



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. C SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Phone 403-527-6933

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 & Deacon Robert Risling

### RECONCILIATION...

Friday 9:30am–10:30am & Saturday 3:30–4:45pm

**MASS TIMES - MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY 9:00AM**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00AM**

**SATURDAY 5:00PM - SUNDAY 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM**

**MONTHLY - 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY 6:00PM & 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY 8:00AM**

### THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

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

**ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 - 10:30am**

Knights of Columbus – Greg Martin

Catholic Women's League – Dianne Durda

Parish Pastoral Council Chair - Gary Heinbecker

Parish Finance Council 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.**

## Jesus teaches with Parables



**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 - 4th Sunday of Lent, Year C**

## ✠ Masses & Mass Intentions



Saturday, March 29

8:00am – Leo Lewans ✠

5:00pm – Angie Steciw

Sunday, March 30

8:30am – Jacob Bischoff ✠

10:30am – Steven Vandebroek ✠

6:00pm – Nick & Rosina Mucciarone ✠

Monday, April 1

9:00am – Holy Family Parish

Tuesday, April 2

9:00am – Jean Pearcey ✠

6:00pm – Eileen Holubowich

Wednesday, April 3

7:00am – Les Costea ✠

Thursday, April 4

9:00am – Nick Cebryk ✠

Friday, April 5

9:30am – Ruth Bosch ✠

6:00pm – Stations of the Cross

# 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. C SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT	
<i>Monthly Operating Budget</i>	<b>\$ 70,156</b>
MARCH MONTH TO DATE	
General Envelope Collection	\$ 46,820
Loose Collections	\$ 3,878
Future Development	\$ 2,187
Misc. Income	\$ 7,460
<b>Total Month Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,009</b>
<b>Budget Vs Actual</b>	<b>-\$ 6,262</b>
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
2025 YEAR TO DATE	
Together in Action (TIA) GOAL - \$70,938      34%	\$ 23,884
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 9,272
World Mission	\$ 75
Clergy Retirement	\$ 515
Mission Mexico	\$ 430
CARO	\$ 185
Loonies 4 Lent	\$ 7,381
Seminary Fund	\$ 350
Holy Land & Pope's Pastoral	\$20
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	
Average Weekend Attendance	1147

Fourth Sunday of Lent

I Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6.  
Ephesians 5:8-14.  
John 9:1-41.

Reflecting on Seeing

Since Jesus is the light of the world (look to the Easter candle), there is no room for darkness in this Reign of God. The healing of the man blind from birth clearly illustrates this for, while sightless, he does as he is told and has insight into God's activity in life. He "sees" even before he sees.

- † What darkness is in need of Christ's light?
- † What will I do, at Jesus' request, to see and live the Christian life more clearly?
- † How will my Lenten activity give light and insight to the elect preparing for Baptism-Confirmation-Eucharist this Easter?



Special Collections  
April 2025

Future Development  
Together in Action  
Holy Thursday  
Needs of the Church  
in the Holy Land  
Easter

*God Bless You,  
Thank You for  
your donations!*



**FRIDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
MORNING PRAYER, 8 AM  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES  
12 NOON & 3 PM

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
MORNING PRAYER, 9 AM  
EASTER FOOD BLESSING, 11 AM  
EASTER VIGIL, 8 PM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
EASTER SUNDAY MASS, 10 AM

**MONDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
NO MASS

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup>**  
REGULAR MASS TIMES

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
MORNING PRAYER, 8 AM  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7 PM FOLLOWED BY ADORATION UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FAITH ROOM. RECONCILIATION.



*E-transfer*  
ONLINE GIVING

**DONATE TODAY...**

**Stations of the Cross 2025**

Friday, Apr. 4, 6:00pm – RCIA  
Friday, Apr. 11, 6:00pm – St. Louis School  
Monday, Apr. 14, 7:00pm – St Patrick's School  
Followed by Meatless Soup & Buns on Fridays!

[accounting@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:accounting@holyfamilymh.ca)

# 40 Loonies for Lent

2025 marks the eighth year that Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 is sponsoring the 40 Loonies for Lent program.

Your donations stay here in Medicine Hat going to the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul Society, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.

PLEASE SPECIFY ON YOUR DONATION "LOONIES 4 LENT"

Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000.00.

To date we are at \$ 4,046.00

Knights of Columbus

Officers Meeting

Monday, April 7 at 7:00pm

HFP Faith Room



Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Executive Meeting

Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00pm

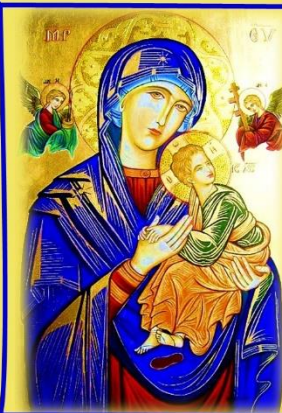
Hope Room

## HEALING MASS

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED..."

1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF MONTH AT 6:00PM

APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025



THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH THE LEGION OF MARY HOSTS THE MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

NOVENA

FOLLOWING 7:00AM MASS

APRIL 2, 2024

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

**APRIL 2**

RCIA

Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

Meaning of Holy Week

WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE FAITH ROOM

IF INTERESTED CALL PAT AT 403-527-1097

### Sacramental Preparation 2024-25

#### CONFIRMATION

CLASS – Thursday, April 3 – 6:00 – 7:30pm

Holy Family Parish Faith Room

Rehearsal – Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:00pm

Confirmation Mass – Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11:00am

#### 1st HOLY COMMUNION

CLASS & RETREAT - Saturday April 5

10:00am to 12:00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall

OR Drop in at Holy Family Faith Room 1:30 to 3:30pm

### Penitential Service

Holy Family Parish

Thursday, April 3

6:00pm – 8:00pm

St. Patrick's Parish

Thursday, April 10

4:00pm - 6:00pm

April 5, 2025 ~ Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30 am

Presentation 8:30 am

Theme: School of Nazareth & the Seven Steps

Presenter: Mile DiCosola

**TMIY**

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



Faithfully  
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

[catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully](http://catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully) keeps you updated with what's happening in and around our Diocese!

