



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 11, 2022 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Phone 403-527-6933  
Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish ~ YouTube: Medicine Hat Holy Family Church  
Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Closed on Holidays.

## CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid & 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

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 35.1-6a, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm: 146.6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10 (R. see Isa 35.4)

R. Lord, come and save us.

R. Alleluia.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 5.7-10

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?

## Who Is the Messiah?

When even the land sings God's praise, how can we not do the same? When God comes for the blind, deaf, lame, and mute, how can we not care for the same? When we know Christ has both come and is coming yet again, how can we complain about anyone?



How will the words I speak be filled with what God is up to in this world?



How will the deeds I do attend to mercy work for blind, deaf, lame, and mute children of God?



I will stop complaining this week about

\_\_\_\_\_?

# December 11 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year A

OPERATING FINANCES	
NOVEMBER 1-30, 2022	
Operating Budget 2022	\$ 59,708
General Envelope Collection	\$ 45,506
Loose Collections	\$ 2,391
Future Development	\$ 2,817
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 9,374
Budget Vs Actual	\$ 380
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,576
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,624
World Mission	\$ 95
Clergy Retirement	\$ 150
Mission Mexico	\$ 185
CARO	\$ 90
Seminary Fund	\$ 20
Catholic Education	\$ 1,730
Gift Sharing Sunday	\$ 2,485
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	
Average Weekly Attendance	771

## † Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, December 10

5:00pm ~ Peggy Davis †

Sunday, December 11

8:30am ~ Holy Family Parish

10:30am ~ Orlando & Virginia Cabral †

6:00pm ~ Adam & Elizabeth Schneider †

Monday, December 12

9:00am ~ Elise Krooshoop †

6:30pm ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Mass

Tuesday, December 13

9:00am ~ Philip Bosch †

Wednesday, December 14

9:00am ~ Don Zahn †

Thursday, December 15

5:30am ~ Simbang Gabi

9:00am ~ Allen Kaupp †

Friday, December 16

5:30am ~ Simbang Gabi

9:00am ~ Nick & Rosina Mucciarone †

December 31, 2022, Deadline

Goal \$70,938

total to date \$ 44,617.49

**Together IN ACTION**  
Annual Bishop's Appeal

which is only 63%

Short \$ 26,320.51

Please Give Generously ~ Thank You!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Legion of Mary ~ Annual General Reunion

December 12 ~ 7:00pm ~ Faith Room

Knights of Columbus General Meeting

All Knights are encouraged to join the Novena at

6:00pm and then mass at 6:30pm

December 13 ~ 1:00pm ~ Faith Room

SSVP Meeting

December 15-23 ~ 5:30am ~ Church

Simbang Gabi ~ Mass of the Rooster

December 15 ~ 2:00pm ~ Hope Room

Grief Share

December 18 ~ 9:30am & 11:30am ~ HFP Hall

Holy Family Parish Christmas Breakfast

December 23-12:00pm to December 28-8:30am

Holy Family Parish Office Closed

December 24 ~ 5:00pm, 8:30pm & 10:30pm

Nativity of the Lord Mass

December 25 ~ 9:30am

Nativity of the Lord Mass

December 31 ~ 5:00pm

Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass

January 1 ~ 9:30am

Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Feast – December 12

A Rose Filled Cloak. Roses in winter, a miraculous image on fabric, a blessed patroness for all the Americas. Blessed is she. And blessed be God.



**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 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00pm  
Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
at 4:00pm

### Children's Liturgy

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

Have a merry Christmas!

From your Children's Liturgy team!

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



### Sacramental Preparation

**Confirmation Class - HFP Faith Rm**

**Thursday, January 12 at 6:00pm**

**1st Communion Parent Meeting**

**Holy Family Parish Hall**

**Thursday, January 12 at 6:30pm**

**1st Communion Class**

**Holy Family Parish Faith Room**

**Sunday, January 15 at 10:15am**

### PARISH CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST DECEMBER 18

**@ 9:30AM & 11:30AM**

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

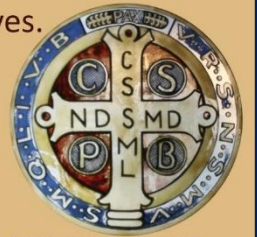


Listen...with the ear of your heart.

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.



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

Fees can be put in the collection baskets labels CWL.



### Project St. Nicholas!

**Little kids bringing Christmas Joy to big kids!!**

The Children's Liturgy team would like to help some teens at McMann feel the Christmas spirit with your help.

All for just \$10 or less!

