



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 4, 2022 – 2ND 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.



Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10

With righteousness he shall judge the poor.

Responsorial Psalm: 72.1-2,7-8,12-13,17 (R. see 7)

R. In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound forever.

2nd Reading: Romans 15.4-9

Christ has saved all people.

Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

A Changed Mind Fosters a Changed Life.

Who would want to be accused of being part of a brood of vipers? Appearing to be good is not good enough. When the Lord comes again, justice and faithfulness will reign supreme from top to bottom. Won't that be grand? We don't have to wait. Though there will be a Second Coming, Christ is also with us now! Justice and faithfulness, hope and harmony are part of our lives already. Saint Paul, in the Romans reading, urges three things:

- ◆ Heed the instruction: Everyday, how will I let Scripture guide me?
- ◆ Pray in one voice: Everyday, how will I pray alone and with others?
- ◆ Welcome each other: Everyday, how will I live in harmony with others as the Lord does with me?

December 4, 2022 – 2nd 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

December 31, 2022, Deadline

Goal \$70,938

total to date \$ 38,978.60



which is only 55%

Short \$ 31,959.40

Please Give Generously ~ Thank You!

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

December 6 ~ 1:00pm ~ Faith Room

SSVP Meeting

December 6 ~ 6:30pm ~ Faith Room

Healing Mass

December 7 ~ 9:30am ~ Faith Room

Bible Study

December 7 ~ 7:00pm ~ Faith Room

R C I A

December 8 ~ 2:00pm ~ Hope Room

Grief Share

December 8 ~ 6:30pm ~ Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Practice

December 8 ~ 7:00pm ~ Church

Advent Penitential Service

December 9 ~ 4:30pm-7:30pm ~ HFP Hall

Faith & Family

December 10 ~ 7:30am ~ HFP Hall

That Man is You ~ Breakfast & Presentation

December 11 ~ After Masses until Sold Out

CWL Bake Sale Fund Raiser

December 11 ~ 3:00pm ~ HFP Hall

† Mass Intentions †



Saturday, December 3

8:30am ~ John Wirachowsky †

5:00pm ~ Kay Darr †

Sunday, December 4

8:30am ~ Holy Family Parish

10:30am ~ Bruce Volk †

6:00pm ~ Alleen Girich

Monday, December 5

9:00am ~ Joseph Badura †

Tuesday, December 6

9:00am ~ People of Ukraine & Russia

6:30pm ~ Armando Marengo Osorio †

Wednesday, December 7

9:00am ~ Pat Volk †

6:00pm ~ CWL Advent Mass

Thursday, December 8

9:00am ~ John Royle †

Friday, December 9

9:00am ~ Lois Schantz †

HEALING MASS AT 6:30PM DECEMBER 6

FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH

Novena for Life
to Our Lady of Guadalupe



December 4th to 11th
Before Morning Masses
December 12th Mass @ 6:30pm

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

Children's/Youth Christmas Choir
GRADE 2 up to & including YOUNG ADULTS
For the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass



Practices

Holy Family Parish
Sunday December 18th
at 1:00pm
Friday December 23rd
at 4:00pm



Faith & Family
Family Pasta
Night!

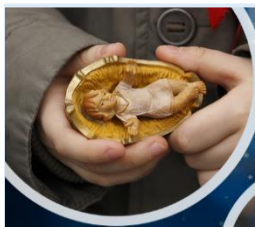
Friday, December 9 at 5:30pm HFP Hall

Theme: Preparing our hearts for the gift of Jesus
Pasta, Caesar Salad & Refreshments provided!

We look forward to seeing everyone, Please invite your
friends and family to help build our Parish Family!

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.



CWL Bake Sale

December 10th & 11th at all
masses.

Donations for Bake goods
and cash greatly
appreciated.



PARISH
CHRISTMAS
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST
DECEMBER 18

@ 9:30AM & 11:30AM

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





Sacramental Preparation

1st Reconciliation Practice – Faith Room

Thursday, December 8 at 6:30pm

Confirmation Class - HFP Faith Rm

Thursday, January 12 at 6:00pm

1st Communion Parent Meeting

HFP Hall Thursday, January 12 at 6:30pm

1st Communion Class HFP Faith Room

Sunday, January 15 at 10:15am

THAT MAN IS YOU!

Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30am

Presentation

8:30 – 9:30 am

December 10, 2022

Theme:

**Subjective Arguments for
God's Existence**

Presenter:

Dr. Peter Kreeft

TMIIY
THAT MAN IS YOU!



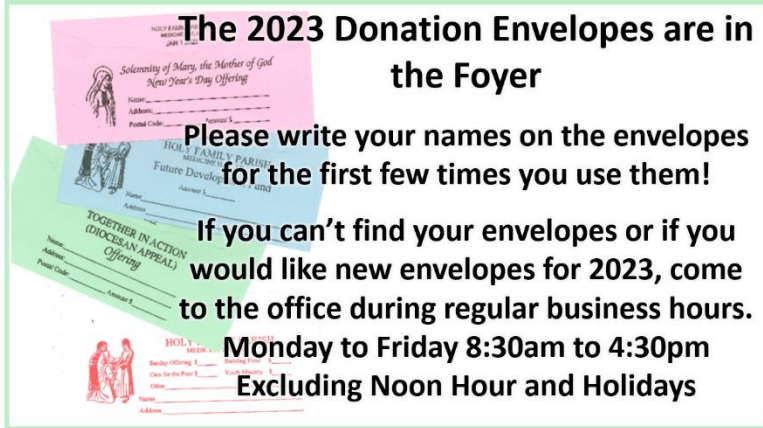
The 2023 Donation Envelopes are in the Foyer

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



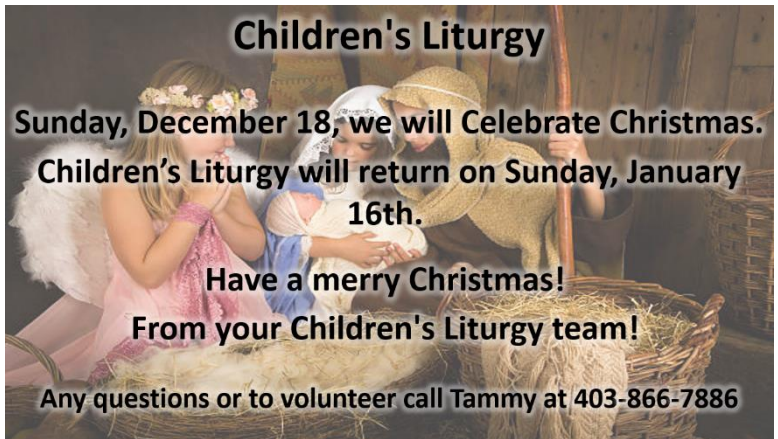
Children's Liturgy

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



Ukrainian Christmas Potluck Dinner

Friday, January 6th

St. Patrick's Church Social Committee is pleased to help facilitate a Ukrainian Christmas Potluck Dinner on Friday, January 6th. To reserve an entrance ticket and discuss the potluck item you will bring, contact Karen-Anne at (403) 952-8991 or by e-mail at kacherwono@gmail.com beginning December 4, 2022 at noon.

Thank You!

TO ALL THE FAMILIES THAT HOSTED THE SISTERS



**AND TO ALL THAT HELPED OUT WITH
THE ADVENT MISSION 2022...
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**



2023 CWL Membership dues are due at \$40.00 this year.

Fees can be put in the collection baskets labels CWL.



MEMBERSHIP

Legion of Mary

Annual General Reunion

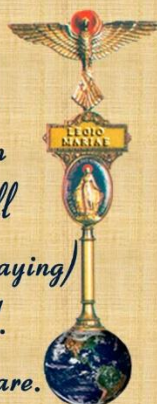
Sunday, Dec. 11-3:00pm

Holy Family Parish Hall

All Active and Auxiliary (Praying)

members are invited to attend.

Please bring a refreshment to share.



Listen...with the ear of your heart.

