



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

**DECEMBER 26, 2021 – JANUARY 2, 2022**

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**



**Knights of Columbus**

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

**Catholic Women's League**

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



**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)**

## FORMED.org

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• Go to Formed.org

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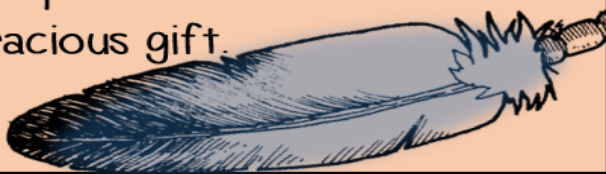
**IMPORTANT:** Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

**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.



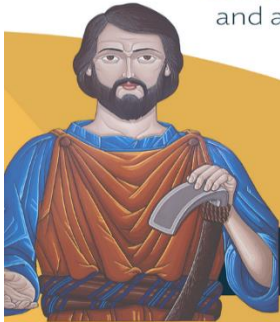
Listen to Mass on your phone...  
Download the "Audio Fetch" app.  
Our Network is: HFP\_LIVE  
The Password is: Liv3HFP\*



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

**Together IN ACTION** 2021  
 OUR PARISH GOAL  
 \$ 49,657  
 Annual Bishop's Appeal

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



**WE ARE SO CLOSE!!!**  
 TO DATE \$ 48,983 = 99%

2021  
 THE YEAR of  
 ST. JOSEPH

[CATHOLICYYC.CA/TIA](http://CATHOLICYYC.CA/TIA)

**OPERATING FINANCES**

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 |

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 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     |

*Thank You for your Generous Contributions*

† Masses Intentions †  
 December 25 – January 7



**Saturday, December 25**

9:30am – Brandon Niwa †

**Sunday, December 26**

8:30 am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – James Bonagofsky

6:00pm – Jean Van Tryp †

**Monday, December 27**

**NO MASS TODAY**

**Tuesday, December 28**

9:00am – Dal Molan Family

**Wednesday, December 29**

9:00am – Msgr. Mario Ramos †

**Thursday, December 30**

9:00am – Frank Tarnoczi †

**Friday, December 31**

5:00pm – Joe Lutz †

**Saturday, January 1**

9:30am – Staff of St. Michael's Sch.

5:00pm – Alex Scherger †

**Sunday, January 2**

8:30 am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Tillie Krassman †

6:00pm – The Sehn Kids

**Monday, January 3**

9:00am Roy Buschol †

**Tuesday, January 4**

9:00am – Katie Schafer †

**Wednesday, January 5**

9:00am – Molly Roy †

**Thursday, January 6**

9:00am – Peter & Mildred Braat †

**Friday, January 7**

9:00am – John Lijisman †

## The Nativity of the Lord – Friday, Dec 24

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 62.11-12

See, your Salvation comes.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97.1-2,5-6,11-12 (R. 11)

R. A light will shine on this day: The Lord is born for us.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Titus 3.4-7

The goodness & loving kindness of God has saved us.

Gospel: Luke 2.15-20

The shepherds found Mary & Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

## The Nativity of the Lord – Saturday, Dec 25

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 98.1,2-3a,3b-4,5-6 (R. 3bc)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 1.1-6

In these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

Gospel: John 1.1-18

The Word became flesh and walked among us.

## Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday, Dec 26

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sirach 3.2-6,12-14

Those who respect the Lord honour their parents.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 128.1-2,3,4-5 (R. 1)

R. Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Family life is the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2.41-52

His parents found him in temple, sitting among the teachers.

## Solemnity of Mary – Saturday, Jan 1

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Numbers 6.22-27

They shall put my name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 67.1-2,4-5,6-7 (R. 1a)

R. May God be gracious to us and bless us.

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

God sent his son, born of a woman.

Gospel: Luke 2.16-21

They found Mary & Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

After eight days he was named Jesus.

