan Council we are 3200 devoted members representing 47 parish councils. Holy Family CWL invites all women 16 years and over to join our sisterhood for faith, fun and friendship. Interested ladies please contact any of the following members of our organization committee: Anna Marie Clark -306-322-7741, Mildred Martin-403-527-8838, Lynn O'Byrne-403-878-0881 and Rita Hof-403-527-7580.

## What do we do

Our members endeavour to influence issues of **social justice** that affect society. As women of faith with one voice we can be involved in monitoring and defending legislation at all levels of government.

We also follow the other core League values of **faith** (following Catholic Church teaching) and **service** (local, national and international).

## Fundraising

We support many different charities such as Vision TV Mass, Newman College, St. Mary's University, Medicine Hat Pro Life, Project Rachael, Chalice, MH Women's Shelter, Save A Family Planx2, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Nuture Pregnancy Support, Mustard Seed, MaterCare, Mission Mexico, Oblates of Mary, CARO, Help Lesotho, Salesian Sisters of Colombia, Euthanasian Prevention Committee, ESK-OMI (Northern Canada), and Catholic Missions in Canada. Fund raising events have included two bottle drives, a yard sale in August, and the November fall supper.

## Faith Happenings

We were delighted that our chair, Louella Berger, organised an Advent retreat on Saturday Nov. 27. Kathy Glasgo facilitated the study afternoon with her talk on Catholic and Living It: New Evangelization in your Advent.

At the general meeting in November, members Gabriela Carreon and Alexandra Learned gave a very informative spiritual presentation on devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and her five revelations. On Red Wednesday, Lynn O'Bryne led the rosary before mass for the intentions of persecuted Christians and for the promotion of respect and tolerance.

## Upcoming Events

Holy Family CWL next general meeting -January 8, 2022 at 1pm.  
 Diocesan Annual CWL Meeting- Calgary 2022  
 National CWL meeting -Kelowna 2022



## Service

In September, we supported the confirmation candidates mass and provided a small gift. Our dearly departed were remembered on All Souls Day and we held a special memorial mass on November 12 to recognize all of our sisters who have died since 2004.

### Our Book of Life 2020-2021

Hazel Cannon, Flo Steiert, Rose Stein, Irene Lutz, Victoria Deis, Bernadette Mastel, Lorraine Sehn, Dianne St. John, Katie Schafer, Dorothy Materi, Eileen Ferguson, Wendy Smith, Betty Burezyk, Veronica Bosch. Diocesan celebrations took place in August to honour Carol Schlachter (RIP) and Sharon Malec (RIP).

## Service

### Gratitude Project

(Generosity, Resilience, Amazing, Time and Talent, Inspirational, Thanks, Understanding, Dedication and Exception)

National is urging councils to recognise and express gratitude to people who put their lives in line to support our community, especially during the pandemic. A gratitude card is available on the Diocesan website and can be personalised for members to distribute.

### Social Justice

Councils are urged to continue the 2013 campaign to promote social action against pornography. We need to speak out regarding pornography, human trafficking and the exploitation of children and women. See the executive about sending a postcard to our elected members in Ottawa. The bills dealing with these issues died on the order paper due to the federal election. The All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Trafficking intends to reintroduce S-216, S-203, and C-302.

### BITS AND PIECES

#### FAITH IN ACTION

The Catholic Register has published a special magazine celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Women's League. The cost is \$5. Please see the Calgary Diocesan Fall News Bulletin page 2 for further information.

#### CWL CHATTER

Join our Diocesan President, Jan Myhr every 4th Monday evening from 7-8 (excluding December). Check the Diocesan website for the Zoom link.

#### CALGARY DIOCESAN 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Anniversary Planning Committee has launched several initiatives, from prayer cards, a history book, to special events at the 2022 Diocesan Convention.. Anniversary pins are available for \$5. If you wish to purchase one please contact our Regional President, Wanda Ancil. To commemorate both the National and Diocesan anniversaries, a Maple Leaf tree was planted near the chapel entrance.

#### SUPPORT OF ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY

A Red Shirt Fundraiser to support St. Mary's CWL chair for Catholic Studies is underway. Shirts can be purchased for \$35 with sizes xs-3x.. Please contact Anna Marie Clark for further information.

## Organisation

Thank you for renewing your membership for 2022. To date we have 206 members and every member, from our youngest to our oldest, is important. Young women may be busy with families, working members are juggling family and work, retired members may have more time but now may be away more or have aging parents to attend to, our senior members may now not be able to be the hands and feet because of age and health ... if you feel you are not contributing much REMEMBER 'prayer warriors' are always needed so the women able to be the hands and feet for serving are lifted up and strengthened. Please pray for women who are considering joining the League and ENCOURAGE new members by sharing your experiences.

We celebrated our second CWL mass this year on November 28 at 10:30 with 71 pins given for 2021.