This is the opening line of the rule of St. Benedict. Come join us (Benedictine Oblates) in prayer as we listen to the voice of God in our lives.

We meet every Saturday morning at 10:00 in the Hope Room at Holy Family Parish.

For more information call Carol at 403-526-0415.



Attention Bereaved Parents

The Compassionate Friends of Canada Hosts Candle Lighting Service for Bereaved parents on December 11 at 7 pm at the Salvation in Southridge, 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

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: ssvpmedhat@gmail.com



St. Francis Xavier School

St. Francis Xavier School is proud to be part of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. We are a kindergarten to grade 6 elementary school that prides itself as being a small school that works closely with our families, community support and our wonderful parishes and pastors. Located at the top of the hill in Crescent Heights, we are a short walk down the hill to St. Patrick's Church where we engage in retreats, school masses and holiday

events. This December we are very much looking forward to celebrating our Christmas Mass, annual Christmas Dinner, as well as hosting our first Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Church. Both Holy Family Parish and St. Patrick's Church open their doors each day to evangelize those in our community, just as St. Francis himself did in his missionary work. Thank you to both parishes for their prayers and continued support.

As a school community we treat all our children with the dignity and respect they deserve. We engage in conversation about our faith lives and work together to strengthen the bond we have with God the Father. During this season of Advent, let us remember to keep the birth of Jesus at the center of all that we do. Let us remember that God gave us his only son as the path to live a life filled with love and joy, and it is up to us to follow it.



God bless and Merry Christmas!
Ryan Irving - Principal

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



Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

catholiccyyc.ca/Faithfully

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

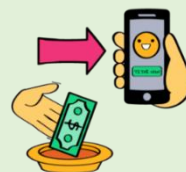
FORMED.org

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

LOG IN WWW.FORMED.ORG

- Go to Formed.org
 - Enter our PARISH CODE: **GPQWK7**
Create a personal account with your personal username/email and password.
 - Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!
- IMPORTANT:** Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

E-Transfer Donations



accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

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

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



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





2nd Sunday of Advent- Year A

December 4, 2022

PEACE CHANGES OUR LIVES

Who doesn't need peace? We all need it not only in our own lives but also in our families, communities, countries, and in the world. In recent times we have witnessed the turmoil caused by unwanted wars and greed for power. The desire to have peace is always in the hearts of us all. As Prophet Jeremiah says when he suffered and had no peace "O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whisperings: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." And I do believe to have peace in our lives and in the world, we must speak to the Lord who is the Prince of Peace. Someone wrote very beautiful poem to describe how he speaks with God:

Hello God, I called tonight to talk a little while. I need a friend who'll listen to my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it through a day just on my own. I need your love to guide me, so I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep my family safe and sound. Come and fill their lives with confidence for whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face each hour throughout the day and not to worry over things I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home and listening to my call, for giving me such good advice when I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one that answers every time. I never get a busy signal, never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening To my troubles and my sorrow. Good night, God, I love You too, And I'll call again tomorrow!

Every day we need to call and speak with God to have peace in our lives and in the world. Some of the saints have really reflected on the value of peace and have invited all of us to follow.

St. Dorotheus - *A great means to preserve continual peace and tranquillity of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small, and in whatever way it comes.*

St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney - *See, my children, a person who is in a state of sin is always sad. Whatever he does, he is weary and disgusted with everything; while he who is at peace with God is always happy, always joyous. Oh, beautiful life! Oh, beautiful death!*

St Thomas of Villanova - *He who is humble easily obeys everyone, fears to offend anyone, is at peace with everyone, is kind with all.*

(300) Diary of St Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul - *Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.*

Saint Gerard Majella - *Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?*

St. Mother Teresa - *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."* *"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."* *"Peace begins with a smile."* *"Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. The rest will be given.*

St. Francis de Sales - *Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.*

Saint Francis of Assisi - *While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.*

Saint Philip Neri - *We must sometimes bear with little defects in others, as we have, against our will, to bear with natural defects in ourselves. If we wish to keep peace with our neighbor, we should never remind anyone of his natural defects.*