## Epiphany of the Lord – Sunday, Jan 2

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 72.1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13 (R. 11b+)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6

Now the mystery has been revealed: now the gentiles have become fellow heirs of the promise.

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

We have come from the east to pay homage to the king.

## The Nativity of the Lord [Christmas], Solemnity,

Saturday, 25 December 2021

**Today.** This first coming of Jesus is the promise that this Christ will come again. He is with us now – but also coming at some unknown time to complete all things in the perfect Reign and Kingdom of God. Today we marvel over God's good grace.

How will I behave with family and friends

because Jesus Christ is with me and us today?

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast

– Sunday, 26 December 2021

**Family Life.** Even the pre-teen Jesus astonishes and worries his parents as they fret over their child! Those of us who are parents know this stress. But all of us, even us aged ones, are still children of God, dearly loved and called to be obedient.

✠ How will I obey God this day?

✠ What commandment will I keep?

✠ What mercy work will I do?

## The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God –

Saturday, 01 January 2022

**The Manger.** The shepherds find Jesus, not in a crib, but in a manger, a feedbox for cattle. This image reminds us that he is indeed food for us now – Body and Blood in Communion. Let us also be amazed.

✠ What continues to amaze me about Jesus' gift of himself?

✠ How can I glorify and praise God this day and this new year?

✠ What mercy work can I do to help those in need of shelter?

## The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity – Sunday,

02 January 2022

**Gifts.** The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6<sup>th</sup> of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ – first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God's good grace.

✠ How will I search diligently for Jesus?

✠ Because God is merciful to me, what mercy work can I do for another?

✠ What gifts will I give to others in need?



# Christmas Schedule 2021

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

| MONDAY                     | TUESDAY                    | WEDNESDAY                | THURSDAY                           | FRIDAY                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 20 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN   | 21 <sup>st</sup><br>OPEN   | 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>OPEN | 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>CLOSED AT NOON | 24 <sup>th</sup><br>CLOSED         |
| 27 <sup>th</sup><br>CLOSED | 28 <sup>th</sup><br>CLOSED | 29 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN | 30 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN           | 31 <sup>st</sup><br>CLOSED AT NOON |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>CLOSED  | 4 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN    | 5 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN  | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN            | 7 <sup>th</sup><br>OPEN            |

## MASS TIMES

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                                  | TUESDAY                    | WEDNESDAY                  | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 19 <sup>TH</sup><br>8:30AM<br>10:30AM<br>6:00PM | 20 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM              | 21 <sup>st</sup><br>9:00AM | 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>9:00AM | 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>9:00AM | 24 <sup>th</sup><br>5:00PM<br>8:30PM<br>10:30PM | 25 <sup>TH</sup><br>9:30AM          |
| 26 <sup>TH</sup><br>8:30AM<br>10:30AM<br>6:00PM | 27 <sup>th</sup><br>NO<br>MASS<br>TODAY | 28 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM | 29 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM | 30 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM | 31 <sup>st</sup><br>5:00PM                      | 1 <sup>ST</sup><br>9:30AM<br>5:00PM |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup><br>8:30AM<br>10:30AM<br>6:00PM  | 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>9:00AM               | 4 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM  | 5 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM  | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM  | 7 <sup>th</sup><br>9:00AM                       | 8 <sup>TH</sup><br>5:00PM           |

**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**

**Vincentian Corner**

On behalf of the families and individuals we have been fortunate to assist this year, the volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wish to offer our sincerest gratitude to our generous supporters. Through your donations, we can help people who are experiencing difficulties to maintain their peace of mind and move forward with their lives. You have indeed blessed us, enabling us to continue our mission of helping others in need with Jesus as our guide. May God bless you all with health, happiness and peace during this Christmas season and in the new year.

*Wishing you Love,  
Peace and Happiness  
This Season.*



*From all of us at Holy Family Parish*

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

**Have a Blessed  
Christmas and  
we will see you  
in 2022**



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools'  
Education Foundation AGM

January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
at Medicine Hat Catholic Board Office

All public welcome to attend!

