



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 

Email: contact@holymfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holymfamilymh.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 & Fr Naveed Arif
& Deacon Robert Risling

RECONCILIATION...

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

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

FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH at 8:30AM, SATURDAY at 5:00PM
SUNDAY at 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM

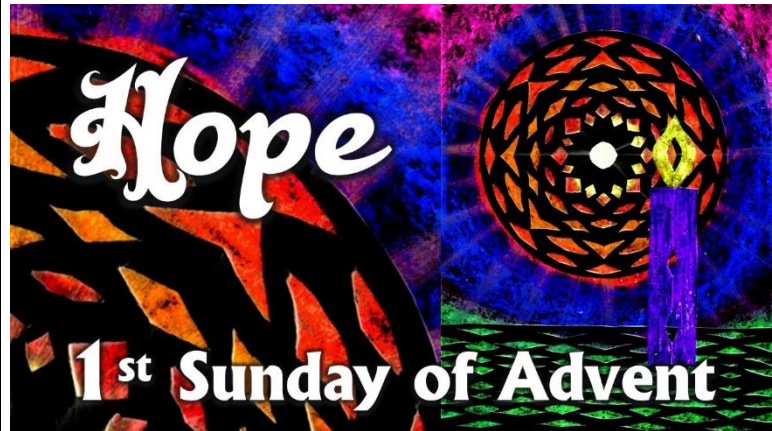
THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm
ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am

Knights of Columbus - Kirby Peterson
Catholic Women's League - Marjorie Bowlby

Parish Pastoral Council Chair - Gary Heinbecker
Parish Finance Committee Chair - Cheryl Pocsik

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



Coming That Is Certain Yet Unknown.

We begin a new liturgical year today, focusing on the *Parousia*, the "end time", the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. We know it's coming is certain. Jesus says; however, we just do not know when. How, then, shall we behave? As if that coming is today!

- ◆ Since Christ is light (Isaiah and Creed), how will my merciful behaviors shine with his radiance?
- ◆ Since Christ is near (Romans), how will I behave with sobriety, loving-kindness, and generosity?
- ◆ I will stay awake for the Second Coming of Christ by _____?

Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5

The Lord gathers all the nations into the everlasting peace of the Kingdom of God.

Responsorial Psalm: 122.1-9 (R. see 1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 13.11-14

Salvation is nearer to us now.

Gospel: Matthew 24.37-44

Keep Awake, you must be ready.

November 27, 2022 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Year A

OPERATING FINANCES	
OCTOBER 1-31, 2022	
Operating Budget 2022	\$ 59,708
General Envelope Collection	\$ 47,216
Loose Collections	\$ 3,236
Future Development	\$ 3,277
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 4,016
Budget Vs Actual	-\$ 1,963
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,654
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,270
Clergy Retirement	\$ 25
Mission Mexico	\$ 215
CARO	\$ 100
Seminary Fund	\$ 65
Needs of Cdn Church	\$ 175
Ukraine Relief YTD	\$ 22,126
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	
Average Weekly Attendance	812



2022 Goal
\$70,938
total to date
\$39,072.90
which is 55%



Together IN ACTION
Annual Bishop's Appeal

Mark Your Calendars

- November 26 - 7:30am ~ HFP Hall
That Man is You - Breakfast & Presentation
- November 26 - 1:30-3:30pm ~ HFP Hall
CWE Ladies Retreat with Seeds of the Word Sisters
- November 26 - 27 ~ At All Masses
Gift Sharing Sunday
- November 27 - 9:30 and 11:30am ~ Faith Room
Charity Breakfast for Seeds of the Word Sisters
- November 27 - 2:00pm ~ Faith Room
Sir Knights of Bishop Carroll Assembly
- November 27 - 2:00pm ~ HFP Hall
Faith & Family Meet Up & Potluck
- November 30 - 9:30am ~ Faith Room
Bible Study
- November 30 - 7:00pm ~ Faith Room
R C I A
- December 1 - 2:00pm ~ Hope Room
Grief Share
- December 1 - 6:00pm ~ Faith Room
Confirmation Class
- December 1 - 6:30pm ~ HFP Hall
1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting
- December 2 - 9:30am to 9:30pm ~ Chapel
12 Hour Adoration - Please spend an hour with Jesus
- December 3 - 7:30pm ~ HFP Hall
That Man is You - Breakfast & Presentation
- December 4 - 10:15am ~ Faith Room
1st Reconciliation Class
- December 5 - 6:30pm ~ Faith Room
Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting
- December 5 - 7:00pm ~ Hope Room
Catholic Women's League Executive Meeting

† Mass Intentions †



Saturday, November 26

5:00pm - Ria Welbourne

Sunday, November 27

8:30am - Holy Family Parish

10:30am - Fr Cecil Zinger CSB †

6:00pm - The Sehn Kids

Monday, November 28

9:00am - Carrie Schneider †

Advent Mission 6:00pm - Raymond Zuback †

Tuesday, November 29

9:00am - Italo Dal Molin †

Advent Mission 6:00pm - Peace & Happiness

Wednesday, November 30

9:00am - Anne Dirk †

Thursday, December 1

9:00am - Pauline Both

Friday, December 2

9:00am - Patrick O'Donnell †



Ladies Retreat

November 26, 2022 @ 1:30 to 3:30pm

"Francis, Rebuild My Church"