#### HOW?

- take one of the stars from our bulletin board, across from the washrooms
- purchase the item written on it.
- put in the wrapped box under the children's liturgy table in the foyer or left the office.

### 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](mailto:kacherwono@gmail.com)





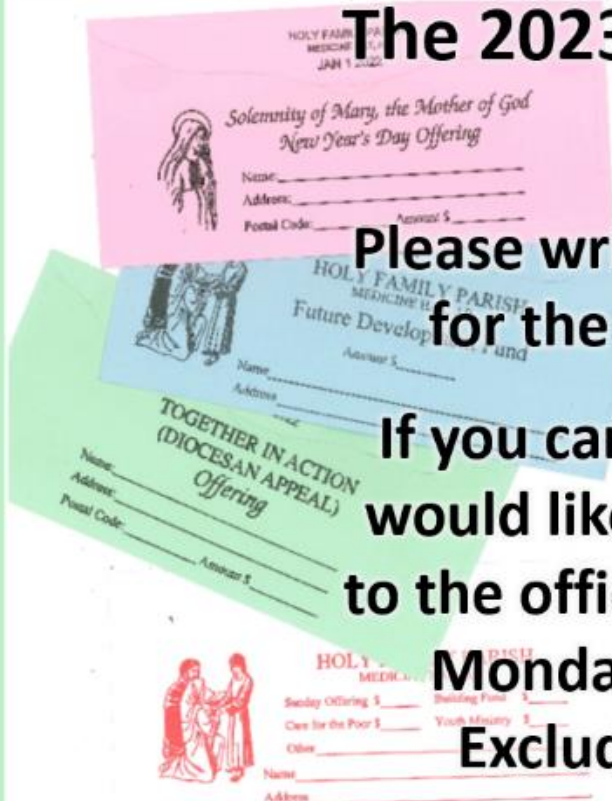
# The 2023 Donation Envelopes are in the Foyer

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

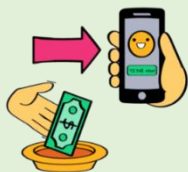


[Sunday 10:30am Mass on YOUTUBE  
Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q)

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



## E-Transfer Donations



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

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Our Network is: HFP\_LIVE  
The Password is: Liv3HFP\*



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





## 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

**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](mailto:agnes@cttour.ca) or Maria: 905-334-0559 [maria@cttour.ca](mailto:maria@cttour.ca)**





# *Christmas Mass Schedule 2022*

## The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday Dec. 24

5:00pm - Livestreamed,

8:30pm & 10:30pm

Sunday Dec. 25

9:30am - Livestreamed

## Simbang Gabi

is a Filipino  
Christmas  
tradition.

It will be  
celebrated

December 15<sup>th</sup> to  
23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30am



## Solemnity of Mary

Saturday Dec. 31

5:00pm

Sunday Jan. 1

9:30am - Livestreamed



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent- Year A

December 11, 2022

### LET US SEE HIM WITH JOYFUL HEARTS

The third Advent Sunday is called “Gaudete Sunday” because on this day the Mass begins with the opening antiphon: “Gaudete in Domino semper” “Rejoice in the Lord always”. In the first week of Advent, we prayed for the restoration of hope. In the second week we prayed for the gift of peace which comes from the Lord to make us stronger and stronger in our daily life. Today also we start the second phase of Advent season which will have us reflect on the first coming of Jesus through the prophecies of the old. The coming two weeks will bring us to reflect on the “O Antiphons” having us meditate on the titles of Jesus. Here are the “O Antiphons” to reflect on:

○ Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

○ Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

○ Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

○ Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

○ Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

○ King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

○ Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

These “O Antiphons” invite us to rejoice in the Lord because he holds all divine power from his Heavenly Father. The Psalmist says (Psalm 96) “Let heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.



Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Rejoice before the Lord; for his is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth". This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday to remind us that our Salvation is near, and King of the kings is going to be born. Someone described the Gaudete Sunday as follows: "Nature's annual cycle is characterized by two phenomena, light and life. Out of the darkness of night comes light; out of death comes life. The transition from night to light characterizes the winter season; the transition from death to life is proper to summertime. The holy year of the Church is likewise divided into two phases which have similar characteristics." Similarly, we are reminded by the Sacred Scriptures that you must rejoice in the Lord because our Salvation has come near. Someone asked St. Mother Teresa what the secret of her joy is in serving the poor and marginalized people, her answer stunned the world "Joy is a prayer -- joy is a strength -- joy is a love -- joy is a net of love. . . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise."

We must see him with joyful hearts because he is the reason of the season, and he is the center of our Christmas celebration. Let us follow the example of this girl in a story written by an unknown author to help us to understand how important Jesus is in our lives and for the world.