Saint Alphonsus Liguori - *The more a person loves God, the more reason he must hope in Him. This hope produces in the Saints an unutterable peace, which they preserve even in adversity, because as they love God, and know how beautiful He is to those who love Him, they place all their confidence and find all their repose in Him alone.*

St. Pope John Paul II - *Peace is not just the absence of war. Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakable faith.*

We continue our Advent journey as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. We light a second candle which symbolizes the desire and gift of Peace. The second candle during Advent keeps reminding us that Jesus is the only one who can illumine our hearts, minds, and souls in order to experience peace. This week we are given St. John the Baptist to walk with and examine our emptiness of lives. He is crying and pleading with people to

mend their ways and get ready to welcome the one who was, who is and who will be forever.

The following story will lead us to understand the presence and peace of the Lord within us so that we may prepare ourselves for the worthy celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

Once A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong. She is failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake." "Here; have some cooking oil," her mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter. "How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!" To which the mother replies, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves, but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times as we are experiencing right now, but God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! Does God not pay attention to our present situation, one may raise this question? However, Prophet Isaiah gives the answer in this way; "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God..." And Prophet Jeremiah says "But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore, my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; PRAISE the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers".

Today's Word of God has some very interesting elements to reflect upon as we walk with Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist. First God comforts everyone. Prophet Isaiah is giving this message to Israelites those are in Babylonian exile and are completely devastated with things happened with them and the city of Jerusalem. In the Book of Exodus, we read "God said to Moses, I have heard the cry of my people and have to save them". God does not leave anyone in pain or suffering but wipes the tears from every eye as St. John writes in the Book of Revelation "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." God's only Begotten Son took human flesh to comfort everyone and even he cried and had compassion for people because they were like sheep without shepherd.

Secondly a voice is crying. Why is this voice crying? Why is a voice is coming mentioned? In the First Reading and the Gospel we have the same passages which explore the love and compassion of God who wants people to come back to him as Prophet Ezekiel says, "Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say

to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?" (33:10-11). In our day-to-day life whenever we see someone crying, we experience the sadness, brokenness, pain of rejection, and suffering. This crying makes people come up to console or strengthen someone either by simple hugs or words. However, in the Readings today God's sadness is immense because people have become unfaithful to him and have started following other gods and ways which are contrary to his commandments, but he wants them back because he does not want to die for their sins as Psalmist says "harden not your hearts today". St. Paul explains the compassion and love of God even if we deny him "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" (2 Timothy 2:11-13). One may ask the question why is he crying in the wilderness when people were living in the cities? It is a valid question however we must understand the content and meaning of "wilderness" in the Bible. The Wilderness in the Bible is considered "a place of loneliness and emptiness" and "a state of quietness" which means one must be alone and quiet to "listen to his voice".

Eusebius of Caesarea once wrote "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind. It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. Prepare the way of the Lord: the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power".

Thirdly invitation to repent. This is so very important to understand that we want to have peace not only within ourselves but with God as well, then we must repent from our short comings, sins, and failures. By confessing them we become humble, and humility plays a vital role in achieving peace. Prophet Isaiah says "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low' the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken". In our Christian faith we have the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation which helps us to experience peace and healing in the Lord. St. John Baptist while inviting people to confess their sins, is also reminding them to prepare

themselves to welcome the one who is more powerful than him. St. Peter in the Second Reading is encouraging people “do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but all to come to repentance”. The season of Advent is a season of seeking God’s peace, love, and presence; “Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace”.

Lastly acknowledging the Saviour. St. John the Baptist acknowledges the Saviour that he is more powerful than him “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals, I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit”. He was the first one who even before his birth leaped for joy in his mother’s womb. Jesus is prince of peace who is seated on the eternal throne of King David. Prophet Isaiah says “See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd...”

Let’s reflect on this story and very especially the last part of the story so that peace can change our lives to think about others and we may come out of our selfish motives.

One day the most peaceful inhabitants from the Earth asked one very powerful wizard to stop all wars and bloodshed on the planet. It is simple, – he said. — I will destroy all weapons on the Earth, and nobody will be able to fight anymore. It would be great! – people exclaimed. The magic wand’s wave – and this was done.