\*Please note as per AP-492, Proof of COVID -19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test will be required to attend the in person AGM.

*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

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



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](#)

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the [Diocesan publication 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](#).

## Faithfully printable | Dec. 2021 & Jan. 2022

Please print for distribution to parishioners in your local health care facilities, long term care or those who are shut-ins, and those without access to digital devices.

- [Download PDF of Dec/Jan edition](#)
  - File can be printed on tabloid size papers (3 pgs - double sided), or letter size papers (6 pgs - double sided)

## The Pastoral Centre hours during Christmas break

- Fri, Dec. 24 - Half day (until Noon)
- Mon, Dec. 27 & Tue, Dec. 28 - Closed
- Wed, Dec. 29 & Thu, Dec. 30 - Open (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)
- Fri, Dec. 31 - Half day (until Noon)
- Mon, Jan. 3 - Closed
- Tue, Jan. 4 - Open as usual

## Bishop's Advent Message

An Advent message from Bishop McGrattan for all the faithful was released on the feast day of St. Nicholas. In his message, find ways to best prepare our hearts during Advent to receive the Lord on Christmas: through prayer, repentance and acts of charity.

- [Read his message in Faithfully](#)
- [Read his message on the Diocesan Blog](#)





**Nativity of the Lord – Year C**

**Saturday, December 25, 2021**

### GOD'S LOVE HAS NEW BEGINNING

The story starts out where she, Beth, is sitting at an airport terminal, waiting to board a plane. She was sitting there with several other people whom she did not know who were also waiting. As she waited, she pulled out her Bible and started reading. Suddenly, she felt as if the people sitting around her were looking at her. She looked up but realized that they were looking just over her head, in the direction right behind her.

She turned around to see what everyone was looking at, and when she did, she saw a stewardess pushing a wheelchair, with the ugliest old man that she had ever seen before sitting in it. She said he had this long white hair that was all tangled and such a mess. His face was really, really wrinkled, and he didn't look friendly at all.

She didn't know why, but she felt drawn to the man, and thought at first that God wanted her to witness to him. In her mind she said she was thinking, "Oh, God, please, not now, not here." No matter what she did, she couldn't get the man off of her mind, and all of a sudden, she knew what God wanted her to do. She was supposed to brush this old man's hair.

She went and knelt in front of the old man, and said "Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair for you?" He said "What?" She thought, "Oh great, he's hard of hearing." Again, a little louder, she said, "Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair for you?" He answered, "If you are going to talk to me, you are going to have to speak up, I am practically deaf." So, this time, she was almost yelling, "Sir may I please have the honor of brushing your hair for you?"

Everyone was watching to see what his response would be. The old man just looked at her confused, and said "Well, I guess if you really want to." She said, "I don't even have a brush, but I thought I would ask anyway." He said, "Look in the bag hanging on the back of my chair, there is a brush in there." So, she got the brush out and started brushing his hair. She had a little girl with long hair, so she had lots of practice getting tangles out, and knew how to be gentle with him. She worked for a long time, until every tangle was out.

Just as she was finishing up, she heard the old man crying, and she went and put her hands on his knees, kneeling in front of him again looking directly into his eyes, and said "Sir, do you know Jesus?" He answered, "Yes, of course I know Jesus. You see, my bride told me she couldn't marry me unless I knew Jesus, so I learned all about Jesus, and asked Him to come into my heart many

years ago, before I married my bride." He continued, "You know, I am on my way home to go and see my wife. I have been in the hospital for a long time and had to have a special surgery in this town far from my home. My wife couldn't come with me because she is so frail herself." He said, "I was so worried about how terrible my hair looked, and I didn't want her to see me looking so awful, but I couldn't brush my hair, all by myself." Tears were rolling down his cheeks, as he thanked Beth for brushing his hair. He thanked her over and over again.