Sponsored by the CWL



Advent Mission 2022

Walking with the Lord in Advent

November 28th: Hope Brings Peace

November 29th: Joy is Completed in Love

St. Patrick's - Mass 8:30am – Talk Following
Holy Family - Mass 6:00pm – Talk Following

Faith & Family



Bring the Whole Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 2:00PM - 4:00PM

GAMES & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK 4:00-5:00PM

BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE

WE CAN THEN ATTEND MASS AT 6:00PM

The 29th ANNUAL GIFT SHARING SUNDAY

November 26th & 27th, 2022



Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation Parents - HFP Hall

Thursday, November 26 at 10:00am

Confirmation Class - HFP Faith Rm

Thursday, December 1 at 6:00pm

1st Reconciliation Parents - HFP Hall

Thursday, December 1 at 6:30pm

1st Reconciliation Class - HFP Faith Rm

Sunday, December 4 at 10:15am

Sir Knights of Bishop Carroll Assembly

November 27, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

In the Faith Room at Holy Family Church.

I would like as many as possible to help revive out assembly.



CHARITY PARISH

BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 27

@ 9:30AM &

11:30AM



Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 for youth and under 6 free

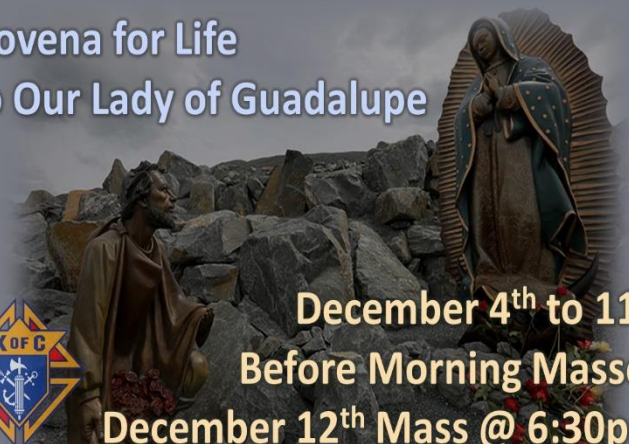
All proceeds going to the Seeds of the Word

Novena for Life to Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 4th to 11th

Before Morning Masses

December 12th Mass @ 6:30pm



12 Hour Adoration

Friday

December 2, 2022

9:30am – 9:30pm

Reconciliation

9:30am – 10:30am

& 8:00pm – 9:30pm

All parishioners welcome and encouraged to attend



" To gather with God's people in united Adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer" Martin Luther

Sign up sheet available at office during the week, and foyer before Mass, we need 12 volunteers. Thanks



Blessing of the Bambinelli December 10 & 11 Masses

On the Third Sunday of Advent children bring Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from your family Nativity scene to Mass for a blessing.

THAT MAN IS YOU!

Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30am

Presentation

8:30 – 9:30 am

December 3, 2022

Theme:

Objective Arguments for God's Existence

Presenter:

Dr. Peter Kreeft



Advent Penitential Service

St. Patrick's Parish
December 7 at 7:00pm

Holy Family Parish
December 8 at 7:00pm



CWL POTLUCK SUPPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

CWL members plus 1 guest & member's young children. Bring a dish for 6-8 people, Notify your captain with the numbers that will attend by December 1st



DOOR PRIZES

MASS @ 6:00 PM
SUPPER @ 7:00PM



CWL Christmas Raffle

Prizes include Christmas Decor

Selling tickets before and after all weekend Masses

Draw Date
December 7, 2022



CWL Bake Sale

December 10th & 11th at all masses.

Donations for bake goods and cash greatly appreciated.



2023 CWL Membership dues are due at \$40.00 this year. Fees can be put in the collection baskets labels CWL.

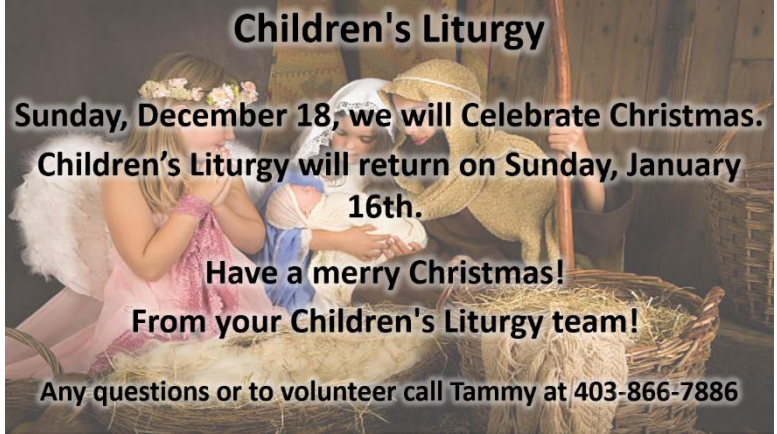


The 2023 Donation Envelopes are in the Foyer

Please write your names on the envelopes for the first few times you use them!

