



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 18, 2022 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: 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

1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14

Look, the virgin is with child.

Responsorial Psalm: 24.1-6 (R. 7c+10b)

R. May the Lord come in; he is king of glory.

2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7




Jesus Christ, descended from David, was declared to be the Son of God.

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, son of David.

To Dream and to Act.

The promised Second Coming of Christ is assured in the reality of the first. This birth of Jesus, promised by an angel to Mary and dreamed by Joseph, results in God-with-us, Emmanuel.

-  How will my life be a sign that God is indeed with us now?
-  How will God's grace spill this week into these mercy works:
_____?
-  How will I trust God and exorcise from my life whatever keeps me fearful?

December 18, 2022 – 4th 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

December 31, 2022, Deadline

Goal \$70,938

total to date \$ 46,052.45

Together IN ACTION
Annual Bishop's Appeal

which is only 65%

Short \$ 24,885.55

Please Give Generously ~ Thank You!

† Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, December 17

5:30am - Simbang

5:00pm - Gualberto & Lucia Pimentel †

Sunday, December 18

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

8:30am - Holy Family Parish

10:30am - Lambert Streifel †

6:00pm - Bindy Anhorn †

Monday, December 19

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

9:00am - Jennifer Wrzosek (Jaw-Sick) †

Tuesday, December 20

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

9:00am - Shirley Martin †

Wednesday, December 21

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

9:00am - Derrick Rissling †

Thursday, December 22

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

9:00am - Kathy Zezulka †

Friday, December 23

5:30am - Simbang Gabi

9:00am - Frank Gutfriend †

Saturday, December 24 - Nativity of the Lord

5:00pm - Gualberto & Lucia Pimentel †

8:30pm - Jennifer Wrzosek (Jaw-Sick) †

10:30pm - The Sehn Kids

Saturday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

9:30am - Sophia Dumanowski †



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

The 29th Annual
GIFT SHARING
SUNDAY
November 26th & 27th, 2022

We Collected 623
pounds of food, valued
at \$1970.00

ROOT
CELLAR
FOOD & WELLNESS HUB



We Collected
\$1765.00

Thank
YOU



We Collected 115 Toys
Valued at \$1765.00

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

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools'
Education Foundation AGM



January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
at Medicine Hat Catholic Board Office

All public welcome to attend!

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

Pancakes
Whipped Cream
Fruit
Sausages

Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy Yummy

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.

[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



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



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



Christmas Mass Schedule 2022

The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday Dec. 24

5:00pm - Livestreamed,
8:30pm & 10:30pm

Sunday Dec. 25

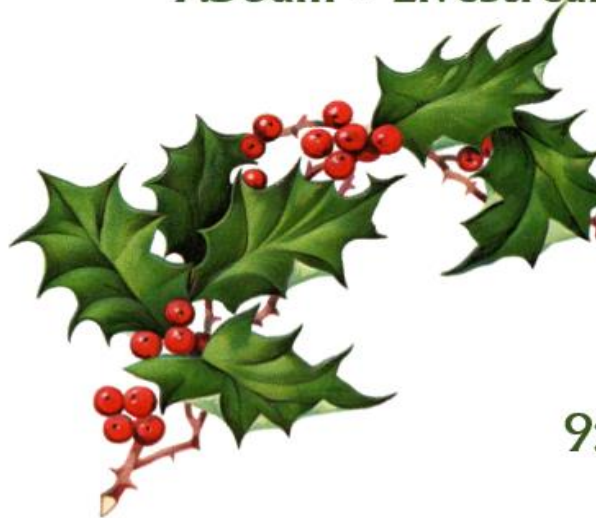
9:30am - Livestreamed

Simbang Gabi

is a Filipino
Christmas
tradition.

It will be
celebrated

December 15th to
23rd at 5:30am



Solemnity of Mary

Saturday Dec. 31

5:00pm

Sunday Jan. 1

9:30am - Livestreamed

E-Transfer Donations



accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

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!