# Holy Family Parish Sunday Mass Time Change Beginning April 6, the Sunday Evening Mass will be at 5:00pm

## SAVE THE DATE

CWL SPRING TEA & BAKE SALE ~ Saturday, May 17, 2025

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP ~ July 7-11, 2025

### 2025 MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH      SATURDAY, APRIL 12  
TMIY 8:30-9:30AM & RETREAT TALKS 10:00AM TO 3:00PM

SPEAKERS: DCN. ROBERT RISLING,  
JASON OPENO & LINDSAY HEIER

LUNCH – FREE WILL OFFERING  
PRE-REGISTER OR AT THE DOOR

INFO. & REG. – DCN. ROBERT AT R.RISLING@ICLOUD.COM

### 2025 WOMAN'S LENTEN RETREAT "CALLED TO WITNESS"

HOLY FAMILY PARISH      FOR AGES 16 - 120  
FRIDAY, APRIL 11 – 7:00-9:00PM – FAITH ROOM  
SATURDAY, APRIL 12 – 10:00AM-3:00PM HFP HALL

\$10.00 - LUNCH PROVIDED

PLEASE GIVE DIETARY NEEDS UPON REGISTRATION  
INFO & TO REGISTER: LOUELLA AT 403-502-6883  
OR LMBERGER@TELUS.NET



The Catholic Women's League  
Holy Family Parish

## Bottle Drive

April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Before & After Masses  
Holy Family Parish East Parking Lot

Thank you for your support!

FUNDRAISING



## Children's Liturgy

No Children's liturgy Palm Sunday.

Check the children's liturgy table in the  
foyer for activities & coloring pages.

Children's Liturgy  
resumes May 4<sup>th</sup>

For Information or to Volunteer  
Call Tammy @ 403-866-7886



# 40 HOURS DEVOTION FOR VOCATIONS

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH



### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Warmly Invites

**EVERYONE To PARTICIPATE**

**In 40 Hours Devotion / Adoration**

Also called, Quarantore, this is a devotion in which continuous prayer is made for forty hours, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

**BEGINNING AT: 4:30 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025  
ENDING AT: 8:30 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**

CHURCH ACCESS VIA THE FOLLOWING ENTRANCES ONLY:

Front Door Entrance

& Wheelchair Accessible East Side Entrance

**SECURITY SURVEILLANCE PRESENT FOR DURATION OF DEVOTION**

KINDLY NOTE THE FOLLOWING MASS CHANGES

**NO MASS 8:30 AM THURSDAY APRIL 3RD**

**MASS 4:00 PM THURSDAY APRIL 3RD**

**NO MASS 8:30 AM FRIDAY APRIL 4TH**

**MARIAN MASS 8:30 AM SATURDAY APRIL 5TH**



COUNTDOWN  
10  
WEEKS

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
Volunteers



Needed

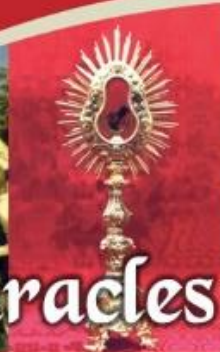
Eucharistic Miracles

of the World

Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat

International Exhibition  
THE EUCHARISTIC  
MIRACLES  
OF THE WORLD

Designed and created by the Servant of God Carlo Acutis



### Vincentian Corner - 'Almsgiving' Go Beyond Giving Money:

*Think of almsgiving as not only donating money but also offering your time, skills, and talents to those in need.*

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul would be happy to welcome you into our family of volunteers. Many individuals and families are struggling in our community today. Our mission is to support those requesting our assistance in the best way possible. We meet with them to listen and to show that we care. This is important and fulfilling work – knowing you have made a difference in a person or family's life situation is truly a feeling of following in Christ's footsteps in a real and practical way.

Please come to one of our weekly meetings held every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. Meetings are held at St. Patrick's Church Hall during March and at Holy Family Parish during April. We invite you to join us to see if this is something God may be calling you to do – you will be so glad that did!

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

# St. Louis School

*St. Louis School was the very first school within the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education and we are very proud of our historical and spiritual heritage! As a small community school, we take great pride in our students and our families. We cherish the gift of Catholic Education and strive to grow closer to Jesus, our Lord, by celebrating our faith, participating in the teachings of the Church and demonstrating acts of mercy and charity to those in need, whether locally or globally.*

**-Ron Blackmer- Principal**



**Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education**



# 40 Loonies for Lent

**PLEASE SPECIFY ON YOUR DONATION IF YOU WANT IT TO GO TO**

**“40 LOONIES 4 LENT”**

2025 marks the eighth year that Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 is sponsoring the 40 Loonies for Lent program.

This year's program theme is, ***Love the Lord, Love your neighbour***. As it is written in the book of Sirach, chapter 35, verses 6 to 8, “The just man's sacrifice is most pleasing, nor will it ever be forgotten. In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance.”

Your donations stay here in Medicine Hat going to the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul Society, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.

It should be noted that Holy Family Parish volunteers serve every Thursday at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Holy Family also serves every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday at St. Barnabas Meal Program. I would personally like to thank the many volunteers who sacrifice their time to assist the people who may be struggling.