There was a peace on the planet for three days, while the majority of those who were prone to fight, sought and could not find a weapon. When they understood they’ve lost it forever, they have made spears of young trees and started to fight again. When the wizard heard this bad news, he said: Do not worry. I will destroy all young trees, so that they will not be able to fight.

After two or three days of useless search for young trees, suitable for making spears, rebellious people started to cut giant trees, make batons from them, and the bloodshed has started again. The Wizard destroyed all big trees. Then humans made knives and swords of metal. He destroyed all metal on the planet. People made sling and began to throw stones at each other. It was necessary to destroy the stones, too. And then peacekeepers began to worry: all trees have disappeared; there is no metal and stones. How to live, what to eat now? There will be no vegetation soon, and people will die without even fighting. No, this is a wrong solution of the problem.

The Wizard became confused: I do not know what to do now. I would have destroyed all humanity, but, unfortunately, it is not in my power! The peacekeepers fell into despair; they did not know what to do. And then one clever kid turned to the Wizard. I know what you should do. Let people feel, how others perceive their actions. If one person hurt someone, let him feel the same pain, and if he brings joy to someone, let him feel the same joy. So, no one will hurt each other, because he will feel the pain immediately too and would have to stop. All people were inspired with the greatness of kid’s thought, and the wizard realized his idea. He returned all the trees, stones and metals. People began to help

each other, because they liked the sense of joy they felt at this moment. And they began to live in harmony and joy.

So today as we enter into the second week of Advent to follow the light and journey with Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, to experience God's love and peace so that our souls are not dragged by the evils of doubt rising from the uncertainties of the world. Let's prepare the way to welcome Jesus Christ so that he may become the true reason of the season and peace may prevail in our homes, families, communities and in the World. Come Lord Jesus Prince of Peace and fill our hearts with your love and peace.



Maranatha

*Come
Lord Jesus.*

Amen



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

Second 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)

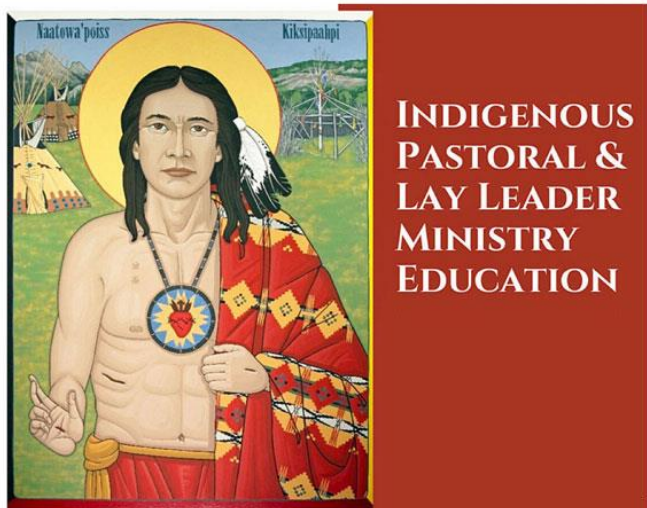
Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses:
<https://www.catholicyc.ca> | TELUS Optik TV Ch. 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#)

Resources for children

- **Kid's challenge this week:** We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. This week, ask your family to gather in a prayerful space or around the Advent wreath, Read [Matthew 3:1-3](#) and pray together the [Act of Contrition](#). Celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a sign of peace with each other. Loyola Press)
 - [Colouring page this Sunday](#)
 - [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
 - [Sunday Connection - Second 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)

Resources

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



Icon of the Sacred Heart 2017 in collaboration with Romeo Crow Chief of Siksika Nation written by Andre J. Prevost

Jointly sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, St. Thomas More College, and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, the online Indigenous Pastoral and Lay Leader Ministry Education program is led by teams of Indigenous and non-Indigenous instructors, modelling respectful and reconciling relationships.