"Mommy, look!" cried my daughter, Darla, pointing to a chicken hawk soaring through the air.

"Uh huh," I murmured, driving, lost in thought about the tight schedule of my day.

Disappointment filled her face. "What's the matter, Sweetheart?" I asked, entirely dense.

"Nothing," my seven-year-old said. The moment was gone. Near home, we slowed to search for the albino deer that comes out from behind the thick mass of trees in the early evening. She was nowhere to be seen. "Tonight, she has too many things to do," I said.

Dinner, baths, and phone calls filled the hours until bedtime.

"Come on, Darla, time for bed!" She raced past me up the stairs. Tired, I kissed her on the cheek, said prayers and tucked her in.

"Mom, I forgot to give you something!" she said. My patience was gone.

"Give it to me in the morning," I said, but she shook her head.

"You won't have time in the morning!" she retorted.

"I'll take time," I answered defensively. Sometimes no matter how hard I tried, time flowed through my fingers like sand in an hourglass, never enough. Not enough for her, for my husband, and definitely not enough for me.

She wasn't ready to give up yet. She wrinkled her freckled little nose in anger and swiped away her chestnut brown hair.

"No, you won't! It will be just like today when I told you to look at the hawk. You didn't even listen to what I said."



I was too weary to argue; she hit too close to the truth. "Good night!" I shut her door with a resounding thud.

Later though, her gray-blue gaze filled my vision as I thought about how little time we really had until she was grown and gone.

My husband asked, "Why so glum?" I told him.

"Maybe she's not asleep yet. Why don't you check," he said with all the authority of a parent in the right. I followed his advice, wishing it was my own idea.

I cracked open her door, and the light from the window spilled over her sleeping form. In her hand, I could see the remains of a crumpled paper. Slowly I opened her palm to see what the item of our disagreement had been.

Tears filled my eyes. She had torn into small pieces a big red heart with a poem she had written titled, "Why I Love My Mother!"

I carefully removed the tattered pieces. Once the puzzle was put back into place, I read what she had written:

Why I Love My Mother

Although you're busy, and you work so hard You always take time to play I love you, Mommy because I am the biggest part of your busy day!

The words were an arrow straight to the heart. At seven years old, she had the wisdom of Solomon.

Ten minutes later I carried a tray to her room, with two cups of hot chocolate with marshmallows and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. When I softly touched her smooth cheek, I could feel my heart burst with love.

Her thick dark lashes lay like fans against her lids as they fluttered, awakened from a dreamless sleep, and she looked at the tray.

"What is that for?" she asked, confused by this late-night intrusion.

"This is for you because you are the most important part of my busy day!" She smiled and sleepily drank half her cup of chocolate. Then she drifted back to sleep, not really understanding how strongly I meant what I said.

St. Paul, in the second reading, advises us to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will come again to reward us. In the Gospel the questions and the message of St. John the Baptist is a beautiful reminder to see the reason of the season. We need to ignore the secularism and worldly approach to this beautiful and salvific season, and we must rejoice in the Lord that "He became man and dwelt among us".

St. Augustine reflecting on the Gospel today says "John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart. However, let us observe

what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine. In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find a place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts. Do you need proof that the voice passes away, but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him." To prepare the way means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself. He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

The question of John the Baptist should be our question to examine ourselves that when we have made Jesus our Reason for the Season then should we wait for someone else or ...?

A 92-year-old man, short, very well-presented, who took great care of his appearance, was moving into an senior's home. His wife of 70 years had recently died, and he was obliged to leave his home. After waiting several hours in the retirement home lobby, he



gently smiled as an employee told him his room was ready. As he slowly walked to the elevator, using his cane, the employee described his small room to him, including the sheet that hung at the window, which served as a curtain. "I like it very much", he said, with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old boy who had just been given a new puppy. "Sir, you haven't even seen the room yet. Hang on a moment, we are almost there." "That has nothing to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something I choose in advance. Whether or not I like the room does not depend on the furniture, or the decor – rather it depends on how I decide to see it. It is already decided in my mind that I like my room. It is a decision I make every morning when I wake up. "I can choose. I can spend my day in bed enumerating all the difficulties that I have with the parts of my body that no longer work very well, or I can get up and give thanks to heaven for those parts that are still in working order. Every day is a gift, and as long as I can open my eyes, I will focus on the new day, and all the happy memories that I have made during my life. "Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw in later life what you have deposited along the way. "

The words of the old man present the exact message which we find in the Sacred Scripture today. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised Messiah is coming as our Savior and liberator, saving us by liberating us from our bondages. The Responsorial Psalm of the day is taken from Mary's *Magnificat*, in which she exclaims: "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior."