She was crying, people all around witnessing this were crying, and as they were all boarding the plane, the stewardess, who was also crying, stopped her, and asked, "Why did you do that?" And right there was the opportunity, the door that had been opened to share with someone else, the love of God. We don't always understand God's ways, but be ready, He may use us to meet the need of someone else, like He met the need of this old man, and in that moment, also calling out to a lost soul who needed to know about His love.

We can ask "Why God decided to show his love? Why couldn't God wait little longer to send his Son?" I believe the answers to these questions we can find in our preparation during the four weeks of Advent. First, God gave us Hope to have in him and wait. This theme of hope started with Adam and Eve when God promised them a Savior. And later to his chosen people through Law and prophets that "behold a virgin with a son whom she will name "Emmanuel" which means God is with us. Secondly, God wanted "Peace" to prevail, and he sent us the Prince of Peace. This was new beginning of God's love to be seen that became man and dwelt among us. Thirdly, God wanted us to rejoice when we reflected on the theme of "Joy". Joy does help us to understand that God wants us to be joyful and welcome his Son with open hearts and minds. Lately we reflected on the theme "Love" which is the source and summit of our whole liturgy and faith that God shared our humanity so that we can share in his divinity because "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Begotten Son".

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I would not be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You." Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So, I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you." The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word." The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So, I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."



And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?" With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!" I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect." "Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray the earnest?" I had no answers ... only tears.

The Lord continued. "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?" The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all. Do you truly love me?

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child." The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child." I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?" The Lord answered, "Because you are My creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do You love me?" The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

The beginning of God's love though started with Adam and Eve, but it took physical shape through the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary who was born without Original Sin. God prepared her to be Sacred Tabernacle to hold the Word in womb. The beginning of God's love started taking shape with the consent of Blessed Virgin Mary "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me, according to your Word". The "Yes" of Blessed Virgin Mary changed the history of the world and people, the very first time were able to see God walking in their streets. Moreover, they witnessed that God not only walks in their streets but also eats with them and cries with them "Jesus weeps over Jerusalem and over Lazarus 'death'".

The Nicene Creed does not use the exact word "Savior" in speaking of Jesus, but it does state the reason why the Word of God became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven." The purpose of the Incarnation was to affect the salvation of all mankind. St. Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:15 that "Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners."

We know from revelation, especially from Genesis and the infallible teaching of the Church, that in the beginning God created man in a state of innocence and friendship with himself. As a result of man's rejection of God's love, he lost his original innocence, came under the power of sin and the devil, and was subject to death. Having lost God's grace, which was a pure gift to

begin with and thus something to which he had no just claim, man became an outcast, unable to achieve the noble destiny to which God had ordained him.

Since man could not save himself from sin, he could not by his own efforts regain the grace of God, God in his own infinite wisdom resolved to become man. Thus Jesus, the God-man, was able to make satisfaction to God's justice, for all his actions had infinite worth. Very succinctly, therefore, the Creed proclaims that the reason for the Word becoming flesh was to accomplish the salvation of men. And when the Creed says "men" it means "all men" without any distinction as to race, color, or creed. God's salvation is not restricted to any chosen people. In the writings of St. Paul, we learn that faith in Christ was first offered to the Jews and then to the gentiles. Some Jews accepted it, and some rejected it, just as some gentiles believed and some did not. When the Church says that "he came down from heaven", she is referring to the pre-existence of the divine Word that became man in Jesus of Nazareth. Thus, the Person who is Jesus existed from all eternity in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The meaning is that he did not commence his existence with his conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He began to be in his human nature only.

St. Leo the Great reflects on the mystery of God's love in this way "Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind. And so, at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to his people on earth as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men? Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God. He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father: Jesus is Love incarnate. He is not simply a teacher of wisdom; he is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life

and history, who has pitched his tent in our midst. He is the beginning of God's love who died for us to grant us eternal life.

Let's see God's love in the year to come and understand that he loves and if he loves us then our obligation is to love him in the same way by loving our brothers and sisters.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022 with prayers and hope that your lives will be filled with his love which is beyond comparison.