Through the generous support of Holy Family Parish parishioners, you helped raise **twelve thousand dollars in 2024. Our goal this year is to raise ten thousand dollars.**

There are a few ways to make donations. Simply write “40 LOONIES FOR LENT” and the dollar amount on your weekly parish donation envelope. You may donate your full Lenten gift of \$40.00 one time or contribute an amount of \$7.00 or more each week. If sacrificial giving means you can give more, please do so. For those who are not using weekly envelopes you may make your cheque payable to Holy Family Parish or donate cash in a separate envelope marked with your name, address and “40 LOONIES FOR LENT” and place it in the weekly collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office. Alternatively, you may authorize the parish to process your donation on your credit card and most recently Holy Family Parish has added e-transfer but if using e-transfer please note it is to go to: **40 Loonies for Lent.**

Look for updates on funds collected in the parish bulletin.

We thank you in advance for your generosity, **“what ever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me.”**

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





**Knights of Columbus®**  
Alberta/NWT State Council

**50-50**  
CHARITIES APPEAL RAFFLE

Early Bird  
Draws x2  
**\$1000<sup>ea</sup>**

Draw Dates at 4PM:  
February 24, 2025  
March 24, 2025

In support of:  
Educational Institutions, Community Charities, Churches,  
Youth and Seniors Activities across Alberta



The Alberta/Northwest Territories Knights of Columbus 2025 Spring 50-50 Charities Appeal Raffle is underway. This Charity Appeal supports educational institutions, community charities, churches and youth and seniors' activities across Alberta.

Our Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus thank our parishioners for their past

generous support of this charity appeal. Our council support two community charities, Project Rachel and Elizabeth House. Each charity supports pregnant women and mothers. There are two early bird draws, each for \$1000, on February 24 and March 24, with the ticket purchase ending April 26.

50/50 tickets can be purchased using [www.koc5050.com](http://www.koc5050.com) and please remember to search for our council, **9502**, so our council will receive your donation.

If you have any questions about the Charity Appeal, contact Greg Martin, 403-878-0639 or Pat Ries, 403-458-0442. Our 9502 KofC Council thanks you for your support.

**Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation**

**50/50 Cash Raffle**

»» **Draw Date: April 11**

Draw opens: Feb 10th @ 6:00am  
Draw ends: April 10th @ 11:59pm

- »» 1 entry for \$10
- »» 4 entries for \$20
- »» 20 entries for \$50
- »» 100 entries for \$100

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!



Together in the support of  
Medicine Hat Catholic  
community children & the  
education process!



[rafflebox.ca/raffle/mhcsef-spring25](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/mhcsef-spring25)



4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

MARCH 30, 2025

### Are we lost in our characters?

*Once a political leader heard about a saint, so he decided to visit him to see why people praise him so much. As he went there, he saw there was a small room where carpet was spread, and some people were sitting. They were asking the saint questions, and he was answering them. The leader went with four bodyguards to show how important he was, but no one welcomed him or paid any attention to him, not even the saint. He felt insulted and got angry. He interrupted the saint and said, "I want to tell you something". The saint looked at him; "wait for a while, let me answer these questions and then I will talk to you". But the leader got upset and started to shout at him saying, "Do you know who I am? Who do you think you are talking to? The saint looked at him and said, "whoever you are, if you want me to answer your question or talk to you then you have to wait for a while". However, the leader got mad and said, "whether you want to listen to me or not, I will tell you in front of everyone what I think about you. You are not a saint, you are a hypocrite and you are fooling these people sitting here. Your only motive is to take money from these people. You are using people for your own benefit, and I am not going to leave you alone, I will expose you in front of whole world".*

*Even after listening to all this, there was a smile on saint's face. The leader became furious and said, "Enough is enough, I will not stay here one more minute, you have one chance, if you apologize to me then you can stay here otherwise you are going to pay a big price". Despite all this, the saint was still calm and smiling, he folded his hands and said, "I have no grudge against you. I don't have ill feelings for you and whatever you have said about me, is your own opinion. I don't see anything wrong in you. You seem like a very good person to me".*

*As soon as saint said this, leader got happy because the saint acknowledged that he was a very good person and many other people said the same. He left the saint and came home with a happy face and met with his father and told the whole story to him with a boastful heart. After listening to him, his father said, "He didn't praise you, what he said was not about you but reflection of himself. And whatever you said to him, was not about him but reflection of yourself".*

The story above speaks a lot about our characters and personalities. There is a Japanese saying "every person has three faces: The first face you show to the world. The second face you show to your close friends and your family. The third face, you never show to anyone, which is the truest reflection of who you are". The parable of the Prodigal son/lost son is the true depiction of the above saying. Everyone in the parable has different personalities: one doesn't want to be part of the family, second is the symbol of love, forgiveness and acceptance and third doesn't want to enter the home because of anger. Everyone Sunday we are given extraordinary accounts of Jesus' life to ponder and meditate on. We joined the Lord in the desert on the first Sunday of Lent to examine our own temptations and struggles of our life. On the Second Sunday we were with the Lord to see his glory on the Holy Mount of Tabor to be with him. Last Sunday we were invited to repent and bear fruit by reflecting on the Parable of the Fig Tree which also reminded us that God keeps giving us the chance.

St. Theophilus of Antioch (d. October 18, 183) an apologist who stood to defend the faith against a pagan friend wrote something wonderful for us to read during this season of Lent by saying' "If you say, "Show me your God," I will say to you, "Show me what kind of person you are, and I will show you my God." Show me then whether the eyes of your mind can see, and the ears of your heart hear."