As we celebrate this Gaudete Sunday and light the third candle, the reply of Jesus to St. John the Baptist sums up everything "what do you see...? That's the exact purpose of rejoicing in the Lord that he has taken all our pain and suffering on to him and died on the Cross so that we may have life and life in abundance. It seems Christmas is two weeks away, but we need to rejoice every day in the Lord as St. Paul says "rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice in the Lord".

Pope Francis reflects on this Sunday in this way "Rejoice in the Lord, means always being joyful, even when things do not go according to our wishes; but there is that profound joy, which is peace: that too is joy; it is within. And peace is a joy "at the ground level", but it is a joy. Distress, difficulties, and suffering pass through each person's life, we are all familiar with them; and so often the reality that surrounds us seems to be inhospitable and barren, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resonated, as today's Gospel passage recalls. But the very words of the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on a certainty, that this desert is inhabited: "among you" - he says - "stands one whom you do not know". It refers to Jesus, the Father's envoy who comes, as Isaiah stresses, "to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour". These words, which Jesus will speak in his discourse at the synagogue of Nazareth (Lk 4:16-19), clarify that his mission in the world consists in the liberation

from sin and from the personal and social slavery that it produces. He has come to the earth to restore to mankind the dignity and freedom of the Children of God — which only he can communicate — and thereby to give joy.

A Christian's joy is not bought; it cannot be bought. It comes from faith and from the encounter with Jesus Christ, the reason for our happiness. And when we are rooted in Christ, the closer we are to Jesus, the more we find inner peace, even among everyday contradictions. For this reason, a Christian, having encountered Jesus, cannot be a prophet of misfortune, but a witness and herald of joy. A joy to share with others; an infectious joy that renders the journey of life less toilsome.

This Sunday of we are going to get Baby Jesus figurine which reminds us that became flesh and dwelt among us, and we are able to see him to rejoice. This reminds us that the crib is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy. This does not consist in having many things but in feeling loved by the Lord, in giving oneself as a gift for others and in loving one another. Let us look at the crib. Our Lady and St Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family; their first child was born in the midst of great hardship; yet they are full of deep joy, because they love each other, they help each other and, especially, they are certain that God, who made himself present in the little Jesus, is at work in their story. And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant was not to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. But faith helped them recognize the “babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” as a “sign” of the fulfilment of God's promises for all human beings, “with whom he is pleased” (Lk 2: 12, 14).

This is what true joy consists in: it is feeling that our personal and community existence has been visited and filled by a great mystery, the mystery of God's love. In order to rejoice we do not need things alone but love and truth: we need a close God who warms our hearts and responds to our deepest expectations. This God is manifested in Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. Therefore that “image of baby Jesus” which we place in a stable or a grotto is the centre of all things, the heart of the world. Let us pray that every person, like the Virgin Mary, may accept as the center of his or her life the God who made himself a Child, the source of true joy.

An old story tells that one day, a countryman knocked hard on a monastery door. When the monk tending the gates opened up, he was given a magnificent bunch of grapes. Brother, these are the finest my vineyard has produced. I have come to bear them as a gift. Thank you! I will take them to the Abbot immediately, he will be delighted with this offering.

No! I brought them for you. For whenever I knock on the door, it is you opens it. When I needed help because the crop was destroyed by drought, you gave me a piece of bread and a cup of wine every day.

The monk held the grapes and spent the entire morning admiring it. And decided to deliver the gift to the Abbot, who had always encouraged him with words of wisdom.



The Abbot was very pleased with the grapes, but he recalled that there was a sick brother in the monastery and thought: “I’ll give him the grapes. Who knows, they may bring some joy to his life.”

And that is what he did. But the grapes did not stay in the sick monk’s room for long, for he reflected: “The cook has looked after me for so long, feeding me only the best meals. I’m sure he will enjoy these.”

The cook was amazed at the beauty of the grapes. So perfect that no one would appreciate them more than the sexton; many at the monastery considered him a holy man, he would be best qualified to value this marvel of nature.

The sexton, in turn, gave the grapes as a gift to the youngest novice, that he might understand that the work of God is in the smallest details of Creation. When the novice received them, he remembered the first time he came to the monastery, and of the person who had opened the gates for him; it was that gesture which allowed him to be among this community of people who knew how to value the wonders of life.

And so, just before nightfall, he took the grapes to the monk at the gates. — Eat and enjoy them — he said. — For you spend most of your time alone here, and these grapes will make you very happy. The monk understood that the gift had been truly destined for him, and relished each of the grapes, before falling into a pleasant sleep. Thus, the circle was closed; the circle of happiness and joy, which always shines brightly around generous people.