*So they went  
with haste and  
found Mary and  
Joseph, and the  
child lying in  
the manger.*

Photo by Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Luke 2:16





DECEMBER 2021



[www.mhcbe.ab.ca](http://www.mhcbe.ab.ca)

**NEXT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 4:30pm ([agenda](#))

Hosted online via Google Meet.

[Click here to access the YouTube live stream.](#)

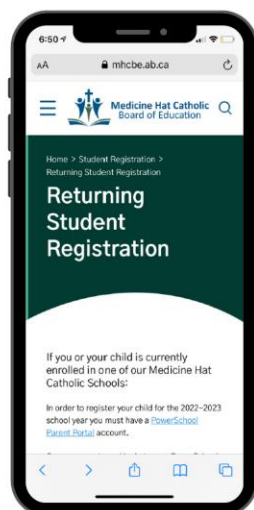
# MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION B O A R D B U L L E T I N

## FEBRUARY REGISTRATION

February is registration month in Medicine Hat Catholic schools! This includes all grades K-12 including all Early Learning Programs for the 2022/2023 school year!

**Online registration for new and returning students begins on Tuesday, February 1!**

More information will be communicated with families and school communities as we approach February registration.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



### St. Patrick's Church

Friday Dec 24: 5:00pm, 8:00pm & 11:00pm

Saturday Dec 25: 10:00am

Regular Sunday mass on Sunday

### Holy Family Parish

Friday Dec. 24: 5:00pm, 8:30pm & 10:30pm

Saturday Dec. 25: 9:30am

Regular Sunday Mass on Sunday

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation AGM on **January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** Location: Medicine Hat Catholic School Board Office.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SERVE OTHERS

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools have been busy spreading joy and love throughout our city this Advent season. Through service projects, Christmas markets for charity, Christmas carolling to local seniors, and more. Our students are making our community a better place, one small act at a time. Well done staff and students!



## RECOGNIZE A TEACHER FOR EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

Do you know a deserving teacher who does an exemplary job in preparing youth to grow into outstanding and faith-filled citizens? Nominate them for an Excellence in Catholic Education Award!

Nominations can be submitted by parents, teachers, administrators or members of our parish community. Nominations close on January 31, 2022. Visit our website for nomination package and guidelines.



[Link: Nomination Package](#)

## ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2020-2021

At the public board meeting on November 24, the MHCBE Board of Trustees approved the Annual Education Results Report 2020-2021.

Over the years our Catholic schools have continued to demonstrate high results in many of the Accountability Pillar categories resulting in very high marks for our school division and across the province!



[Link: AERR 2020-2021](#)