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



catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully

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 or Maria: 905-334-0559 maria@cttour.ca



4th Sunday of Advent Year A

December 18, 2022

THE GREATEST GIFT OF LOVE

We have come to the completion of our Advent Season as we light the 4th Candle which opens our hearts and minds to reflect on the theme of Love. The season of Advent basically is a time to reflect on the journey of greatest gift of love ever given to human as St. John says, “He became flesh and dwelt among us”. This journey started right before the creation of the world as Jesus said, “he was even present when the world was created” and the author of Letter to Hebrews adds witness in this way “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds”.

Blessed Isaac of Stella, Abbot has reflected on this mystery this way “The Son of God is the first-born of many brothers. Although by nature he is the only Begotten, by grace he has joined many to himself and made them one with him. For to those who receive him he has given the power to become the sons of God.

He became the Son of man and made many sons of God, uniting them to himself by his love and power, so that they became as one. In themselves they are many by reason of their human descent, but in him they are one by divine rebirth.

The whole Christ and the unique Christ—the body and the head—are one: one because born of the same God in heaven, and of the same mother on earth. They are many sons, yet one son. Head and members are one son, yet many sons; in the same way, Mary and the Church are one mother, yet more than one mother; one virgin, yet more than one virgin. Both are mothers, both are virgins. Each conceives of the same Spirit, without concupiscence. Each gives birth to a child of God the Father, without sin. Without any sin, Mary gave birth to Christ the head for the sake of his body. By the forgiveness of every sin, the Church gave birth to the body, for the sake of its head. Each is Christ’s mother, but neither gives birth to the whole Christ without the cooperation of the other”.

He continues to say “In the inspired Scriptures, what is said in a universal sense of the virgin mother, the Church, is understood in an individual sense of the Virgin Mary, and what is said in a particular sense of the virgin mother Mary is rightly understood in a general sense of the virgin mother, the Church. When either is spoken of, the meaning can be understood of both, almost without qualification. In a way, every Christian is also believed to be a bride of God’s Word, a mother of Christ, his daughter and sister, at once virginal and fruitful. These words are used in a universal sense of the Church, in a special sense of Mary, in a particular sense of the individual Christian. They are used by God’s Wisdom in person, the Word of the Father. This is why Scripture says: I will dwell in the inheritance of the Lord. The Lord’s inheritance is, in a general sense, the Church; in a special sense, Mary; in an individual sense, the Christian. Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary’s womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church’s faith. He will dwell for ever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul”.

As I was searching for a story to add to my reflection, I came across to this wonderful letter written by an unknown on behalf of Jesus to remind us that as we are preparing ourselves to celebrate his birthday, we must allow him to enter into our life.

“As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor, and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and were thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have lots of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, beautifully wrapped gifts. But do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor, and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside they closed the door in my face, and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor! At midnight all the people began to hug each

other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no-one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you to believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend, and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will want be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love you! Jesus

God created the universe when there was nothing and his spirit was hovering over the waters which clearly shows how God loved the world and for that love, he gave his only Begotten Son that anyone who believes in him, may have life and life in abundance. After creating the universe, God saw something missing and then he created his masterpiece on his own image "Adam" from the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became living being. Did God's love stop there? Absolutely not, but rather started growing deeper and deeper even though Adam and Eve committed sin and became unfaithful to him, but "he could not deny himself" as St. Paul says, because God created Adam on his own image. The greatest mystery was completed when people saw God walking in their streets.

Throughout salvation history, God always walked with us but there was still a long time to wait and see him taking on our human form and walking with us on earth. God was preparing people for centuries to see him becoming human and taking on human form to be like us in all things but sin. God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egyptian slavery and leading them to the promise land was the first step to prepare them for the journey of experiencing the greatest gift of God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

He continued, "You know, I am on my way home to go and see my wife. I have been in the hospital for a long time and had to have a special surgery in this town far from my home. My wife couldn't come with me because she is so frail herself." He said, "I was so worried about how terrible my hair looked, and I didn't want her to see me looking so awful, but I couldn't brush my hair, all by myself."

