



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MARCH 12, 2023 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - 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

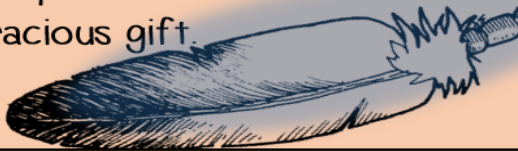
THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

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

Knights of Columbus - Kirby Peterson
Catholic Women's League – Cathy Koch

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

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



Drinking in Christ

Let us not grumble like the people in the desert. For we stand in the grace of God who pours divine love into our hearts and being. Let us stay in conversation with Jesus just as the Samaritan woman did at the well through our prayer and lenten reading.

- 💧 What grumbling, what complaining will I stop doing?
- 💧 How will I make time each day to pray and converse with God?
- 💧 How will I be a sign of healing and support to the elect thirsting for Easter Baptism?

† Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, March 11

8:30am ~ Joel, Crystal & Lincoln Myers

5:00pm ~ Lenard & Loretta Oddan

Sunday, March 12

8:30am ~ Craig Foley & Family

10:30am ~ Angie Steciw

6:00pm ~ Holy Family Parish

Monday, March 13

9:00am ~ Philip Schafer †

Tuesday, March 14

9:00am ~ Margaret & Tony Krammer

Wednesday, March 15

9:00am ~ Kendra Hittel †

Thursday, March 16

9:00am ~ Tony P. Bosch †

Friday, March 17

9:00am ~ James & sandy Schafer



MARCH 12, 2023 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

OPERATING FINANCES

JANUARY 1-31, 2023

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 46,036
Loose Collections	\$ 3,212
Future Development	\$ 3,333
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 4,649
\$ 57,230 - Budget Vs Actual	\$ 6,754

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,347
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,381
World Mission	\$ 45
Clergy Retirement	\$ 120
Mission Mexico	\$ 315
Seminary Fund	\$ 10
Catholic Education	\$ 30
Peace & Development	\$ 50

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

Average Weekly Attendance 759

Mark your Calendars!

March 11 - 7:30am - HFP Hall

That Man is You

March 11 - 8:30am - HFP Church

Lenten Mass

March 11 - 10:00am - Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

March 15 - 9:00am - Faith Room

Bible Study

March 15 - 7:00pm - Faith Room

RCIA

March 17 - 6:00pm - HFP Church

Stations of the Cross - Catholic Women's League

March 17 - 6:00pm - HFP Church

Stations of the Cross - R.C.I.A.

March 17 - 7:30 - 9:00pm - HFP Hall

Men's Lenten Retreat

March 18 - 8:00am - Noon - HFP Hall

Men's Lenten Retreat

March 24 - 6:00pm - HFP Church

Stations of the Cross - Finance Council

March 31 - 6:00pm - HFP Church

Stations of the Cross - School Presenting

April 3 - 6:00pm - HFP Church

Stations of the Cross - Filipino Community



Year to Date: \$10,569.
only 15% of total needed!

The amount needed before end 2023 is \$70,938.

If each family would give \$27 this year, we would easily make the total amount for 2023! We have 2700 families; however, only a portion of these donate to our church.

If you can give more than the \$27 this year, we would greatly appreciate it. May God bless your generosity!!!

Total parishioners at last weekend's masses: 868!



Knights of Columbus
General Meeting
March 13 at 7:00pm
Faith Room



Catholic Women's League (CWL)
General Meeting
March 14 at 6:30pm
Faith Room

Penitential Service

Wednesday, March 15

7:00pm

St. Patrick's Parish

Thursday, March 16

7:00pm

Holy Family Parish



2023 MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Jesus: The Way, the Truth & the Life

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

FRIDAY MARCH 17 – 7:30PM

FOLLOWED BY ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 – 8:30AM

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

FREE WILL OFFERING

Register to Greg Martin 403-878-0639 or gmartin7@telus.net



GriefShare



Are you or someone you know grieving the
loss of a loved one?

Grief Share meets Thursday, March 16 at
2:00pm in the Hope Room
Call Karen at 403-487-4893

THAT MAN IS YOU!

Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30am

Presentation

8:30 – 9:30 am

March 25, 2023

Theme:

The Carrying Of The Cross

Presenter:

Mark Hartfiel

TMIY
THAT MAN IS YOU!