# The Kids' Bulletin

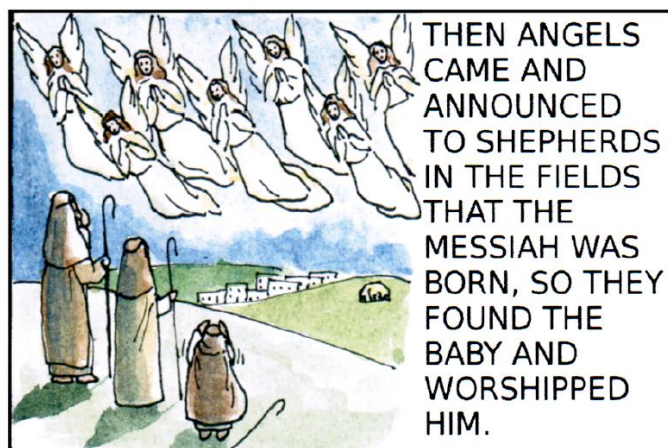
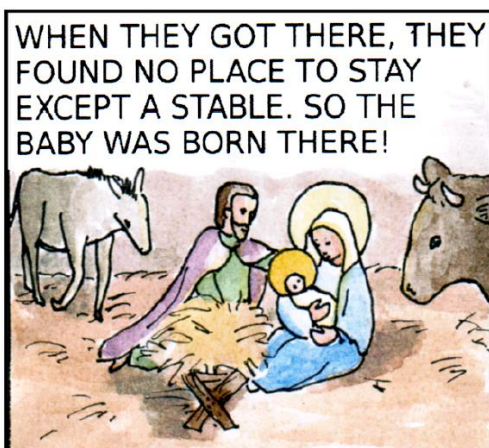
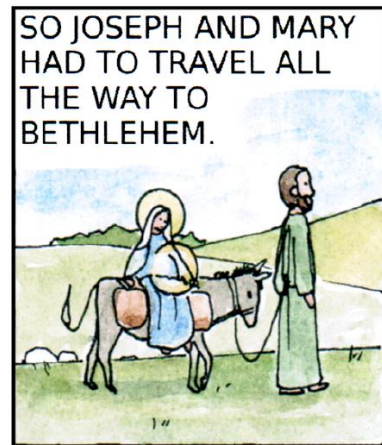
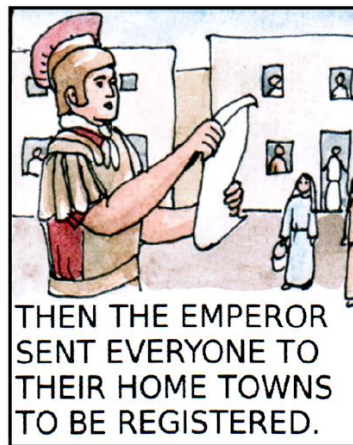
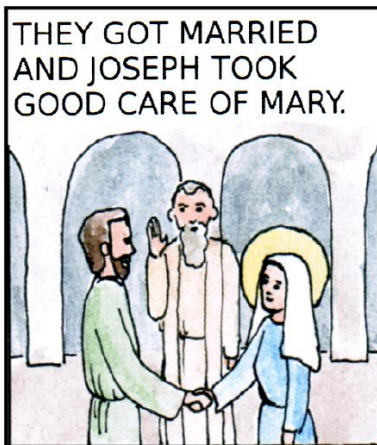
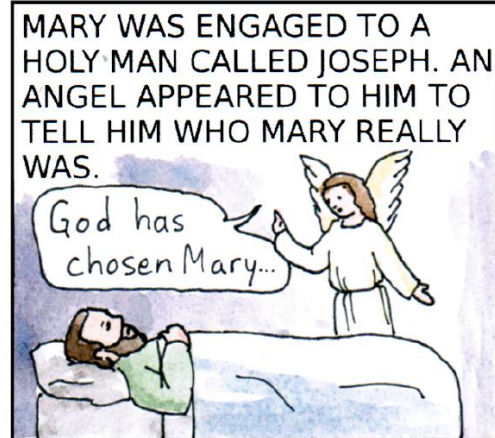
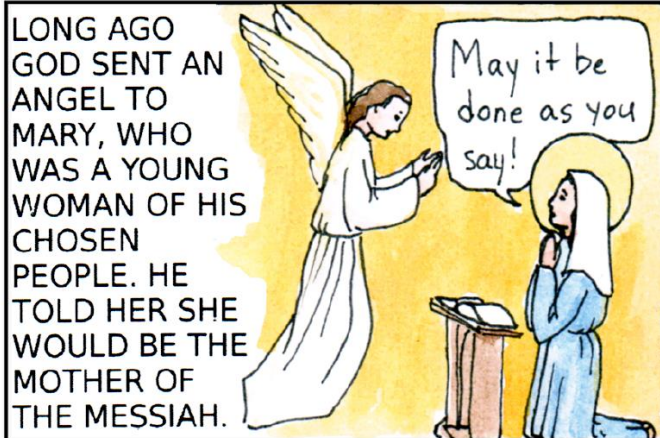
Christmas Day and  
Feast of the Holy Family  
December 25 & 26, 2021



*There wasn't any room for Mary and Joseph to stay in Bethlehem, so they had to go to a stable outside the town. Can you help them find their way?*



# The Christmas Story



FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO SEND THEM A MESSIAH WHO WOULD SAVE THEM FROM THEIR SINS. FINALLY HE CAME, A POOR BABY BORN ON A COLD NIGHT. SEE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, THAT HE WOULD COME TO US AS A TINY, INNOCENT BABY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!