Tears were rolling down his cheeks, as he thanked Beth for brushing his hair. He thanked her over and over again. She was crying, people all around witnessing this were crying, and as they were all boarding the plane, the stewardess, who was also crying, stopped her, and asked, "Why did you do that?"

And right there was the opportunity, the door that had been opened to share with someone else, the love of God. We don't always understand God's ways, but be ready, He may use us to meet the need of someone else, like He met the need of this old man, and in that moment, also calling out to a lost soul who needed to know about His love.

Later we read in the Scripture God kept sending his messengers and prophets to prepare people for this great mystery of “God becoming man”. We read from the Letter to Hebrews “Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will”. This mystery was also announced 700 years ago by Prophet Isaiah “a virgin will bear a son and she will name him Emmanuel which means ‘God is with us’”. After the long the wait, God started to become human “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth”. God, leaving his heavenly throne, came down to this earth, the footstool for his feet because he loved the world so much. The following story will help us to understand that once we have Son, we have everything.

God fell in love with the world the day Adam and Eve disobeyed him and committed sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel” and this love never ended. God continued to journey with people.

As we reflect on the Readings of today’s Sunday, we come to know that the greatest gift of love was finally completed in Blessed Virgin Mary when the Angel Gabriel came to her and greeted her in a very solemn way. God’s promise to become human was fulfilled when Blessed Virgin Mary said, “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your Word”. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Begotten Son, so that anyone who believes in him, may have life and life in abundance. Christmas (Nativity of the Lord) is a day where we reflect God’s greatest gift of love which took flesh and dwelt among us.

Furthermore, we are invited to ponder deeply on this greatest gift of God’s love as we read a passage from a letter to Diognetus by Mathetes opens our hearts and mind to understand the true meaning of it.

No man has ever seen God or known him, but God has revealed himself to us through faith, by which alone it is possible to see him. God, the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved man but was also patient with him. So he has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, he and he alone is good. He devised a plan, a great and wonderful plan, and shared it only with his Son. As long as he preserved this secrecy and kept his own wise counsel, he seemed to be neglecting us, to have no concern for us. But when through his beloved Son he revealed and made public what he had prepared from the very beginning, he gave us all at once, gifts we could never have dreamt of, even sight and knowledge of himself.

When God had made all his plans in consultation with his Son, he waited until a later time, allowing us to follow our own whim, to be swept along by unruly passions, to be led astray by pleasure and desire. Not that he was pleased by our sins: he only tolerated them. Not that he approved of that time of sin: he was planning this era of holiness. When we had been shown to be undeserving of life, his goodness was to make us worthy of it. When we had made it clear that we could not enter God's kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God.

When our wickedness had reached its culmination, it became clear that retribution was at hand in the shape of suffering and death. The time came then for God to make known his kindness and power (how immeasurable is God's generosity and love!). He did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead, he was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; he gave his own Son as the price of our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we—wicked and sinful as we were—have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

How wonderful a transformation, how mysterious a design, how inconceivable a blessing! The wickedness of the many is covered up by the holy One, and the holiness of One sanctifies many sinners”.

God himself is love and that love is being completed in his Son who took our human image to make us feel he always loves us.



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Season



catholicyyc.ca/horizonsofhope

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop McGrattan: *Horizons of Hope*

Bishop McGrattan releases a pastoral letter for the faithful on the **Horizons of Hope: A toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care**. This toolkit was developed by the CCCB as a positive response to the end of life issues and is a meaningful resource for Catholics.

- [Download Bishop's Letter](#) at

All the faithful are invited to take part in the 4-module program being offered in January 2023.