This course: **Indigenous-Settler Relationship** will be held Jan. 10, 2023 to March 7, 2023, offered online from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. MST (4:15 pm to 5:30 pm CST) on Tuesday afternoons. Registration is now open! Cost is \$200 per course (some funding assistance available.) There is no-prerequisite required to take the course. (However, Directed Study is available to take concurrently for those who wish to complete the

previous course). Those who complete all four courses will earn a ministry certificate.

Find more information and registration online at: <https://rcdos.ca/ministries-services/indigenous-ministry-2/indigenous-ministry-education>

All Things New Newsletter from CCCB Office for Family and Life

All Things New is an initiative of the CCCB Office for Family and Life that offers our readers original reflections and resources from contributors across Canada. This quarterly e-publication is intended to, in the words of Pope Francis, "highlight family love as a vocation and as a way of holiness, so as to understand and share the profound and salvific meaning of family relationships in daily life." [Subscribe here](#)

The Seekers Group for Unmarried Women

The Seekers Group for unmarried women. Women seeking to know how to discern the will of God in their lives are invited to learn how to listen and discover God's call in their life. When: **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 pm** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 17 Ave SW, Calgary).

The War in Ukraine

Ukraine and its people are still in crisis. Let us renew our efforts to pray, fast, and act. Together we can make a difference in the millions of lives of the children, men and women who are counting on us. Read the [Pastoral Letter from The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada](#) and kindly donate through your local parish or online at www.cnewa.org/c and www.devp.org

National Synodal Report

We invite everyone to read the Synod on Synodality reports.. To read the Diocesan, Western Region and National reports, visit catholiccyyc.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 sfxcc@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 catholiccyyc.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 catholiccyyc.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 catholiccyyc.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](#).

Catechesis webinar recordings from CCCB

The webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations and guides for reflections are available [here on the CCCB website](#). They represent a rich collection of resources that can be used in diocesan/eparchial and parish settings for the formation of catechists and leaders in evangelization. Past Webinars:

- [Directory for Catechesis](#)
- [Nurturing Friendship: The Directory for Catechesis in Dialogue with the Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*](#)
- [Encounters of Hope: The Process Of Evangelization In Our Daily Lives](#)
- [For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission](#)