# The Holy Family Puzzle

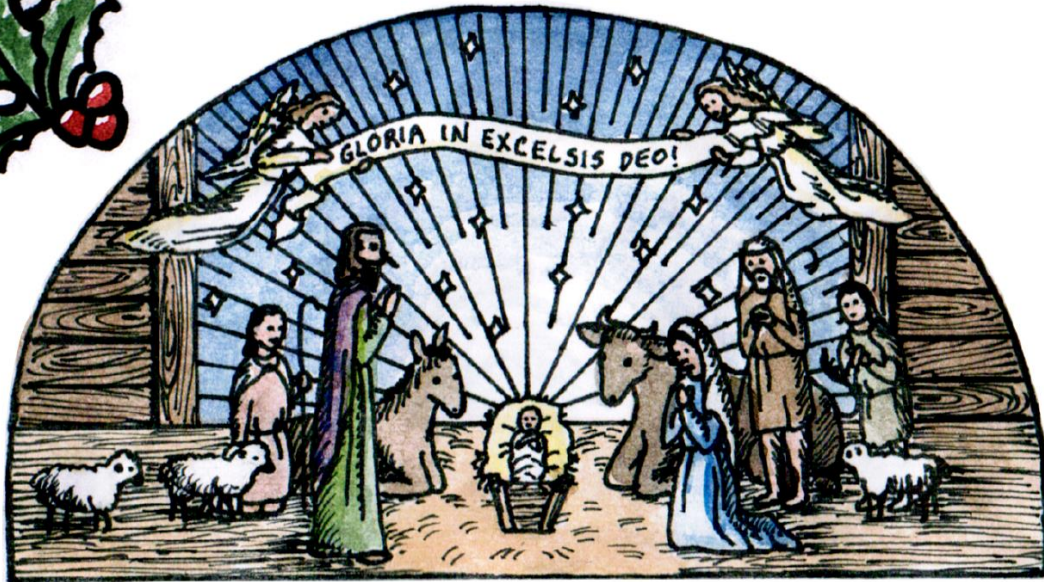
*Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.  
Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks with  
numbers part-way down.*

Every year Jesus and His <sup>12</sup> (NTSPRAE) went to Jerusalem for the <sup>2</sup> (SVOPSARE) festival. When <sup>10</sup> (SUJES) was twelve, they went to the <sup>3</sup> (LFSETVIA) as usual, but Jesus stayed in the <sup>5</sup> (MPELET) afterwards. <sup>6</sup> (RMYA) and Joseph thought He was with their relatives in the caravan, but when they couldn't <sup>1</sup> (DNIF) Him they went back and <sup>7</sup> (CHDEASRE) for Him. On the <sup>8</sup> (HDRIT) day they found him. When they asked Jesus why He had done this, He replied, "Did you not <sup>9</sup> (WNKO) that I must be in my

<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> ?"

Then he went home with them to <sup>4</sup> (ZRNATHEA) and was obedient to them, and grew up in <sup>11</sup> (DSIWMO) and age and grace.





# Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Today we celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

For many years people had been waiting for God to send them a Messiah who would save them from their sins. When the time was right God Himself became a Baby and was born of the beautiful and holy virgin Mary. His name was Jesus, and today is His birthday!

What do you do on Christmas? Is it a big celebration? Do you think about whose birthday it is? Jesus gave Himself to us because He loved us. What can you do to show your family that you love them?

Answers to Holy Family puzzle: parents, Passover, Jesus, festival, Temple, Mary, find, searched, third, know, FATHER'S HOUSE, Nazareth, wisdom

*[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://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 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.