- **Monday, Jan. 9 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module 1: Understanding the Human Experience of Dying and Death
- **Monday, Jan. 16 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module 2: Discerning and Making Decisions at the End of Life
- **Monday, Jan. 23 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module 3: Accompanying Those at the End of Life
- **Monday, Jan. 30 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module 4: Supporting and Integrating Within the Wider Community

You will be able to choose one of the six following locations: Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 17 Ave SW, Calgary); Ascension Parish, Calgary; St Gerard Parish, Calgary; All Saints, Lethbridge; Holy Family, Medicine Hat; St James, Okotoks

Register at catholicyyc.ca/horizonsofhope

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

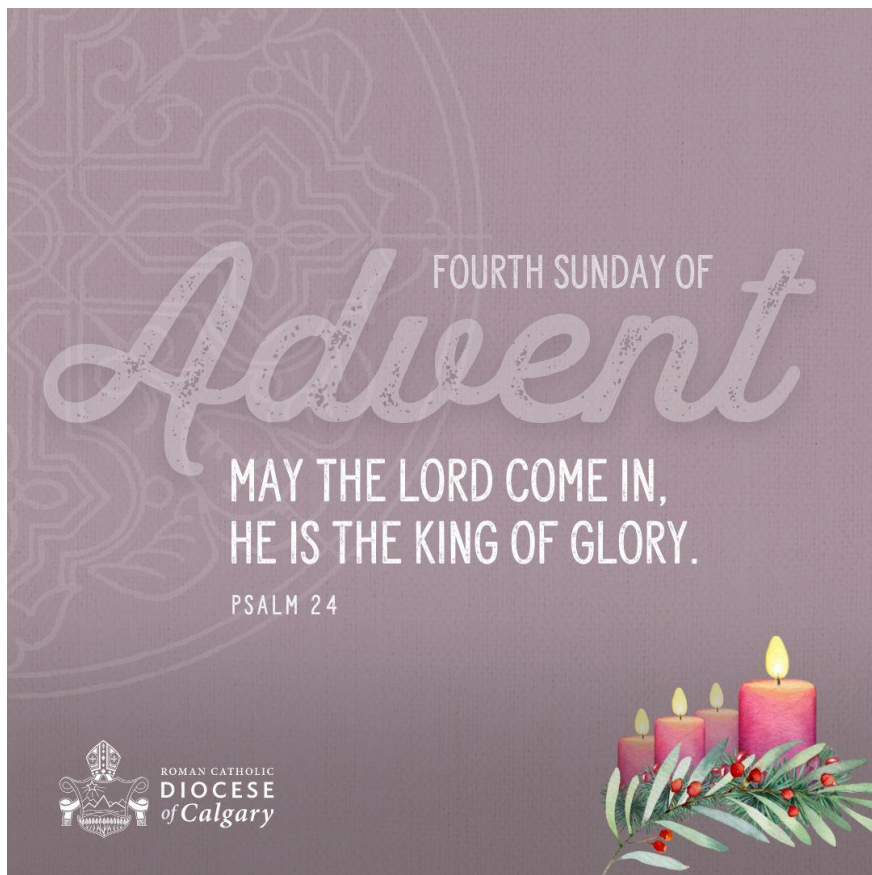
Please visit catholicyyc.ca/careers for more information and application details.

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 **Dec. 31, 2022**. To donate online, visit: iamblessed.ca (and click GIVE NOW)

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. For more information, contact maritzachouza@gmail.com



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

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

Resources for children

Kid's challenge this week: Name someone you trust and discuss why you trust this person. In today's Gospel Reading, we hear the story of how God sends a message to Joseph in a dream and asks Joseph to trust in God's plan. Do you think it was easy for Joseph to trust God and God's messenger? Why or why not? Let us pray as we celebrate Christmas this week that we will always be people who trust God. (Loyola Press)

[Colouring page this Sunday](#)

[Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)

[Sunday Connection - Fourth Sunday of Advent](#) (Gr. 1-8 & family)

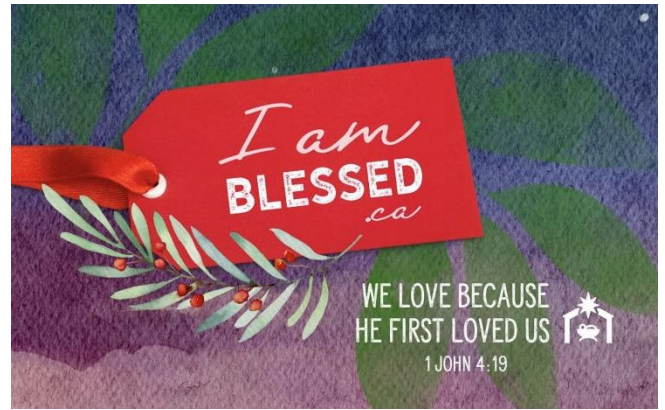
Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday

[Children's Liturgy sheet for leaders/parents](#) (CAFOD) | [Illustration](#)

[Children's Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi](#) (Catholic TV)

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 children, [visit our Advent Page](#)



Pope's Prayer intention for December

This month, let us pray that volunteer non-profit and human development organisations 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](#)

We give thanks

Since the beginning of October, over 100 school faith leaders and administrators from 91 CCSD schools have responded to the Bishop's call to accompany and prepare children and their families for the reception of the sacraments. During this season of Advent, over 1500 children in grade 3-9 have been brought to experience the depth of God's love in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

EXTRAORDINARY SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM (ESPP)

The mission to support families with children enrolled in Calgary Catholic School District who missed the regular parish-based sacramental preparation in previous years has reached its **first milestone!**

"We are blessed with missionary disciples in our teachers, administrators, pastors and parish leaders, who are committed to share Christ with those entrusted to their care. Ultimately, the blessing comes from our families, parents, and children who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and avail themselves to the sanctifying grace of the sacraments. May the joy of Christ bring us closer to Him and one another!"

1500+ Students
27 Parishes
91 Schools
100+ Facilitator

The program includes presentation sessions for children at each school, online presentation sessions for parents, retreats, and the reception of the sacrament occurring at the parish.

We give thanks to all parents, pastors, catechists, schools and parish staff, volunteers, and all participating students! You have blessed us with your support and participation, and we could not have reached these milestones without you!

One more reason to be thankful...

Since the beginning of October, over 100 school faith leaders and administrators from 91 CCSD schools have responded to the Bishop's call to accompany and prepare children and their families for the reception of the sacraments. During this season of Advent, over 1500 children in grade 3-9 have been brought to experience the depth of God's love in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thank you to all parents, pastors, catechists, schools and parish staff, volunteers, and all participating students with your involvement in the Extraordinary Sacrament Preparation Program (ESPP)! You have blessed us with your support and participation, and we could not have reached these milestones without you!

- [Read our brief report on the Extraordinary Sacrament Preparation Program \(ESPP\)](#)

Worth sharing

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

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 catholiccyyc.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 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 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 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 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](#).

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](#)

Livestreams

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses in the Diocese of Calgary is available at: <https://www.catholicyc.ca>.

You can also watch parish Sunday Masses via TELUS Optik TV Ch. 876 and 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#).

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18th, 2022

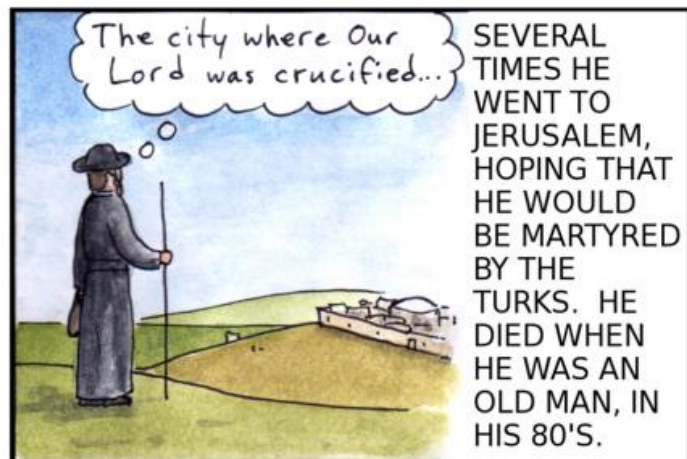
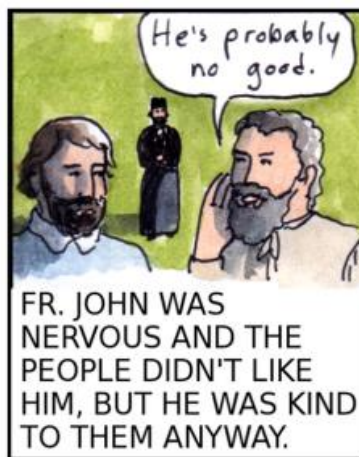
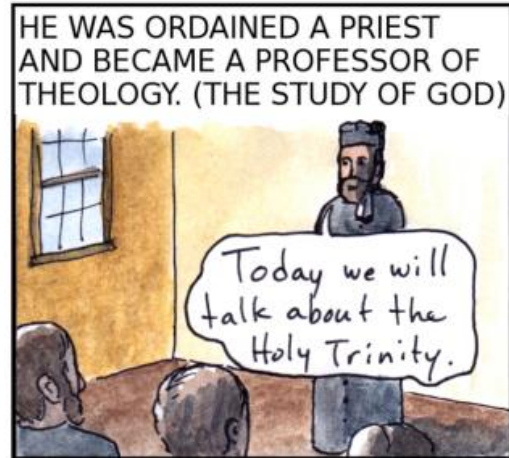
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