PARISH BREAKFAST MARCH 26th

@ 9:30AM & 11:30AM

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



Sacramental Preparation Confirmation Class - HFP Faith Rm

Thursday, March 30th at 6:00pm

1st Communion Parent Meeting

Holy Family Parish Hall

Thursday, March 30th at 6:30pm

1st Communion Class

Holy Family Parish Faith Room

Sunday, April 2nd at 10:15am



To all former Schuler parishioners who were
members of St Joseph's Parish in Schuler at
the time that Fr Nestor Gregoire was parish
priest and Fr Mike Dechant helped at
Operation Sonlight Camp (mid 70's), you are
invited to attend a reunion to visit and
reminisce. Please call Sandra Seitz (Schafer) to
get more information at 403-529-5187 or
email csseitz58@gmail.com



The Catholic Women's League
CWL Annual Spring Bottle Drive
Saturday April 22 & Sunday April 23

Thank you SO VERY MUCH
for all you support

FUNDRAISING

Questions? Call MJ at 403-581-8004



LENT & EASTER 2023



Divine Mercy Chaplet
Daily after Morning Masses
or 9:30am
Up to Divine Mercy Sunday
April 16 at 3:00pm

Lenten Masses
Saturdays
8:30am



Stations of the CROSS

6:00PM

Friday, March 10 – Catholic Women's League
Friday, March 17 – R.C.I.A.

Friday, March 24 – Finance Council

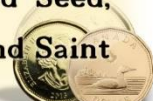
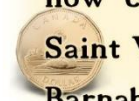
Friday, March 31 - MHCBE

Monday, April 3 – Filipino Community



40 LOONIES FOR LENT

This year's theme for our 40 Loonies for Lent is Leave No Neighbor. Your donations will go to Medicine Hat Food Bank or what is now called the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul, 5th Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.



Loonies to date - \$5,181.00

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6th

MORNING PRAYER, 8:30AM

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7:00PM FOLLOWED BY ADORATION
UNTIL MIDNIGHT IN THE FAITH ROOM, AND RECONCILIATION IN
CHARITY ROOM**

FRIDAY, APRIL 7th

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES, 12:00 NOON AND 3:00PM

SATURDAY APRIL 8th

MORNING PRAYER, 8:30AM

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD, 11:00AM

EASTER VIGIL, 8:00PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 9th

EASTER SUNDAY MASS, 8:30AM, 10:30AM*

***LIVESTREAM@ Youtube – Medicine Hat Holy Family Church**

Holy Week 2023



**EMAIL SCAMS AGAIN FROM
PREISTS, CHURCH, STAFF, ETC.**

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

If you get an email or a text, **PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND** to it,
JUST DELETE IT!



Nurture Pregnancy Centre

Annual General Meeting

Monday, March 13 at 7:00pm.

Please join us.

Memberships annual fee of \$10 per person.

We appreciate your dedication to helping women, babies, and families in need or at risk in our community.

**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)**



Stations of the Cross at St. Patrick's Church. The Legion of Mary in conjunction with various parish ministries, are pleased to facilitate the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at St. Patrick's Church beginning at 7 pm. Everyone Welcome.

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***



E-transfer
ONLINE GIVING



accounting@holymfamilymh.ca

Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

catholiccycc.ca/Faithfully

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



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BISHOP CARROLL ASSEMBLY,
DEAN FITZPATRICK COUNCIL AND
JOE MCKENNA COUNCIL**



INVITE YOU TO A GUEST SPEAKER AND DINNER

“FAITH IN RECONCILIATION”

WITH FATHER CRISTINO BOUVETTE

DIOCESE OF CALGARY

NATIONAL LITURGICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE PAPAL VISIT



Father Cristino Bouvette(formerly of Medicine Hat and a member of a local council) of Italian, Métis and Cree-Ojibwe heritage, shares his perspective on faith and reconciliation and the Papal visit.

Saturday March 25, 2023, Holy Family Parish Hall

Mass at 5:00 PM –Dinner at 6:30 PM

**Buffet catered by: Asian Garden`s - \$20.00 per ticket
(Sales end March 22ndMax 250 tickets)**

Tickets available at the back of the Church before and after mass or contact:

FN Andy Hamel 403 526 8156

GK Kelly Mastel 403 527 0304 GK Kirby Peterson 403 866 8706

Child Development Check-Ups

Coming soon!

Friday, April 28, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Our child development check-up event provides parents with the opportunity to discuss their child's development with members of our early learning team.

We can help answer your questions about your child's development in:

- Areas of speech and language skills
- Social and emotional development
- Fine and gross motor skill development

Contact our Early Learning Department by
April 26, 2023 to book your appointment
403-502-8365 or earlylearning@mhcbe.ab.ca



**For littles ones
ages 3-5**

**Explore our
programs**



Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 would like to make you aware of our **40 Loonies For Lent project**, which I believe is our 6th year of operation.

During Lent we are asked to commit to participate more fully in spiritual discipline of scripture reading, prayer, fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving. We also invite everyone to take part in our Parish Mission by Rev. Fr. Michael Bombak. Pope Francis has requested we become more empathetic to our hungry and starving brothers and sisters, Jesus as our good Shepherd truly took on the smell of the sheep. It has also been said that in our western world our prosperity has insulated us from the Needy.