If you can't find your envelopes or if you would like new envelopes for 2023, come to the office during regular business hours.

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
Excluding Noon Hour and Holidays



Children's Liturgy

Sunday, December 18, we will Celebrate Christmas. Children's Liturgy will return on Sunday, January 16th.

Have a merry Christmas!
From your Children's Liturgy team!

Any questions or to volunteer call Tammy at 403-866-7886

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Pope Francis recently unveiled and blessed a new sculpture in St. Peter's Square dedicated to the homeless. It's a life-size bronze statue titled "Sheltering" by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz. The new sculpture depicts a homeless person being covered by a blanket pulled over him by a flying dove.

It was conceived to shed light on the problem of homelessness in the world and to promote practical solutions in line with the mission of the **13 Houses Campaign**, an initiative of the worldwide **Vincentian Family**, who are inspired by the life and work of St. Vincent de Paul. He *"called together as many as he could, rich and poor, humble and powerful, used every means to inspire them with a sense of the poor – a privileged image of Christ – and urged them to help the poor directly and indirectly."*

If you wish to make a direct donation to our local Society of St. Vincent de Paul as we assist our local neighbors in need, please use the following e-mail address: ssvpmehat@gmail.com

PARISHES' ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE 2022

Parish	Date	Time	Priest
St. Anthony, Drumheller	December 1	7:00PM	Fr. Lukas, Fr. Silvano & Fr. Tomy
St. George's, Hannah	December 6	7:00PM	Fr. Rodel Abanto
St. Rita's, Rocky Ford	December 6	7:00PM	Fr. Silvano, Fr. Lukas, FR. Long Vu
St. Mary's, Beiseker	December 7	7:00PM	Fr. Long Vu, Fr. Tomy, Fr. Silvano, Fr. Lukas
St. Patrick, Medicine Hat	December 7	7:00PM	Fr. Roque, Fr. Iqbal, Fr. Naveed, Fr. Wojciech, Fr. Francis
Holy Family, Medicine Hat	December 8	7:00PM	Fr. Iqbal, Fr. Naveed, Fr. Roque, Fr. Marino, Fr. Francis, Fr. Wojciech
Sacred Heart, Oyen	December 9	7:00PM	Fr. Rodel Abanto, Fr. Iqbal & Fr. Roque
St. Michael's, Bow Island	December 13	7:00pm	Fr. Iqbal, Fr. Naveed, Fr. Roque Pereira, Fr. Wojciech
Sacred Heart, Strathmore	December 14	7:00pm	Fr, Tomy, Fr. Silvano, Fr. Lukas
St. Mary's, Brooks	December 15	7:00PM	Fr. Marino, Fr. Naveed, Fr. Iqbal, Fr. Tomy, Fr. Roque, Fr. Silvano, Fr. Long Vu & Fr. Lukas

Resound
A Time of Prayer & Music
Sunday, December 4
6:30-8:00pm
St. Patrick's Parish

Attention Bereaved Parents

The Compassionate Friends of Canada Hosts Candle Lighting Service for Bereaved parents on December 11 at 7 pm at the Salvation Army Church downtown please bring a photo of your child and a candle. You are welcome to bring a friend or family member.

Let's celebrate and remember our children we have lost. There will be refreshments and snacks after service. Call Tracy Looker at 403-580-1393

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



Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

catholicyc.ca/Faithfully

Faithfully keeps you updated with what's happening in and around our Diocese!

[Sunday 10:30am Mass on YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut)
[Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut)



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut)

UNDER SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF FR. IQBAL KHURSHID

MAY 13 – MAY 27, 2023 - 15 DAYS

\$5,290.00 INCLUDING TAXES AND TIPS (CALGARY DEPARTURE)

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN
& FRANCE



CONNAISSANCE TRAVEL AND TOURS

3852 FINCH AVE EAST, SUITE #306, TORONTO ON, M1T 3T9, TEL: 416 291 2676

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT

Agnes: 416-418-3599 agnes@cttour.ca or Maria: 905-334-0559 maria@cttour.ca

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HOLY FAMILY

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER #5

December



God made us body and soul, and we need that personal presence for each other to really live human relationships. No matter how impressive communications technology has become, it cannot replace the experience of being personally present to each other.



Communication is the key, the lifeline and essential tool to any organization or relationship! Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity.

Comments? Suggestions? Please contact our
President Marjorie Bowlby at 306-202-8976 or
Secretary Mary Jean (MJ) Rath at 403-581-8004

General Meetings are the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

SEASON'S GREETINGS

THE HOLY SPIRIT BECOMES
THE LIFE OF OUR SOUL AS
THE SOUL IS THE LIFE OF
OUR BODY:☺ St. Augustine

May the light of Christ fill
your heart and mind as you
Celebrate his birth.

May the blessings of the
Christ Child be yours this
Christmas and throughout
the New Year.