Jesus is the reason of the season to rejoice and be glad in him who shared our humanity while he remains all divine.

# Gaudete Sunday



## Rejoice in the Lord

# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The Third Sunday of Advent



## Bishop's Advent Message

An Advent message from Bishop McGrattan was released on Monday, Dec. 5. In his message, the Bishop urges us to rediscover the meaning and goal of our lives, in relation to God, and to all humanity through Christ. Read his message at [catholiccyyc.ca/blog](http://catholiccyyc.ca/blog)

## Mission Mexico Weekend

Joy comes from making a difference to others. Mission Mexico provides hope to the lives of real people living in the poorest region of Mexico. Together we help our brothers and sisters to have a better future, to sow hope among those who suffer. Mission Mexico relies on your support to continue our work with our sisters and brothers in Mexico who experience poverty and are in need of support and empowerment. There will be a **Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 10/11)** for Mission Mexico or give online at [missionmexico.com](http://missionmexico.com)

## Reflection from the Papal Visit

*About Being Catholic* presents "Reflection from the Papal Visit" gathering as one way we continue walking forward together in Truth, Reconciliation & healing. Hosted by Adam and Julia Kozak from the Office of the Papal Visit to Canada, we will be hearing personal reflections on the Papal Visit from some of the people (including Fr. Cristino Bouvette) who were there and involved in helping with the Holy Father's historic visit. When: **Thursday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 pm MT**. To attend via Zoom, register at <https://ABCReflections.eventbrite.ca> by Dec. 13.

## TRAiD for MAiD - Jan 24

True Assistance in Dying: Why is MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) embedding itself in our country? St. Peter's CWL invites you to attend a session with Peggy Thomson Gibson, MDCM.FRCP(C). She will present how to "Defend the Faith without Raising our Voice" to shed the light of faith through prayer, action and sacrifice. When: **Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7:45 pm**, at St. Peter's (541 Silvergrove Dr NW Calgary) church hall following the 7 pm Mass. Refreshments will be served.

## Career opportunities

There are a number of employment opportunities that are currently available in the Diocese of Calgary and beyond.

- Coordinator & Assistant Coordinator (Casual) - Feed the Hungry, Calgary
- Cook (Part Time) - St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary
- Senior Accountant - FCJ, Calgary

Please visit [catholiccyyc.ca/careers](http://catholiccyyc.ca/careers) for more information and application details.

## End of Year Giving

We are truly grateful for your support! Thank you. In order to receive a tax receipt for the 2022 calendar year, online donation to parishes or diocesan programs or ministries must be received by



# Third Sunday of Advent



## Resources for children

- **Kid's challenge this week:** What do you think might be a reason for our rejoicing today? This week, together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer. (Loyola Press)
  - [Colouring page this Sunday](#)
  - [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
  - [Sunday Connection - Third 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)

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.catholiccyyc.ca> | TELUS Optik TV Ch. 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#)

## Resources

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



children, [visit our Advent Page](#)

**I am Blessed** Campaign action items this year:

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



## Pope's Prayer intention for December

This month, let us pray that volunteer non-profit and human development organizations may find people willing to commit themselves to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths of international cooperation.

In his intention, the **Holy Father** encourages volunteers to continue their labour, working "not just **for** the people, but **with** the people," being close to them, being "**artisans of mercy**" and always listening to other people's needs. [Watch Pope's video this month](#)

## Other Resources & Events

### 1. Reflection from the Papal Visit - Dec. 15

*About Being Catholic* presents "Reflection from the Papal Visit" gathering as one way to continue walking forward together in Truth, Reconciliation & healing. Hosted by Adam and Julia Kozak from the Office of the Papal Visit to Canada, we will be hearing personal reflections on the Papal Visit from some of the people (including Fr. Cristino Bouvette) who were there and involved in helping with the Holy Father's historic visit. When: **Thursday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 pm MT** To attend via Zoom, register at <https://ABCReflections.eventbrite.ca> by Dec. 13. Email [AboutBeingCatholic@gmail.com](mailto:AboutBeingCatholic@gmail.com) if you have any questions | [Download poster](#)