It is like this. Those who can see with the eyes of their bodies are aware of what is happening in this life on earth. They get to know things that are different from each other. They distinguish light and darkness, black and white, ugliness and beauty, elegance and inelegance, proportion and lack of proportion, excess and defect. The same is true of the sounds we hear high or low or pleasant. So, it is with the ears of our heart and the eyes of our mind in their capacity to hear or see God.

God is seen by those who have the capacity to see him, if they keep the eyes of their mind open. All have eyes, but some have eyes that are shrouded in darkness, unable to see the light of the sun. Because the blind cannot see, it does not follow that the sun does not shine. The blind must trace the cause back to themselves and their eyes. In the same way, you have eyes in your mind that are shrouded in darkness because of your sins and evil deeds.

A person's soul should be clean, like a mirror reflecting light. If there is rust on the mirror his face cannot be seen in it. In the same way, no one who has sin within him can see God. But if you will, you can be healed. Hand yourself over to the doctor, and he will open the eyes of your mind and heart. Who is to be the doctor? It is God, who heals and gives life through his Word and wisdom. Through his Word and wisdom, he created the universe, for by his Word the heavens were established, and by his Spirit all their array. His wisdom is supreme. God by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he arranged the heavens, by his knowledge the depths broke forth and the clouds poured out the dew. If you understand this, and live in purity and holiness and justice, you may see God. But, before all, faith and the fear of God must take the first place in your heart, and then you will understand all this. When you have laid aside mortality and been clothed in immortality, then you will see God according to your merits. God raises up your flesh to immortality along with your soul, and then, once made immortal, you will see the immortal One, if you believe in him now”.

This Sunday is called Laetare Sunday because the joy of our salvation is drawing near to us. In the Western Christian liturgical calendar Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10. The term "Laetare Sunday" is used mostly by Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Anglican Churches. The word comes from the Latin *laetare*, the singular imperative of *laetari*: "to rejoice". The Entrance antiphon reads: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast”.

We must rejoice in the Lord because he loved us and died for us so that we may not be trapped in the evil around us. St. Paul writes in the letter to Philippians “rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, again I say rejoice in the Lord” is a beautiful invitation to come out of our doubts, faults and sins and believe he has the power to forgive. St. Augustine reflects the same element in this way “Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness. The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: Truth has sprung up from the earth. He himself has said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us.

Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow? We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.

John the Apostle says in one of his letters: "Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you," you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life," in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality; life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

Someone wrote the following poem to open our hearts and minds that though we all are prodigal and turn away from the Lord, he is gracious and merciful, and he does not account our sins.

*A number of years ago, I had the rather unique experience of being backstage in Madison Square Garden, in New York, during the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. To say the least, it was a fascinating experience. I was able to walk around looking at the lions, tigers, giraffes and all the other circus animals. As I was passing the elephants, I suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not. I saw a trainer near by and asked why these beautiful, magnificent animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away.*

*"Well," he said, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it was enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They think the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free." I was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they could not, they were stuck right where they were.*

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto our personal beliefs and we get lost in them. However, we must taste and see how good the Lord is and then we can say "I was lost but being found again, dead but brought back to life. How wonderful it is to see that God loves us and blesses us every blessing we need in our lives. The Psalmist says, "if you remember iniquities and transgression, who could be saved? but with you is found mercy and forgiveness". We too read in the Book of Prophet Ezekiel that God has no pleasure in the death of a wicked "But if the wicked turn away from all their

sins that they have committed and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of the transgressions that they have committed shall be remembered against them; for the righteousness that they have done they shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live? But when the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity and do the same abominable things that the wicked do, shall they live? None of the righteous deeds that they have done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which they are guilty and the sin they have committed, they shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?" (18:21-29).

The First Reading explains to us that God has the power to remove any disgrace which can thwart us from believing in God through the Blood of the Lamb. God keep giving the Bread of eternal life (please read John 6 & Hebrews 9) to understand the real meaning of Jesus being our real Bread of Life. The Israelites were prodigal children in a time they complain (please read Psalm 95) but God's love was unconditional, and he brought them to promised land where honey and milk flows. How many times we have become disobedient to God but still he has shown his love?

In the Gospel today the scribes and the Pharisees who studied Jesus' actions were scandalised by the things that Jesus did and murmured against him: "This man is dangerous!" What scandalised them most was the fact that "Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, that he talked with them". Hence their reaction: "this man offends God; he desecrates the ministry of the prophet which is a sacred ministry" and "he desecrates it in order to draw close to these people". The music of their murmuring is the music of hypocrisy, and "Jesus responds to this murmuring hypocrisy with a parable of "Prodigal Son" in which he shows the unconditional love of the Father and his heart of mercy.

The story not only highlights some features of the father who is a man always ready to forgive and to hope against hope but also it exposes our human nature and understanding of other.

1. The first feature we see is tolerance of the father before the younger son's decision to leave home: he could have opposed it, knowing that he was still immature, a youth,

or sought a lawyer not to give him his inheritance, as the father was still living. Instead, he allows the son to leave, although foreseeing the possible risks. (Please read Sirach 30:1-13). God works with us like this: He allows us to be free, even to making mistakes, because in creating us, He has given us the great gift of freedom. It is for us to put it to good use. This gift of freedom that God gives us always amazes me! St. Paul says, “The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself” (2Timothy 2:11-13).