Christmas...a unique time
of Worshipping our God.
May the gift of realizing
Christ advance your life
during the season & coming
year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023**

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday December 7th,
Mass at 6:00 pm followed by
a potluck & raffle draws.

CWL Bake Sale at all masses
December 10th & 11th. Drop
off baking Saturday Dec 10th
to the kitchen 3:00 pm.

THANK YOU



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

1. Faith (Growth & Evangelization)
2. Service (Hospitality & Fellowship)
3. Social Justice (Charitable Work & Social Justice)

June -Sister Vicki's Memorial Mass. July -CWL sponsored the snack for the Bible Camp. August -four of our members, Marjorie Bowlby, Simonne Flynn, Dianne Durda & Anna Marie Clark, drove to Kelowna to partake in the National Convention. September -was a busy month with a garage sale, a wine & cheese and our 3rd CWL sponsored Mass, plus host of the Fall Diocesan Meeting and a bottle drive. October -we had our Parish Ministry Fair, plus many members attended the Bow Island Regional Meeting. November- All Saints Day Mass, All Souls Day Mass, CWL Fall Supper, Mass of the Angels, plus CWL Memorial Mass plus Gift Sharing Sunday.

Sisterhood is being inclusive and in fellowship. It is caring for and supporting one another in happy times and sad times. That is what makes our council successful! Fundraisers do more than raise operational revenue! They promote leadership and engagement among members. They increase awareness of the League and encourage community spirit in the Parish.

BOOK OF LIFE – Our prayers are with the families and friends of our Sisters in Faith that have gone before us. We thank them for their service to the League, as they are an example to us! Rest in Peace

Dear Sisters "Georgina Koch, Caroline Schneider, Armande Goulet, Alice Zeeb, Shirley Martin, and Mary Buscholl"

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – Marjorie Bowlby

Dear Sisters in Christ,

There is nothing quite like Christmas. It's a wonderful time of the year, when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will soon be decking the halls, wrapping presents and celebrating with loved ones. The holidays are a time to cherish what's important, making some magic moments with friends and family. Wishing you all, peace in your world, love in your homes and joy in your heart.

STAY COZY!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!

Membership Drive -- Join the Holy Family Catholic Women's League

Or Renew your membership - \$40.00. Contact Anna Marie at amclark55@gmail.com



First Sunday of Advent Year A

November 27, 2022

HOPE KEEPS US AWAKE

This week we begin our Advent season to prepare ourselves to celebrate the miraculous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him.

Advent season has two parts: First part (which is from 1st Sunday of Advent to December 16) addresses the importance of the second coming of Jesus. All the readings are focused on the preparation to welcome Jesus with hope, in our midst. Jesus always reminds us He is with us as he carries his name Emmanuel. Second part of Advent (which is from December 17 to 24) emphasis on the importance of Jesus's first coming through the prophecies we find in the Bible. Moreover, we are also reminded that our Salvation is at hand, and we need to rejoice in the Lord who was, who is and who is to come.

These four Sundays of Advent speaks about four Gospel values: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Each Sunday one candle is lit which symbolizes the light of Christ because Jesus is our Light and we need to walk in the light of Christ. The liturgical color during Advent is Purple which is the symbol of hope in the second coming of Christ and Repentance. Today as we light our first Advent candle, we reflect on the theme "Hope" which keep reminding not to lose our hearts but trust in the Lord. Our Hope keeps us awake to believe and trust in the Lord and make him the center of our life. Let me share a story with you to help us understand that without Jesus our eternal Sun, there is no life, nor hope.

Once, there was a farmer who was tired of various natural factors ruling the quality of his crop. So, one day he called God and said, "I am tired of all this natural nonsense happening. Obviously, you are not a farmer. You don't know what it means to farm so why don't you leave nature in my hands? I am a farmer. I know when it should rain, I know when there should be sunlight, everything is happening at the wrong times. You leave it to me."

Whether you have a good deal or a bad deal, whatever the situation is, it's very useful you use that for your wellbeing.

God said, "Okay, nature is in your hands." Then the farmer planned his crop. So, he calls out "Rain!" And it rains. He pokes the land with his finger and sees, "Okay it's soaked up to six inches," "Stop!" Then he ploughed his field and planted corn seeds and waited for two days, "Rain!" then "Sunlight!"

One day he was working in the field so he wanted some shade to work in, "Cloud!" Everything just happened the way he wanted, and a beautiful corn crop came. He was overjoyed.

When it was time for the harvest, he wanted to see that no birds came. He was surprised about that because when he said, "No birds!", and no birds came. He went down to his fields to harvest the corn but when he looked at the crop, there was no grain on the plants. Then he thought "What is this? What did I do wrong?" He couldn't figure it out because he had managed everything – rain, water and sunshine. He went back to God and asked, "I did everything right but there is no grain. Did you sabotage my crop?" God said, "I have been watching; you were in-charge, so I didn't want to interfere. The rain was great, the sunshine was great, everything was fine, but you stopped all the winds. I used to always send fierce winds which would threaten your crop but because the plants felt pushed and threatened, they put their roots deeper into the earth and so grain happened. Now you have a great corn crop but no corn."