### 2. Winter Young Adult Retreat - Jan 7-8

Young adults are invited to a retreat at Mount St. Francis on **Saturday, Jan 7 at 1 pm to Sunday Jan 8 at 1 pm**. Theme: "The word became flesh and dwelt among us: Celebrating the gift of Baptism together." The retreat will feature: *Lectio Divina* on Sunday mass readings, small group reflection, Emmaus walk, Adoration, opportunity for reconciliation, Mass, prayer time, quiet time, meals together, fellowship and a prayer night. Suggested donation for this retreat is \$100, but don't let this be a barrier. Please contact [maritzachouza@gmail.com](mailto:maritzachouza@gmail.com) for further information. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/X5S8R7f1mTAJwFJu5>

### 3. TRAIID for MAiD - Jan 24

**True Assistance in Dying:** Why is MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) embedding itself in our country? St. Peter's CWL invites you to attend a session with Peggy Thomson Gibson, MDCM.FRCPC(C). She will present how to "Defend the Faith without Raising our Voice" to shed the light of faith through prayer, action and sacrifice. When: Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7:45 pm, at St. Peter's (541 Silvergrove Dr NW Calgary) church hall following the 7 pm Mass. Refreshments



will be served. [Download poster](#)

#### 4. December 2022 Calendar Highlights

- Dec 10 | [Rorate Mass at the Cathedral](#)
- Dec 10 | [Rorate Mass at St. Anthony, Calgary](#)
- Dec 10 | [Rorate Mass at St. Anthony, Drumheller](#)
- Dec 10 | [Rorate Mass at St. Bernard's, Calgary](#)
- Dec 10 | [Advent Market with Blessed Daughter Ministry](#)
- Dec 10 | [ConQuest Boys Retreat for Gr. 5-8](#)
- Dec 10 | [Abiding Joy Girls Advent Retreat for girls 13 and up](#)
- Dec 10 - 12 | [St. Gerard's Advent Mission](#)
- Dec 11 & 12 | [Advent Mission at St. Anthony's, Drumheller](#)
- 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 13 | [Jesus and the End of Times at St. Peter's Calgary](#)
- Dec 14 | [Simbang Gabi Masses at St. Mark's](#)
- Dec 14 | [Come Let us Adore Him at Tsuut'ina Our Lady of Peace Chapel](#)
- Dec 15 | [Every Star Shall Sing a Carol at FCJ](#)
- Dec 16 | [Online Advent Rosary at Dawn](#)
- Dec 17 | [Christmas Retreat with the Seeds of the Word](#)
- Dec 17 | [Advent Praise & Worship and Eucharistic Adoration](#)
- Dec 17 | [A night of Beauty with Bridge Brass Quintet](#)
- Dec 17 | [OLPH Praise and Worship Event](#)
- To submit your parish/lay association events - go to [catholicyy.ca/news](https://catholicyy.ca/news) and click "Add Event" (please submit description + poster/graphic in JPEG/PNG)

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TRULY I TELL YOU, AMONG THOSE BORN  
OF WOMEN NO ONE HAS ARISEN GREATER  
THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST;

YET THE LEAST IN THE  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
IS GREATER THAN HE.