This year's theme for our 40 Loonies for **Lent is Leave No Neighbour**. Your donations will go to **Medicine Hat Food Bank** or what is now called the Root Cellar, **Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul, 5th Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs**.

It should be noted that Holy Family Parish volunteers serve every Thursday at 5th Avenue and Holy Family also does every 4th and 5th Saturday at St. Barnabas Meal Program. I would personally like to thank the many volunteers who sacrifice their time to assist the people who may be struggling. Our goal this year is \$10000. Simply write "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and the dollar amount on your weekly parish donation envelope. You may donate your full Lenten gift of \$40.00 one time or contribute an amount of \$7.00 or more each week. If sacrificial giving means you can give more, please do so. For those who are not using weekly envelopes you may make your cheque payable to Holy Family Parish or donate cash in a separate envelope marked with your name, address & "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and place it in the weekly collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office. Alternatively, you may authorize the parish to process your donation on your credit card and most recently Holy Family Parish has added e-transfer but if using e-transfer please note it is to go to: **40 Loonies For Lent**.

Look for updates on funds collected in the parish bulletin.

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

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



St. Patrick's School

In 1952 St. Patrick school was constructed along the northern riverside of Medicine Hat. However, in 1987, the school was relocated to the Southridge area to support an increasing number of new families to our city. It's hard to believe that our current library once used to be a gymnasium. Many years ago, St. Patrick School was a smaller school of the MHCBE but is now one of the largest elementary schools in the city.

St. Patrick School programming consists of ELP, Kindergarten, and grades 1-5. We also offer the largest before and after school program that serves over 190 families. Currently, we have over 440 students attending school. Although our school may seem larger than others it truly feels like a family that is connected by faith. Throughout the school year there are several opportunities for all our students to visit Holy Family Parish through school masses and other faith activities organized by Fr. Iqbal and our teachers.

One of the many exciting programs we offer to our students is the accelerated reading program (AR) which has been supported by our parent council for over 25 years. The AR program is a daily literacy support that promotes the love of reading and allows students to explore their growth and abilities. We believe this literacy program is a big part of why our students are such great readers and writers. We also offer a guitar program to our grade 4 and 5 students where they learn faith based and other fun-loving songs.

As we move toward the month of March, we prepare our students for the season of Lent and reflect on the times leading to the death of Jesus, whose life and teachings are the center of our faith. We invite and encourage all of you, our community parishioners, to join us in any future Monday morning school assemblies (9:15 – 9:45 am) where we meet as a school body to celebrate our faith. We hope to see you soon!



PROFESSION OF VOWS

Admission to
Consecrated Life

• Profession of
First Vows



MARCH 19TH AT 7PM

Holy Mass presided by Bishop William McGrattan, concelebrated by Bishop Alberto Taveira, (Guaranteeing Bishop of the Seeds of the Word Community), and with the presence of Sr. Mary Sarah, the General Moderator of the Community.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL – CALGARY, AB

LIVESTREAMED BY SOW WEBTV: youtube.com/sementesdoverbo

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



3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

March 12, 2023

HE IS THIRSTY

All living beings need water to quench their thirst and to grow. Water is life and without it, is death. However, when we reflect on the Word of the Lord, we come to know that water has become the symbol of eternal life. Let me share the following story to understand the title of my reflection “He is Thirsty”.

Once upon a time, in a city, a certain calf was born and a Rich Old Man bought the calf and being very fond of the gentle animal, named him ‘Delightful’. The Rich Old Man took good care of Delightful and fed him only the best. When Delightful grew up into a big fine strong bull, he thought, “I was brought up by this generous man. He gave me good food and constant care, even in times of difficulties. Now I am a big grown bull I would like to use my strength to give something in return to my Master”.

So Delightful said to the Rich Old Man, “Sir, please find some wealthy merchant who is proud of having many strong bulls. Challenge him by saying that your bull can pull one hundred heavily loaded bullock carts.” So, the next day, the Rich Old Man struck up a conversation with a proud merchant. In a while, he brought up the topic of who had the strongest bull in the city. The merchant said, “Many have bulls, but no one has any as strong as mine.”

The Rich Old Man said, “Sir, I have a bull who can pull one hundred heavily loaded bullock carts.”

“No friend, how can there be such a bull? That is unbelievable!” said the merchant. The other replied, “I do have such a bull, and I am willing to make a bet.” The merchant said, “I will bet a thousand gold coins that your bull cannot pull a hundred loaded bullock carts.” So, the bet was made, and they agreed on a date and time for the challenge.