As the corn crop used the winds to strengthen themselves, various situations in our life can either be used, to make ourselves stronger and better or we can sit and cry. This is the choice we have. All these things move around the element of hope and hope for the good to come. St. James says in his letter never say "we will do" but say, "God willing we will do".

Saint Macarius, helps us dwell in the Lord through hope which awakes us to believe that Jesus Christ is the reason of the season. He says "When God was displeased with the Jews, he delivered Jerusalem to the enemy, and they were conquered by those who hated them; there were no more sacrifices or feasts. Likewise angered at who had broken his commands, God handed it over to its enemies, who corrupted and totally dishonored it. When a house has no master living in it, it becomes dark, vile and contemptible, choked with filth and disgusting refuse. So too is a soul which has lost its master, who once rejoiced there with his angels. This soul is darkened with sin, its desires are degraded, and it knows nothing but shame. Woe to the path that is not walked on, or along which the voices of men are not heard, for then it becomes the haunt of wild animals. Woe to the soul if the Lord does not walk within it to banish with his voice the spiritual beasts of sin. Woe to the house where no master dwells, to the field where no farmer works, to the pilotless ship, storm-tossed and sinking. Woe to the soul without Christ as its true pilot; drifting in the darkness, buffeted by the waves of passion, storm-tossed at the mercy of evil spirits, its end is destruction. Woe to the soul that does not have Christ to cultivate it with care to produce the good fruit of the Holy Spirit. Left to itself, it is choked with thorns and thistles; instead of fruit it produces only what is fit for burning. Woe to the soul that does not have Christ dwelling in it; deserted and foul with the filth of the passions, it becomes a haven for all the vices. When a farmer prepares to till the soil, he must put on clothing and use tools that are suitable. So, Christ, our heavenly king, came to till the soil of mankind devastated by sin. He assumed a body and, using the cross as his ploughshare, cultivated the barren soul of man. He removed the thorns and thistles which are the evil spirits and pulled up the weeds of sin. Into the fire he cast the straw of wickedness. And when he had ploughed the soul with the wood of the cross, he planted in it a most lovely garden of the Spirit, that could produce for its Lord and God the sweetest and most pleasant fruit of every kind".

The Holy Father encourages everyone with these words: "The person who takes heed is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours, and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. The heedful person then also turns toward the world, seeking to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us".

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, invites us to reflect with him on the “Comings” of Jesus to prepare ourselves to celebrate the festivities of Nativity of the Lord. “We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom. In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future. At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming. Again, he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner’s fire, a fuller’s herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing. These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new. The Holy Father Pope Francis shares his reflection on this Sunday with these precious words. The Lord is coming; today, the first day of the liturgical year, this announcement marks our starting point: we know that, despite any favourable or contrary event, the Lord will not leave us alone. He came two thousand years ago and will come again at the end of time, but He comes also today in my life, in your life. Yes, this life of ours, with all its problems, anxieties, and uncertainties, is visited by the Lord. Here is the source of our joy: the Lord has not grown tired and will never tire of us, He wishes to come, to visit us. Indeed, in the first reading Isaiah prophesied: “Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord’”. While the evil on earth comes from the fact that each one follows his own path without the others, the prophet offers a wonderful vision: all come together on the mountain of the Lord. On the mountain was the temple, the house of God. Isaiah therefore sends us an invitation from God to His home. We are God’s guests, and whoever is invited is expected, desired. “Come”, God says, “because there is room in my house for everyone. Come, because in my heart there is not only one people, but every people”. While our hope awakes to recognize the Lord, it also helps to believe and prepare that Lord will with his power and might to deliver everyone from the evil forces. For Him we are never strangers, but anticipated children. And the Church is the house of God: here, therefore, always feel at home. Here we come to walk together towards the Lord and realize the words with which the prophecy of Isaiah ends: “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord”.

What happened in Noah's days? It occurred that, while something new and upsetting was about to arrive, no-one cared, because everyone thought only of eating and drinking. In other words, they all reduced their lives to their own needs; they were content with a flat, horizontal life, without momentum. There was no waiting for anyone, only the claim of having something for oneself, to consume. Waiting for the Lord to come, not claiming to have something we can consume. That's the reason Lord warns everyone to "be awake and be ready for the day" which is coming. In fact, our hope helps us to prepare to welcome Jesus.