MATTHEW 11:11



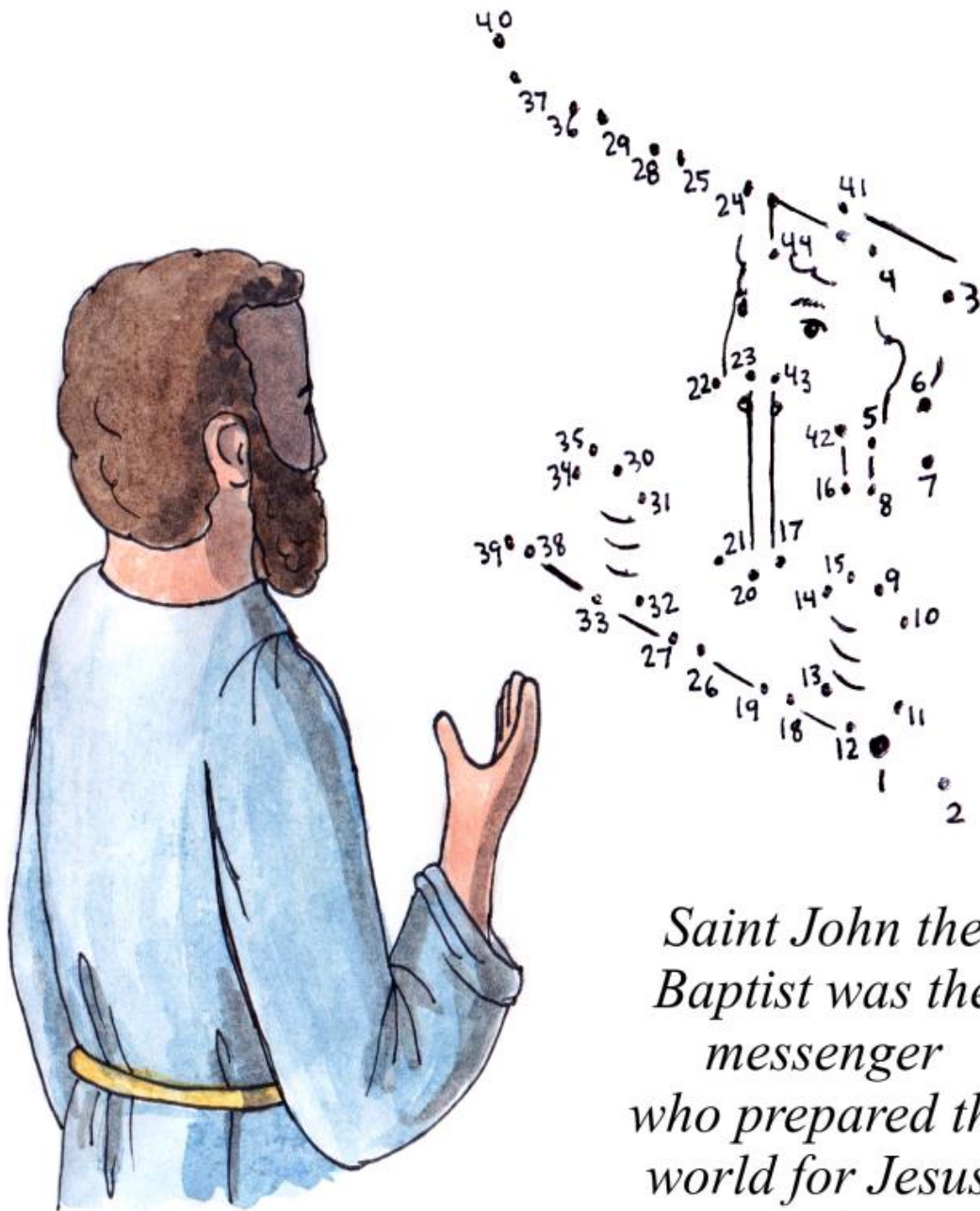
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of Calgary

THIRD SUNDAY OF  
*Advent*



# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11th, 2022



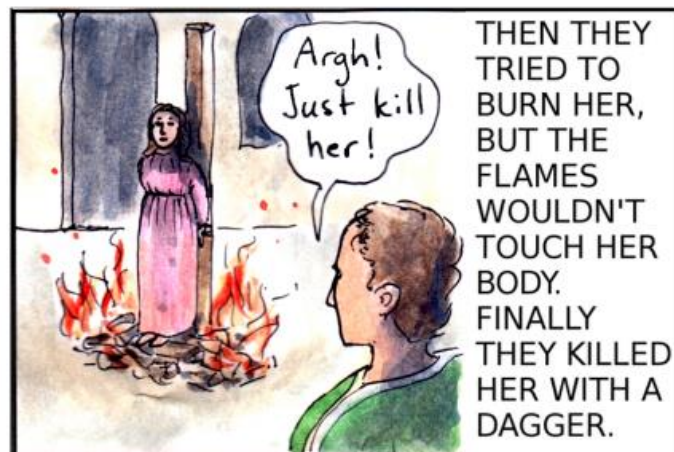
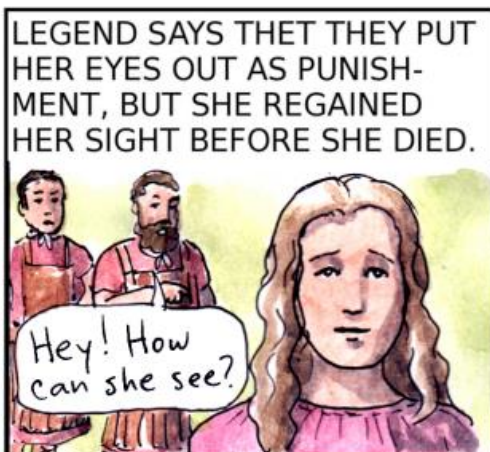
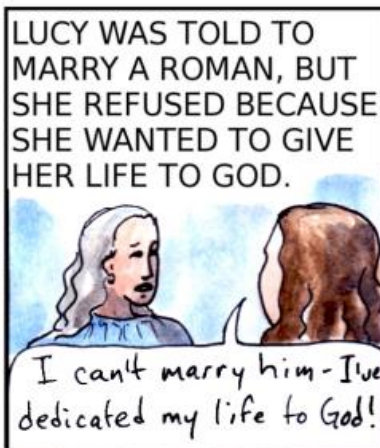
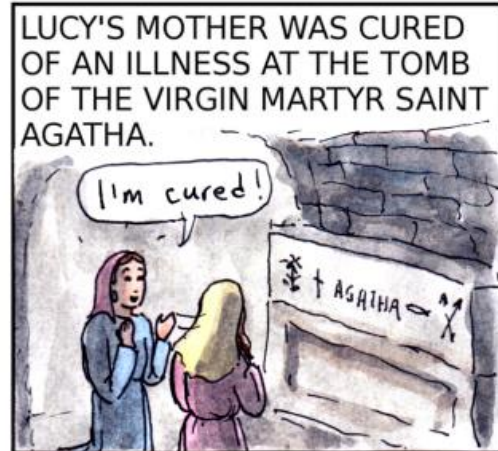
*Saint John the  
Baptist was the  
messenger  
who prepared the  
world for Jesus'  
coming.*