*An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say?
Look in a mirror to find out!*

Saint John of Kanty

December 23

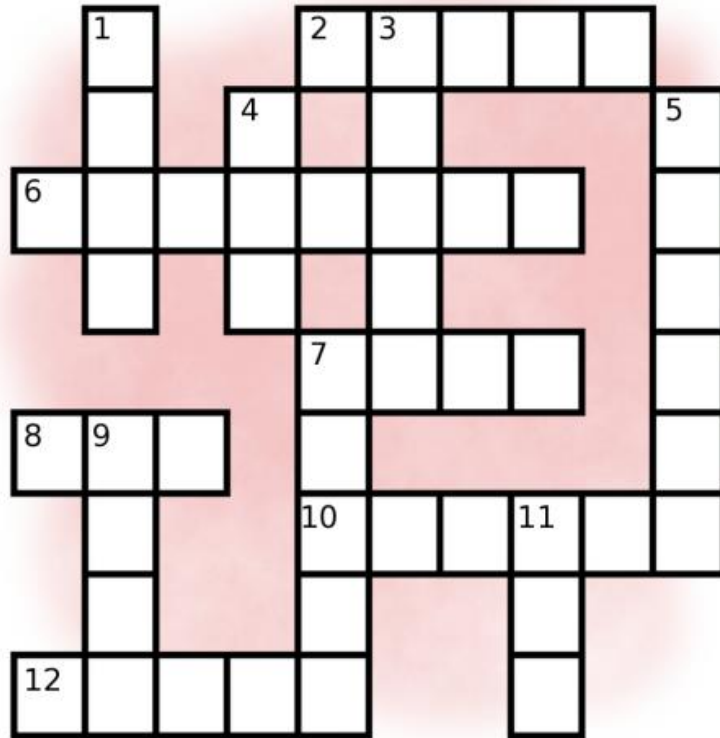


SAINT JOHN TOLD PEOPLE TO FIGHT AGAINST ERROR WITH LOVE. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS LIFE THAT WE SHOULD BE GENEROUS AND KIND TO DRAW PEOPLE TO JESUS. SOMETIMES THE PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN RIGHT AWAY, BUT IF WE PERSEVERE IN BEING KIND TO THEM, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY CHANGE.

Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE
 VIRGIN
 HIGH
 SHEOL
 CHILD
 THE
 DAVID
 HEAVEN
 NAME
 DEEP
 IMMANUEL
 GOD
 MAN



_____ 8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your _____ 11D; let it be _____ 7A as _____ 2A or _____ 9D as _____ 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O _____ 3D of _____ 7D! Is it too little for you to weary _____ 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the _____ 10A shall be with _____ 12A, and bear a son, and shall _____ 1D him _____ 6A.



Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is only a week left
until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.



Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2. Sheol 6. Immanuel
7. deep 8. the 10. virgin 12. child. Down: 1. name 3. house
4. man 5. Heaven 7. David 9. high 11. God

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 so it can be sent to the diocese.