Once there was a very old couple who enjoyed their married life for almost 70 years with beautiful children, grand children, and great grand children. One fine night husband decided to tell her something. So late that night, just before she fell asleep, he whispered in her ear. She smiled – the kind of smile that made him smile back –and she said, "Now I'm ninety-five and I think about my life and what it was like to be young, I hope that I can remember this very moment." A few seconds later she closed her eyes and fell asleep. The room was peaceful – almost silent. All he could hear was the soft purr of her breathing. He stayed awake thinking about the time they had spent together and all the choices in their lives that made this moment possible. And at some point, he realized that it didn't matter what they had done or where they had gone. Nor did the future hold any significance. All that mattered was the serenity of the moment. The same moment of hope and serenity we experience during the season of Advent where we feel the presence of Jesus who is our Hope which keeps us awake to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The First Sunday of Advent

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](#)

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

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses:
<https://www.catholicyc.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](#)

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



Resources for children

- **Kid's challenge this week:** How would you prepare if you knew it was going to rain later in the day? How would you prepare if you were going to a sleepover? Today is the first day of Advent, the season in which we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. We also prepare for something else—the day of the Lord, when Jesus will return in glory. What is something you can do each day to be prepared for the day of the Lord? (Loyola Press)

- [Colouring page this Sunday](#)
- [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
- [Sunday Connection - First Sunday of](#)

[Advent](#) (Gr. 1-8 & family)

- [Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday](#)
 - [Children's Liturgy sheet for leaders/parents](#) (CAFOD) | [Illustration](#)
 - [Children's Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi](#) (Catholic TV)

1. November/December 2022 Calendar Highlights

- **Nov 25-27** | [Live-In Retreat in Coaldale, AB](#)
- **Nov 26** | [Breakfast with Bishop at St. Peter's](#)
- **Nov 26** | [St. Paul's Christmas Market, Airdrie](#)
- **Nov 26** | [St. Cecilia's CWL Cookie Walk, Calgary](#)
- **Nov 26** | [Lethbridge Region Women's Advent](#)
- **Nov. 26** | [Calgary Region Women's Advent Retreat](#)
- **Nov 26** | [St. James' Parish Hall Fundraising](#)
- **Nov 26** | [Parenting Course: First Decisions](#)
- **Nov 26&27** | [Advent according to Mary](#)
- **Nov 26&27** | [Advent Mission at St. Augustine, Taber](#)
- **Nov 27** | [The Seekers Group for unmarried women at CPC](#)
- **Nov 28** | [Billings Ovulation Method Online Introduction](#)
- **Nov 28** | [Advent Ignatian Retreat in Everyday Life at FCJ](#)
- **Nov 28** | [Advent Twilight Retreat "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus!" at Martha Centre, Lethbridge](#)
- **Nov 30** | [Advent by candlelight at Ascension Catholic Parish](#)
- **Dec 1 & 2** | [Advent Retreat in St. Mary's, Brooks](#)
- **Dec 2** | [A Concert with Steve Bell at St. Michael's, Calgary](#)
- **Dec 2&3** | [Festival of Creches | St. Anthony, Calgary](#)
- **Dec 2-4** | [Advent Hope: Life Worth Living at Mount St. Francis](#)
- **Dec 3** | [St. Luke's CWL Christmas Market](#)
- **Dec 4** | [25th Annual Calgary Ukrainian Carol Festival, Calgary](#)
- **Dec 6** | [An Evening with St. Nicholas at Mount St. Francis](#)
- **Dec 7** | [Advent - A family Advent fireside gathering at FCJ](#)
- **Dec 9-11** | [Advent - Winter Stillness Retreat at Mount St. Francis](#)
- **Dec 10** | [Advent Market with Blessed Daughter Ministry](#)
- **Dec. 11** | [The Seekers Group for unmarried women at CPC](#)
- **Dec. 11** | [Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols](#)
- **Dec 11** | [The Joy of Greccio at Mount St. Francis](#)
- **Dec 15** | [Every Star Shall Sing a Carol at FCJ](#)
- **Dec. 17** | [Christmas Retreat with the Seeds of the Word](#)
- **Dec 17** | [A night of Beauty with Bridge Brass Quintet](#)
- **To submit your parish/lay association events** - go to catholiccyc.ca/news and click "Add Event" (please submit description + poster/graphic in JPEG/PNG)

Worth sharing

Subscribe to Faithfully

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 is coming up this Monday! Subscribe at catholicyc.ca/faithfully

National Synodal Report

We invite everyone to read the Synod on Synodality reports.. To read the Diocesan, Western Region and National reports, visit catholicyc.ca/synod

World Youth Day 2023

For information re: SFXC group that will be travelling to Lisbon, Portugal for [World Youth Day in 2023](#), contact SFXC at sfxc@calgarydiocese.ca

Pastoral Care: Accompanying in Conflict and Complicated Situations

Join Fr. Timothy Boyle in a monthly reflection on ministry, pastoral care, and the art of accompaniment, inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis. When: Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 10:30 am at St. Martha's Church in Lethbridge, or join via livestream: stmarthasparish.ca

Pastoral Letter for Young People (CCCB)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a Pastoral Letter to Young People in honour of the anniversary of the death of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first beatified millennial. Read now at catholicyc.ca/blog.