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?  
Connect the dots to find out!  
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*



# Saint Lucy

## December 13



SAINT LUCY IS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR US BY HER PURITY AND DEDICATION TO GOD. SHE DID NOT LET ANY TORTURE STOP HER FROM DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT. BECAUSE SHE WAS BLINDED SHE IS THE PATRONESS OF SIGHT AND OF BLIND PEOPLE. WE CAN PRAY TO HER IF WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OUR EYES.

# ***What Happens When Jesus Comes?***

*In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples  
to tell John the Baptist what He does.*

*What happens to whom?*

*Match up the people with what happens to them.*

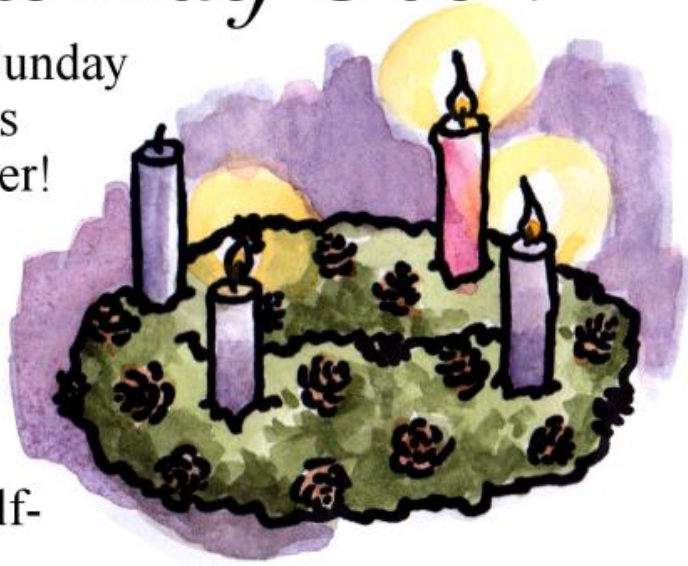
- |                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| the blind •    | • are raised up                      |
| and the lame • | • have good news<br>preached to them |
| lepers •       | • hear                               |
| the deaf •     | • are cleansed                       |
| the dead •     | • receive their sight                |
| and the poor • | • walk                               |





# *Advent is Half Over!*

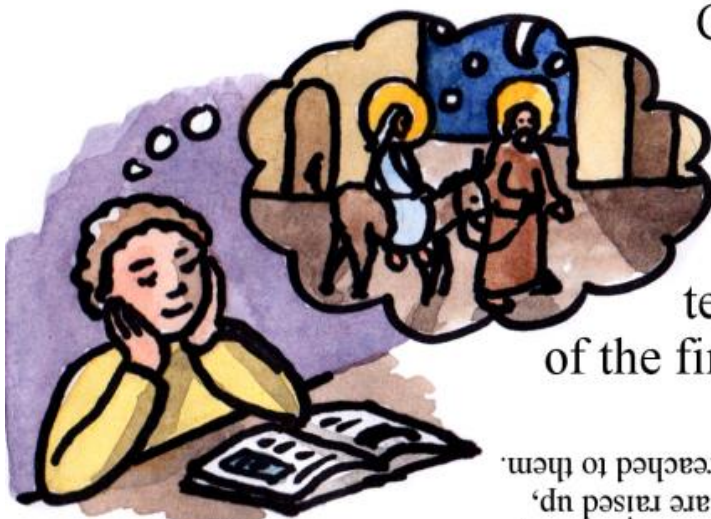
Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for

Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



Answer to front page: St. John was in prison. Answer to match up puzzle: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

# 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.







# 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](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) so it can be sent to the diocese.**