2. The Second feature of the Father is though the son has left him but the separation from his son is only physical; for the father always carries him in his heart; trustingly, he awaits his return; the father watches the road in the hope of seeing him. And one day he sees him appear in the distance. But this means that this father, every day, would climb up to the terrace to see if his son was coming back! Thus, the father is moved to see him, he runs toward him, embraces him, kisses him. So much tenderness! And this son got into trouble! But the father still welcomes him so.
3. The third feature of the father is that he is ready to forgive and forget what one has done to him. He has forgotten his own pain and hurt but rejoices that his son has come back. (Please read Psalm 51...a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise). God the Father has the same heart of forgive us even if we turn away from him but he “I have seen the misery of my people and have heard their cries and have come down to save them”. How wonderful to see his heart in times when we become prodigal.
4. The fourth feature of the father is his spirit of celebration. He orders his servant to restore back the status of his son by providing him the best shoes, robe and ring and have fattened animal slaughtered to rejoice over his coming. The Holy Bible starting from Adam and Eve keeps reminding us of God’s spirit of rejoicing and celebrating for people who come back to him (please read Ezekiel 33:1-12).
5. The fifth feature of the father is that he treated the eldest son the same way, but as he had always stayed at home, he is now indignant and complains because he does not understand and does not share all that kindness toward his brother. The father also goes to meet this son and reminds him that they were always together, they share everything, one must welcome with joy the brother who has finally returned home. And this makes me think of something: When one feels one is a sinner, one feels worthless, or as I’ve heard some say: ‘Father, I am like dirt’, so then, this is the moment to go to the Father. Instead, when one feels righteous - ‘I always did the right thing’, equally, the Father comes to seek us, because this attitude of feeling ‘right’, is the wrong attitude: it is pride! It comes from the devil. The Father waits for those who

recognize they are sinners and goes in search of the ones who feel 'righteous'. This is our Father!

The figure of the Father in the parable reveals the heart of God. He is the Merciful Father who, in Jesus, loves us beyond measure, always awaits our conversion every time we make mistakes; he awaits our return when we turn away from him thinking, we can do without him; he is always ready to open his arms no matter what happened. As the father of the Gospel, God also continues to consider us his children, even when we get lost, and comes to us with tenderness when we return to him. He addresses us so kindly when we believe we are right. The errors we commit, even if bad, do not wear out the fidelity of his love. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can always start out anew: He welcomes us, gives us the dignity of being his children and tells us: "Go ahead! Be at peace! Rise, go ahead!"

However, on the other hand, younger son is lost in his own world of selfishness who doesn't want to be with the family. He wants to live in "I, me and myself" world. How painful his action would have been to his father? (Please read Sirach 30:1-13). And the older son did the same but acted in a different way to show to his father how good and obedient, he had been throughout his life but refuses to show love and forgiveness to his younger brother. (Please read Hebrews 13:1-10). Both were lost in their own characters of selfishness and anger.

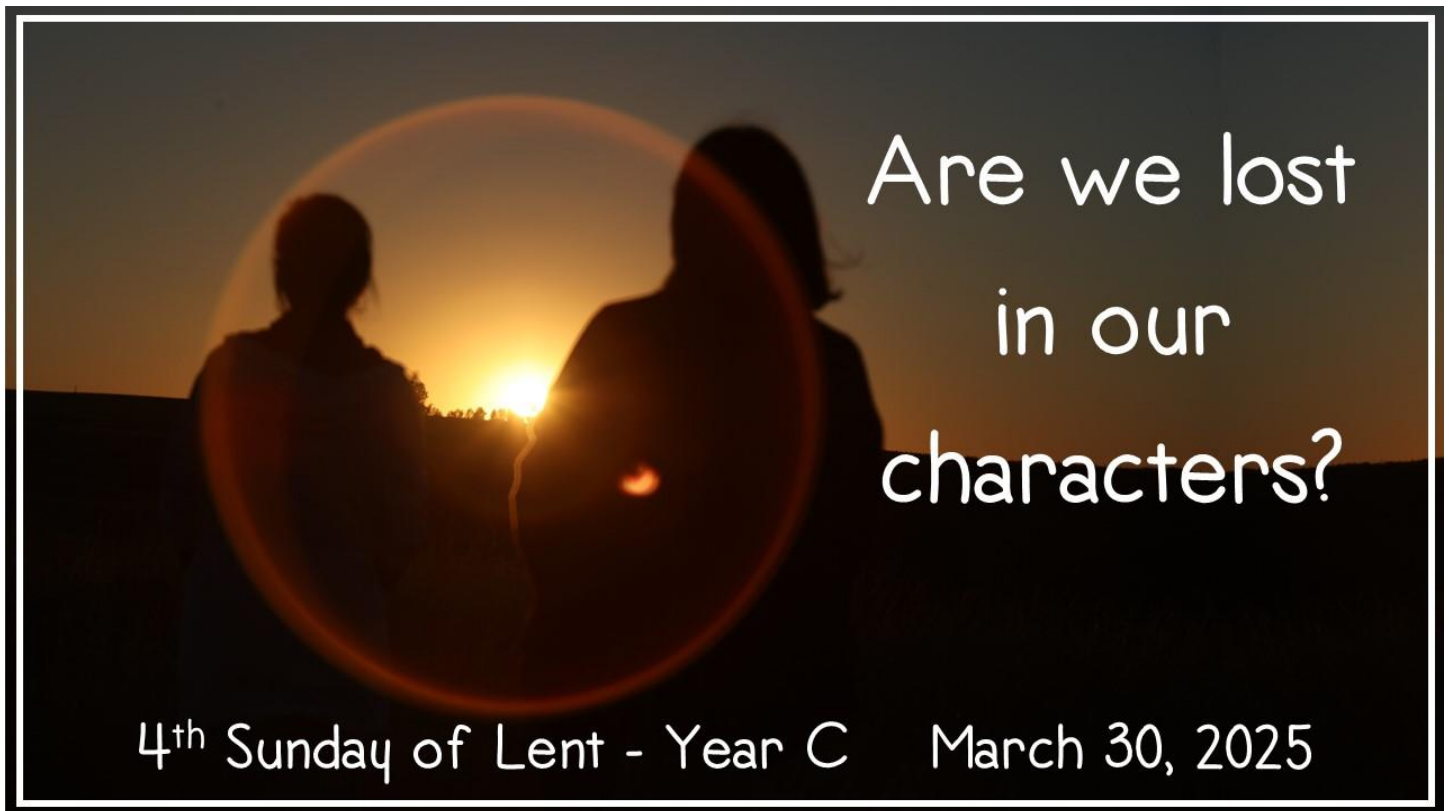
Tony Masiello is a speaker, author, and consultant, he shared the following story.