Margaret Deringer and Marie Niwa both received 70 year pins and the Maple Leaf Service pin was awarded to our wonderful Cora Blanchette. Congratulations and thank you to all of you!

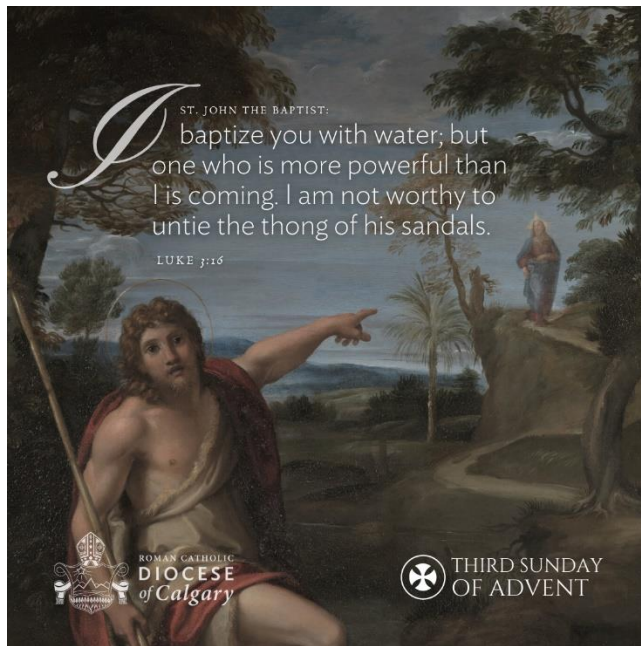
*Please keep all members in your prayers as we don't have an individual prayer partner this year.*

### Membership renewals now due!

Just a gentle reminder that the 2022 CWL memberships are now up for renewal at \$30.

*May the Blessings of Christmas be with you; May the Christ child light your way  
May God's angels guide you; And keep you safe each day  
-Traditional Irish Christmas blessing-*

# Third Sunday of Advent



## Children Resources

- [Gospel](#) Reflection: We can prepare the way for the Lord by making good choices this Advent season. This way, we will have peaceful hearts. We'll be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes. (Loyola Press)
  - [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
  - [Colouring page this Sunday](#) - Invite them to decorate the bauble by writing or drawing something that brings them joy and how they can share joy this Advent. Encourage them to cut it out and hang it on their tree once it is up.
  - [Sunday Connection for Third Sunday of Advent](#) (Gr. 1-8)
  - Video: [Studio 3:16](#) | Weekly Comedy for kids (anticipating the Sunday Gospel)
  - **St. Albert the Great parish** is creating a five-episode weekly "Kids can Advent too!" video. Videos can be found on their [parish website](#) or [YouTube channel](#)
- **Children's Sunday Liturgy** for the Second Sunday of Advent
  - [Children's Liturgy for leaders/parents](#) (with intercessions and activities) - by CAFOD | [Illustration](#)
  - [Children's Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi](#) (Catholic TV)
  - Does your parish have online Sunday program for children? If so, please share it with [communications@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:communications@calgarydiocese.ca)

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](#) (First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation)
- [Online Formation Opportunity](#)



# I AM BLESSED



BE THERE FOR  
THOSE IN NEED

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us  
—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.  
How does God's love abide in anyone who has the  
world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need  
and yet refuses help? *1 John 3:16-17*

[iamblessed.ca](http://iamblessed.ca)

The 2021 [I am Blessed](http://iamblessed.ca) campaign has started and will conclude on Sunday,  
January 9, at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Action items highlighted this year:

1. [Pray now](#) - Supporting others with prayer by praying in solidarity with them; ideas on what prayers to pray and what to do if others ask to pray for them.
2. [Act now](#) - Offering tips on how to be a good friend especially to those who are in need; getting familiar with services available in our midst as we may need to lead others to seek help.
3. [Give now](#) - Providing financial assistance online to programs and initiatives that empower others.





SUBSCRIBE AT [catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully](https://catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully)

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the [Diocesan publication Faithfully](https://catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully) - to keep you updated with what's happening in our Diocese. Faithfully gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people in our Diocese and provide us with opportunities to spread the Good News of Christ beyond the walls of our churches. New release coming up this Monday! To subscribe, [click here](https://catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully).

## Indigenous Delegation - Postponed

After careful assessment of the uncertainty and potential health risks surrounding international travel amid the recent spread of the Omicron variant, the Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami have jointly decided to reschedule a delegation to the Vatican in December 2021 to the earliest opportunity in 2022.

- [Read media release \(Dec. 7, 2021\)](#)



Livestream/video: [Edmonton Archbishop Richard Smith comment on the decision to postpone the indigenous delegation to the Vatican](#)

# 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.



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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.

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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.