Marriage Preparation Courses

Next course: Weekend of Nov. 25 at Ascension Parish, Calgary. For more dates, visit our Diocesan website where couples can choose the course date with access to registration and payment catholicyc.ca/marriageprep

Bishops of Canada deepen commitments for healing and reconciliation

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), gathered in the Plenary Assembly last week, agreed upon a series of next steps related to the painful legacy of residential schools. This work builds on previous commitments to promote access to records, educate clergy on Indigenous cultures and spirituality, and contribute \$30 million to healing and reconciliation initiatives across Canada. Read more at cccb.ca

National Synodal Report

We invite everyone to read the Synod on Synodality reports, which is the culmination of a sincere listening exercise that occurred in every diocese across the country. To read the Diocesan, Western Region and National reports, visit catholicyc.ca/synod

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples | Dec. 12

"This year, we have been blessed to have had a delegation of Indigenous people visit Pope Francis in Rome in order to receive his apology on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, and again to welcome the Holy Father to this land to hear his words of sorrow as he embarked on his, self described, "Pilgrimage of Penance". Let us take this opportunity to build on the reflections offered by Pope Francis."

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples will be celebrated on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

- Download/print [this reflection](#) from the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council

Faith Formation Courses

These formation opportunities will help you with your faith journey and to help you grow closer to Christ. Find a list of webinars and courses on our diocesan website [here](#).



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary



FIRST SUNDAY OF
Advent

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent

November 27th, 2022

Sort the letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom

H¹¹ R² O⁴

I⁹ O⁶ R⁵

L⁸ G¹⁰ T¹² A¹

M³ F⁷

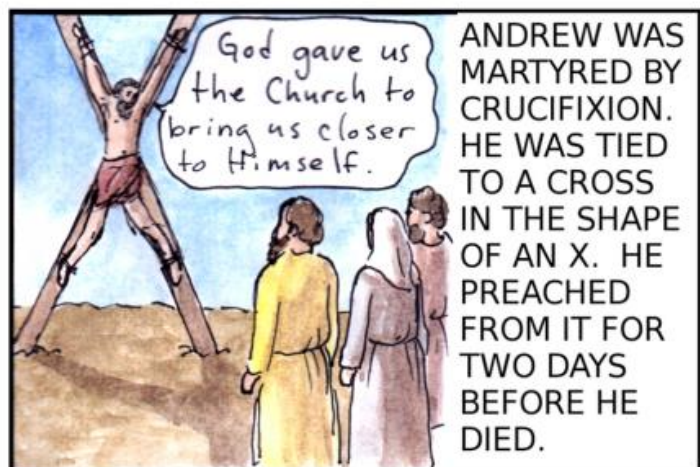
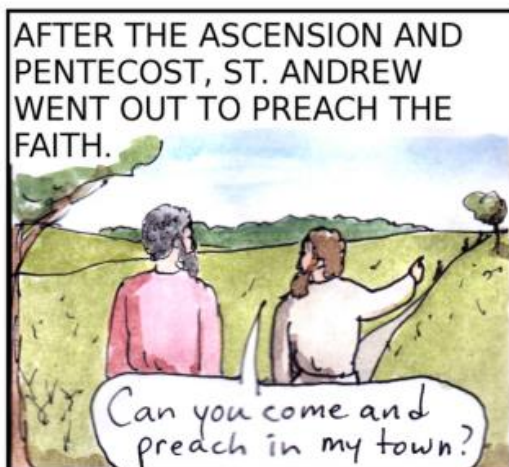
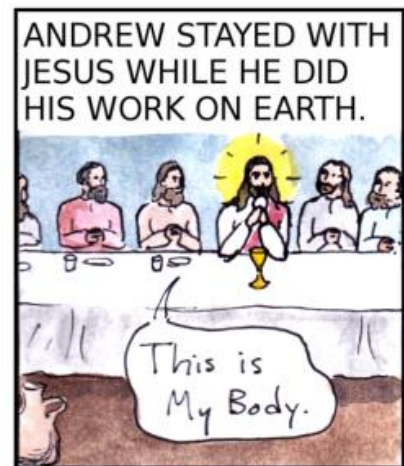
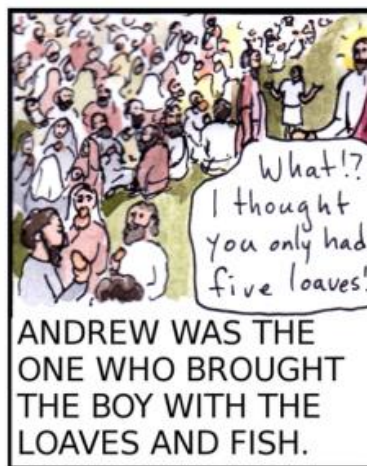
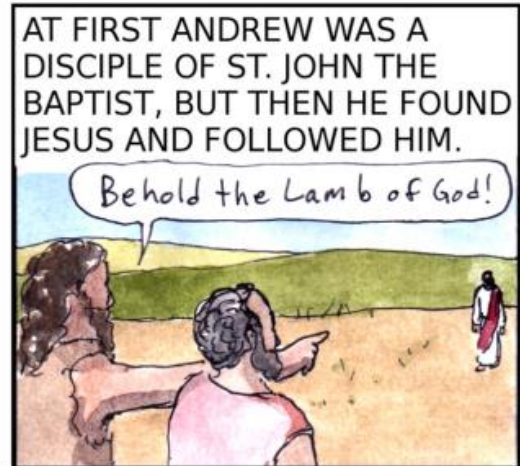
Romans 13:11-14

*In today's second reading
Saint Paul tells the Romans to throw off the
works of darkness and put on the*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

SAINT ANDREW

NOVEMBER 30



WE DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT THE LIFE OF ST. ANDREW EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A FAITHFUL APOSTLE OF JESUS AND ONE OF THE FIRST MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH. HE BEGAN AS A POOR FISHERMAN. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS STORY THAT JESUS CALLS US ALL TO BE SAINTS, NO MATTER WHERE WE'RE FROM.