Isn't it amazing how you never have to water your weeds or nurture them and they still give you an unwanted crop? I can remember as a young boy growing up in Santa Cruz, California my grandfather showed me how to dig up this pesky weed called Bermuda Grass. It was terrible stuff, and it would really spread if you didn't get it out by the roots. That was then. But more recently when my wife and I bought our first home about 8 years ago; guess what I had to deal with? If you said weeds, you are correct. There was this certain patch of weeds that was like the Bermuda Grass. In other words, just as invasive. After getting the inside of our home settled, it was time to work on the outside. On my hands and knees, I vigorously attacked the weeds with a small hand trowel getting each one out by the roots. Spring after spring, that was my ritual. Just this Spring I realized that one of the weeds was no longer prevalent, but another one was in full force. So again, I got down on my hands and knees and got to work ridding them from my yard. When I was finished, my yard was better off. What hidden message is this true story purveying? Sometimes our life can be oh so similar. Yes, we all have weeds in our life. These weeds can be challenges, setbacks, negative beliefs, or naysayers, and the list can go on and on.



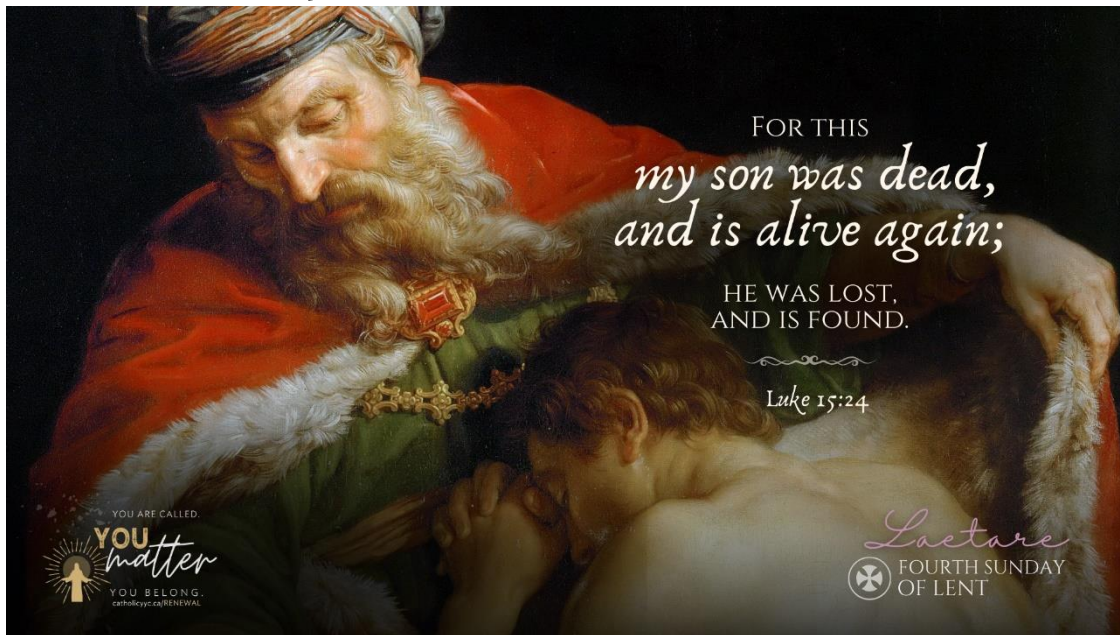
The solution is when dealing with these weeds of life, get to the root of it and remove them one by one and eventually you will conquer them. And when another crop of weeds shows up, deal with them directly before they spread, because now that you know what to do with them by getting to the root, it will give you more courage and wisdom the next time a problem crops up. You could say we all need weeds in our life to challenge us to grow. Once you know how to handle the weeds in your yard to make it beautiful - so too will your life be beautiful. And we can question ourselves:

Are we lost in our characters?



# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



### Outdoor Way of the Cross

Save the date for the Outdoor Way of the Cross: **Fri, Apr 18, at 8:30 am | St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary.** Join Bishop McGrattan and the faithful of the Diocese of Calgary for the Outdoor Way of the Cross, now returning to its Downtown route. This solemn pilgrimage invites us to walk together in prayer and reflection on the Passion of Christ, meditating on His suffering, sacrifice, and love for the world. The journey begins at St. Mary's Cathedral at 8:30 am. All are welcome to take part in this powerful witness of faith.

### I Thirst - Lenten Mission at Ascension Parish

Join Ascension Parish's Lenten Mission with speaker Michael Chiasson. When: **Thu, Apr 3 at 7 pm at Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary.** This 90-minute evening of music, stories, and reflection will explore the theme "*I Thirst*" and the hope from Christ. Register at [ascensioncatholicparish.ca](http://ascensioncatholicparish.ca)

### Together in Action 2025

In this Sunday's Gospel, the father's mercy restores his lost son with love and dignity.