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4th, 2022

*The one who is
coming after me
is mightier than I.*

→ 8 Δ + □ □

x ∩ √ - + 1 8 c o ~

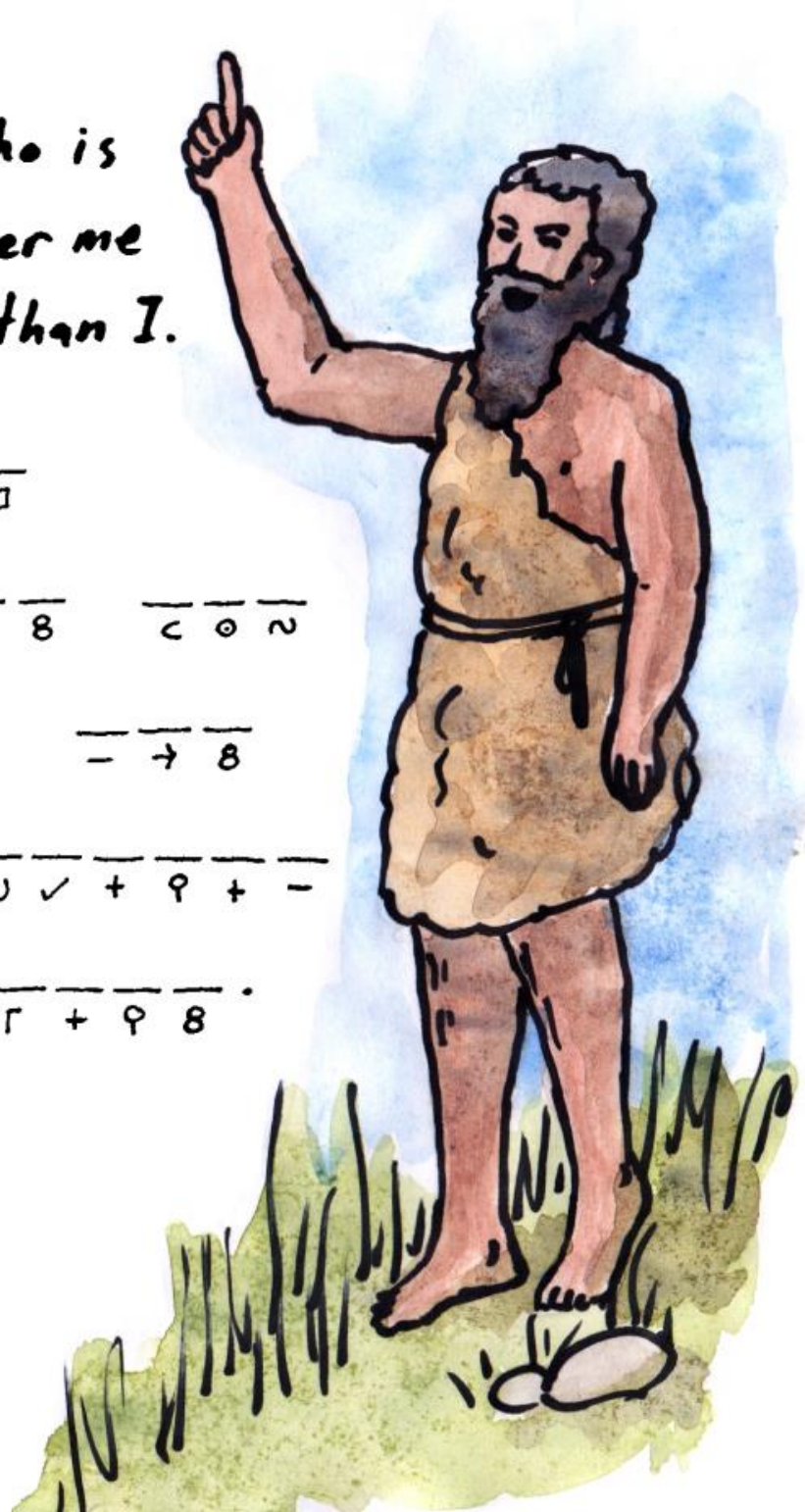
Δ + - → - → 8

→ o □ c u √ + ♀ + -

∩ < ∩ r + ♀ 8

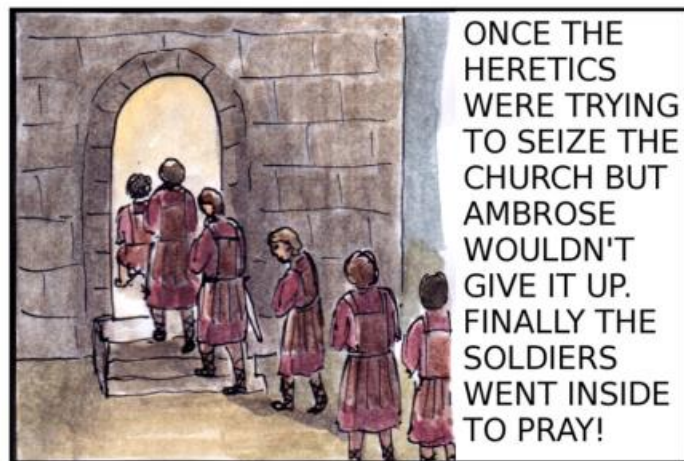
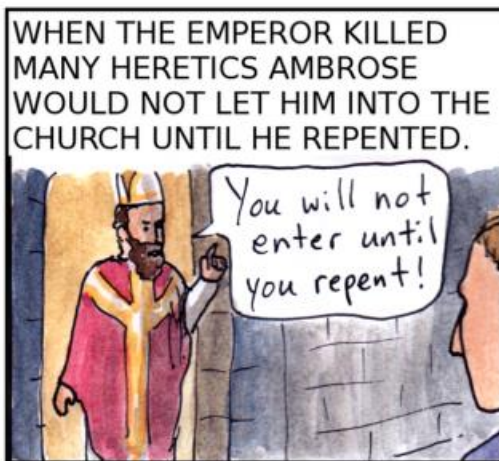
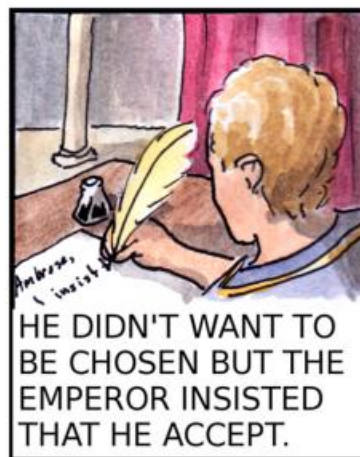
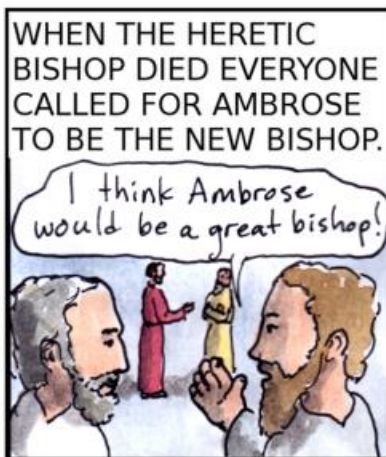
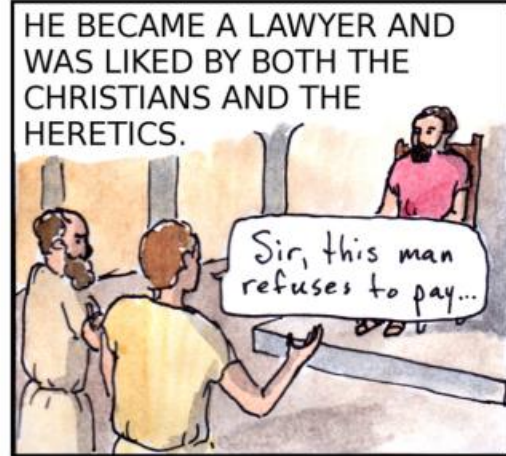
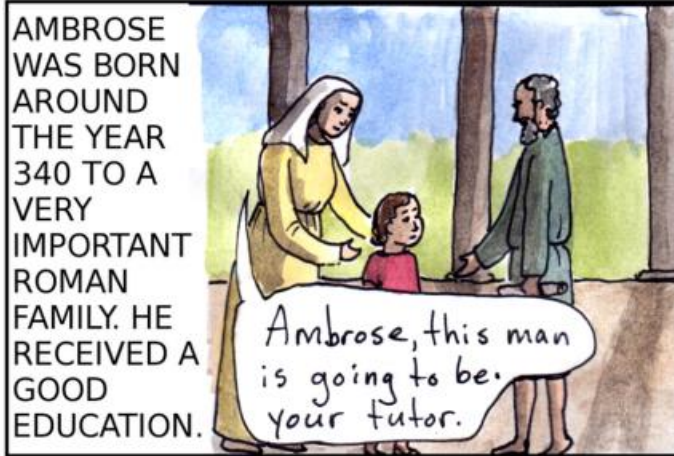
*What did Saint
John the Baptist
say about the one
who was coming
after him?
Use the code to
find out!*

∩ x ∩ 8 r → + □ < o √ ♀ u - ~ Δ c i
A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z



SAINT AMBROSE

DECEMBER 7



SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?

Peace Among the Animals

In today's first reading, the prophet describes peace between animals and people in God's kingdom.

Can you figure out which animals (or people) go with which?

Clue: the pictures might help!



Then the wolf shall be a guest
of the _____,



and the _____
shall lie down with the kid;

the _____ and the young lion
shall browse together,

with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the _____
shall be neighbors,

together their young shall rest;

the _____ shall eat hay like the ox.

The _____ shall play
by the cobra's den,



baby leopard
calf bear
lamb lion



The Immaculate Conception

This Thursday we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

Answer to puzzle on front: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Answer to "Peace Among Animals" puzzle: lamb, leopard, calf, bear, lion, baby.

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 @holyfamilymh.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@holyfamilymh.ca so it can be sent to the diocese.