Fill in the Blanks: The Lord is Coming!



Use the words in the list at the bottom to fill in the blanks in today's Gospel reading. Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

Matthew 24:37-44 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days _____ the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah _____ the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and _____ _____ them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two _____ will be out in the field; one will be _____, and one will be left.

Two women will be _____ _____ at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, _____ awake!
For you do not know on which day
your Lord will come.

_____ !

STAY ENTERED MEN BEFORE
GRINDING TAKEN CARRIED



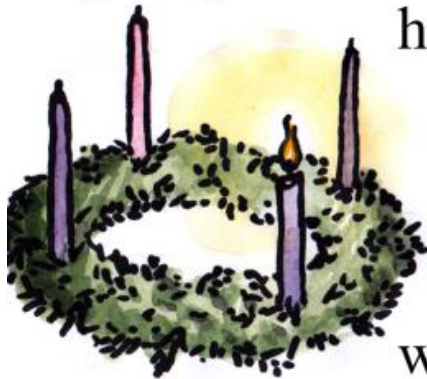
It's Time to get Ready for Christmas!

Advent is here! In a few weeks it will be Christmas, so it's time to start getting ready!



During Advent we remember Jesus' first coming, and get ourselves and our homes ready to celebrate His birthday.

Lighting the candles on an Advent wreath



helps us to remember that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. We start with one candle, and every week light one more, so that the closer we get to Jesus' coming the

brighter it gets.

In Advent we also think about Jesus' second coming. In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the people to be prepared for that time. We must never let ourselves forget that this world and this life are only temporary and that we have something much greater to look forward to: Jesus and Heaven!



Answer to puzzle on front page: armor of light
Answer to Fill in the Blanks: Be ready!

Retreat Centers in Southern Alberta

AN "OASIS" IN THE HEART OF CALGARY

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

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



Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often-hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

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

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



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



2022 Advent @ Mount St. Francis

TAKE A MOMENT IN THE SEASON

More and more the **Season of Advent** is swept up into the hype of a busy Christmas. The gift of the season is one of preparation, of reflection, of taking time to pause so as to enter into the celebrations and demands with a heart orientated toward the Light. At **Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre**, we provide space for you to come and be: for **prayer**, for **peace** and for **healing** during this sacred season. We invite you to register for any of these Advent Retreats by contacting Deb at 403-932-2012 mtfrancis@shaw.ca Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Weekend Retreat – “Advent Hope: Life Worth Living”

December 2 - 4 **\$215**
with Friar Joshua and Friar Michael

Our world continues to be bombarded with messages faster and louder. How many speak of hope? How many speak of the gift of life?

Advent gives us a chance to recalibrate and align our living in hope and life-giving ways.

Register with **Linda and Russ Nicol** 403-932-1804
lindamnicol50@gmail.com

At A Glance

December 2 - 4
Advent Retreat
“Advent Hope:
Life Worth Living”

December 6
Advent Twilight Retreat
“An Evening with St. Nicholas”

December 7
Advent Day Away
“Pregnant with the Divine”

December 9 - 11
Winter Stillness Retreat

December 11
Greccio: A St. Francis
Christmas Pageant

Twilight Retreat – “An Evening with St. Nicholas”

Tuesday, December 6

\$30 each

\$15 youth ages 12-17

Registration at 6:00 pm Supper at 6:30 pm

Enjoy a hearty homecooked meal followed by a guided reflection, time for quiet and moments of shared prayer.

Consider attending as a family (ages 12+)

Consider gifting this Twilight Retreat to a friend or family member.



Day Away – “Pregnant with the Divine”

Wednesday, December 7

\$30

Registration 8:40 am

The day begins with homemade muffins, includes a reflection, time for quiet, Eucharist, a home-cooked noon meal, prayer prompts and closing ritual.

Consider gifting this Day Retreat to a friend or family member.

Winter Stillness Retreat

Friday, December 9 – Sunday, December 11

\$215

A quiet weekend, the perfect gift in a busy season. Come and rest. Delicious meals to nourish your body, liturgical prayer to nourish your heart, quiet and nature to nourish your soul.



The Joy of Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11

St. Francis of Assisi began the popular tradition of re-enacting the Christmas story in Greccio, Italy. Mount St. Francis has held the Greccio Christmas pageant since 2006. We are excited to welcome you back for this in person outdoor pageant.

**2:15 pm - 5:00 pm - Snacks and Hot Chocolate
Pageant at 4:15 pm**

**Accepting non-perishable food
and cash donations for the Cochrane Food Bank.**



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 RESOND to it, you can forward it to contact@holymfamilymh.ca so it can be sent to the diocese.