Together in Action invites us to do the same—offering hope and healing to those in need. Rooted in Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer," your gift is an act of faith and compassion. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office or made online at [www.catholiccycc.ca/TIA](http://www.catholiccycc.ca/TIA).

### Solidarity Sunday: Apr 6, 2025

On Solidarity Sunday, April 6, 2025, Bishop McGrattan invites you to give a donation to the 2025 *Share Lent* Campaign, *Turn Debt into Hope*. Join people around the world as they *Turn Debt into Hope* by focusing on the devastating effects of this cycle of debt on our sisters and brothers in the Global South. You can give online at [devp.org](http://devp.org) or by phone to 1-888-234-8533.

### 2025 Share Lent Tour

This Jubilee year, *Turn Debt into Hope* campaign calls us to cancel unjust debt and stand with the poor. As Easter nears, let's walk in solidarity, answering the call of Jesus and Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope.

Learn more about the campaign at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org), the official site of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. Join Luke Stocking, Acting Executive Director of Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, and parishioners at St. Bonaventure for a soup and bun supper at **5:30 pm on Fri, Apr 4** in the parish hall, followed by Way of the Cross prayer and reflection in the church.

Celebrate **Solidarity Sunday Mass** for the Jubilee Year with Bishop William McGrattan and the Calgary Diocesan Council at 12 noon on **Sun, Apr 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral**.

**Attend a Town Hall with Luke Stocking** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm on Sun, Apr 6 at the FCJ Centre.

**Sign the petition** at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org) or at any Jubilee event, urging global powers to cancel unpayable debts.

**Shroud of Jesus: Hope of the Resurrection**  
St. Patrick's Parish, Calgary is hosting the *Man of the Shroud Exhibition & Conference* from **April 3 - 27, 2025**. There will be an extensive exhibit on the history, significance and scientific aspects of the Shroud of Turin. Check their website for all the events and speakers at [www.stpatrickcalgary.com](http://www.stpatrickcalgary.com).

### **The Psalms as a way of prayer - Lenten Mission with Fr Julian**

Join Fr. Julian Studden for a Lenten Mission exploring The Psalms as a Way of Prayer. The mission will conclude with a Lenten Penitential Service on Wednesday. When: **Mon-Wed, Apr 7-9 at 7 pm** at St. Joseph's Parish, Calgary. All are welcome!

### **Tenebrae on Palm Sunday**

Experience the ancient Holy Week tradition of *Tenebrae*, featuring the choirs of St. John Choir Schola. When: **Sun, Apr 13, 7:30 pm at St. Anthony's, Calgary**. All are welcome!

### **Blossoms & Blooms - Charity Dinner for Elizabeth House**

Join us for an elegant evening of fine dining, live music, and a lively silent auction to support mothers building a brighter future at Elizabeth House. When: **Sat, May 24, 2025, from 6 to 9:30 pm at the Calgary Italian Cultural Centre**. And thanks to *Rogers Birdies for Kids* presented by *AltaLink*, all ticket sales and auction donations will be matched up to 50%—with 100% of proceeds going directly to Elizabeth House! More info and tickets at [catholiccyyc.ca/blooms](http://catholiccyyc.ca/blooms)

### **Save the date: Vocations Rally**

God calls each of us for a unique and meaningful purpose. Join us in fostering a culture where every calling—priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, permanent diaconate, or lay vocations—is nurtured and celebrated! Save the date for the Vocations Rally 2025: **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025 - from 11 am to 4:30 pm**. Discover, support, and pray for vocations in our Diocese!

### **40 Hours Devotion for Vocations**

Pray with us as for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our Diocese. The next devotions:

[St. Patrick's, Medicine Hat](#) - Thu, Apr 3 at 4:30 pm to Sat, Apr 5 at 8:30 am

[St. Joseph's, Calgary](#) - Thu, Apr 3 at 6 am to Fri, Apr 4 at 10 pm.

[St. Anthony's, Calgary](#) - Fri, Apr 4 at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 6 at 7 am (Chapel)

[St. Anthony's, Calgary](#) - Fri, May 2 at 3 pm to Sun, May 4 at 7 am (Chapel)

[St. Gerard's, Calgary](#) = Fridays, May 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm

[St. James', Calgary](#) - Fri, May 9 at 4 pm to Sun, May 11 at 8 am

### **Pastoral Care Ministry Training**

If you are called to minister to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound, and bereaved - and approved by your pastor or Pastoral Care Coordinator, you can register for the Pastoral Care Ministry Training at

[catholiccyyc.ca/pastoralcare](http://catholiccyyc.ca/pastoralcare) or contact Mara at 403-218-5521. When: **Sat, May 24 & Jun 7, 9:30 am - 3 pm** at Ascension Parish, Calgary..

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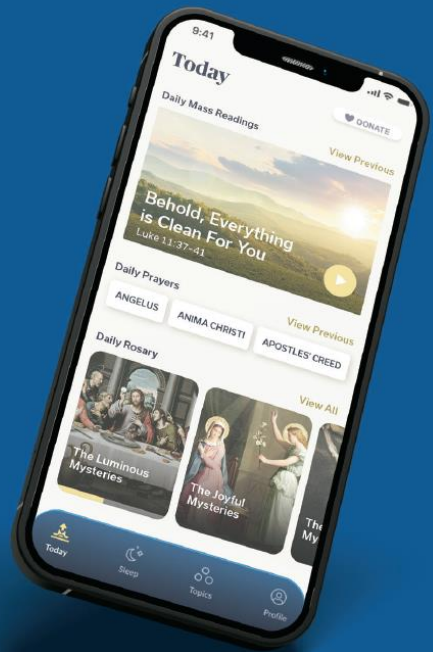
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Joe McKenna Council #9502

Knights of Columbus 2024 2025 Officers

Position	Name
Grand Knight	Greg Martin
Deputy Grand Knight	Jimmy Tablan
Financial Secretary	Pat Ries
Treasurer	Ron Pisoni
Chancellor	Jason Iverson
Recorder	Brad Irvine
Advocate	Herb Durda
Warden	Walter Pratt
Inside Guard	Dale Maddaford
Outside Guard	Michael Camphor
Year 1 Trustee	Gary Heinbecker
Year 2 Trustee	Kent Friedt
Year 3 Trustee	Garry Mastel
Lecturer	Rick Brown
Membership Director	Garry Lux
Faith in Action Program Director	Greg Martin
Faith in Action Life Director	Allan Lawson
Faith in Action Family Director	Jimmy Tablan
Faith in Action Faith Director	Darrell Bonagofsky
Faith in Action Community Director	Ron Pisoni
Pastoral Parish Council Representative	Garry Mastel

Wednesday, March 5	Begin 40 Loonies for Lent
Friday, March 7	KofC Lead Stations of the Cross
Monday, March 10	KofC General Meeting
Sunday, March 16	Parish Breakfast
Friday, March 21 – Saturday, March 22	Men's Lenten Retreat
Sunday, March 23	KofC Sponsored Mass – 10:30am
Monday, April 7	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, April 14	Holy Hour Adoration
Monday, April 14	KofC General Meeting
Sunday, May 4	Parish Breakfast
Monday, May 5	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, May 12	KofC General Meeting
Monday, June 2	KofC General Meeting
Monday, June 9	KofC Year End BBQ
Sunday, June 22	Parish Picnic



# Hat Grannies for Africa Fabric, Yarn & More Sale

St. John's Presbyterian Church  
504 – 2nd Street SE, Medicine Hat

All proceeds to



Saturday, March 29, 2025  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

For further information or  
pick up of donations call:  
Kathy at 403-928-2135 or  
Sheila at 403-580-7715

Admission: \$2.00

CASH SALES  
ONLY

Half-price sale  
12:00 - 2:00 pm

Facebook @ Hat Grannies

[www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

*The Hat Grannies for Africa are holding their annual Fabric, Yarn and More sale on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Medicine Hat, from 9:00 – 2:00. The half price sale starts at 12:00. Admission is \$2.00 and all sales are cash only. We encourage everyone to bring their own bags. There will be a wide selection of fabrics and a large assortment of yarn in addition to notions, patterns and craft materials. The quilting table is going to be loaded again this year! All proceeds go to the **Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign**, an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. If you have goods to donate or want further information, contact Sheila at 403-580-7715 (cell) or Kathy at 403-928-2135 (cell). You can also contact us through Facebook @ Hat Grannies.*

# ARTS FOR AFRICA



## Charity Art Show & Sale

Saturday, April 5 from 1-4 pm  
St John's Church 2nd St & 5 Ave SE



Paintings, Batiks, photos & curiosities  
from local and international artists  
to browse and buy



All proceeds in support of Teega Wende  
an orphanage in Burkina Faso, W Africa

## Share the joy of giving!

Hosted by CARO - Canadians Reaching out to the World's Children





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Why do I exist?

Teens in your parish are actively looking for answers to these questions. Unfortunately, the world is not providing the proper guidance to point them in the right direction.

But you can help change this. Equip your teens with the tools to help them discover the best answers to these questions with The Search Begins.

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THIS TRAILER](#)**

The Search Begins is a seven-episode video series adapted from the Augustine Institute's award-winning series The Search. It invites teens in your parish to find meaning in their everyday lives. This program shares the answers to the fundamental questions of life so they can live more for God. A life of purpose!

Guide your teens to real, satisfying answers about their life and the person of Jesus Christ now with The Search Begins.

THE  
SEARCH  
BEGINS

Order the [Leader's Kit](#) or [Deluxe Leader's Kit](#) on Catholic Market.



# 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 we are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity

retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often-hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

Our retreats are organized through a group of dedicated volunteer Captains that oversee the registration. Please see our retreats page for more information.

We have strong ties with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; other Christian Churches, schools, and organizations; as well as others not affiliated with any particular faith but who are in accord with our mission of peace, healing and prayer. We value the many loyal friends and benefactors that have supported us in our ministry for over 70 years.



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.





# Scams Alert

There are many scams going around masquerading as your clergy (priests, deacons or lately, the bishop).

Please exercise caution when responding to email messages. If you receive unusual emails, check the sender's email address to see whether it is the person's genuine address. Even if the sender's address looks correct, always verify suspicious emails by phoning the sender. There have been many similar scams reported by several parishes in our diocese and across Canada.

Note that these scams do not stop at emails. Those in social media should stay vigilant when responding to friend requests or to other compelling posts requiring a response. There are many fake Twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts trying to impersonate people you know and our church leaders. Some scammers may take the time to build a relationship with you to gain your trust, before trying to extort money or other things like gift cards.

Please exercise vigilance when you are being charitable. Use the channels you are most familiar with and avoid becoming victims of a scam.

**NOBODY is going to ask you for gift cards, or bit coins from the church! NOBODY!!!**

**All our email addresses only end in @holymfamilymh.ca never a @gmail account.**

**If you get an email or a text, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND to it, you can forward it to [contact@holymfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holymfamilymh.ca) so it can be sent to the diocese.**