On the day of the challenge, the proud merchant attached together one hundred big bullock carts. He filled them with sand and gravel to make them very heavy. The Rich Old Man fed the finest rice to the bull called Delightful. He bathed him and decorated him and

hung a beautiful garland of flowers around his neck. Then he harnessed Delightful to the first cart and climbed up onto it.

Amidst his sudden popularity, the Rich Old Man could not resist the urge to make himself seem very important. So, he cracked a whip in the air, and yelled at the faithful bull, “Pull, you dumb animal! I command you to pull, you big dummy!”

The bull called Delightful thought, “This challenge was my ideal. I have never done anything bad to my master, and yet he insults me with such harsh words!” So Delightful remained in his place and refused to pull the carts. The proud merchant laughed and demanded his winnings from the bet. The Rich Old Man had to pay him the one thousand gold coins. He returned home and sat down, saddened by his loss.

Delightful grazed peacefully on his way home. When he arrived, he saw his Master sadly lying on his side. He asked, “Sir, why are you lying there like that? Are you fine?” The man said, “I lost a thousand gold coins because of you. With such a loss, how could I be fine?” The bull replied, “Sir, you called me ‘dummy’. You even cracked a whip in the air over my head. In all my life, did I ever break anything, step on anything, make a mess in the wrong place, or behave like a ‘dummy’ in any way?”

Rich Old Man answered, “No, my pet.” Delightful said, “Then Sir, why did you call me ‘dumb animal’, and insulted me though I have done nothing wrong? But now I feel sorry for you, so please go again to the merchant, and make the same bet for two thousand gold coins. And remember to use only the respectful words.”

So, the Rich Old Man went back to the merchant and made the bet for two thousand gold coins. The proud merchant thought it would be easy money. Again, he set up the one hundred heavily loaded bullock carts. Again, the Rich Old Man fed and bathed the bull, and hung a garland of flowers around his neck. When all was ready, the rich man touched Delightful’s forehead with a lotus blossom, having given up the whip. Thinking of him as fondly as if he were his own child, he said, “My son, please do me the honor of pulling these one hundred bullock carts.”

Lo and behold, the wonderful bull pulled with all his might and dragged the heavy carts, until the last one stood in the place of the first. The merchant, with his mouth hanging open in disbelief, had to pay the two thousand gold coins. The onlookers were so impressed that they honored the bull called Delightful with gifts. But even more important to the Rich Old Man than his winnings, was his valuable lesson in humility and respect.

Isn’t it an amazing journey of Lent we have started by learning respect and accepting Jesus’ sacrifice with humility because He is thirsty for us? If we recall the readings of the previous Sundays, we can definitely find ourselves deep rooted in the spirit of Lent. On the First Sunday of Lent we reflected on the Temptation of Jesus and beginning of his public ministry which started with the words “He was led by the spirit to wilderness to be tempted”. And the Last Sunday’s Sacred Scripture invited us to open our hearts and minds

to reflect and meditate on the great mystery of Jesus' transfiguration. During that period of time, we contemplated also on the excitement of St. Peter who said "Lord, it is good to be here. If you wish I will build three dwellings...". Isn't encouraging that every day or every week we are able to be with the Lord during the celebration of the Holy Mass?

Today on this Third Sunday of Lent we are not only shown the disobedience of Israel who complained against Moses over the lack of water but also the disrespectful behavior towards Moses. In the First reading we see the people of Israel who are freed from the bondage of Egyptian slavery but now they want to go back to it as they are suffering with lack of water saying, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst". Isn't it strange behavior that we all have? The context of Psalm 95 is based on the First Reading to remind us not to harden our hearts but listen to the Lord. He is thirsty for us even on the Cross because he loves us and wants us to come closer to him. The journey of Lent is all about the Holy Cross. We strongly believe that the Holy Cross is a source of our salvation and redemption because our Saviour died on the Cross to save and give us eternal life. St. Paul rightly says in the Second Reading "Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God".

St. Irenaeus says "From the beginning God created man out of his own generosity. He chose the patriarchs to give them salvation. He took his people in hand, teaching them, unteachable as they were, to follow him. He gave them prophets, accustoming man to bear his Spirit and to have communion with God on earth. He who stands in need of no one gave communion with himself to those who need him. Like an architect he outlined the plan of salvation to those who sought to please him. By his own hand he gave food in Egypt to those who did not see him. To those who were restless in the desert he gave a law perfectly suited to them. To those who entered the land of prosperity he gave a worthy inheritance. He killed the fatted calf for those who turned to him as Father, and clothed them with the finest garment. In so many ways he was training the human race to take part in the harmonious song of salvation.

For this reason, John in the book of Revelation says: His voice was like the voice of many waters. The Spirit of God is indeed a multitude of waters, for the Father is rich and great. As the Word passed among all these people, he provided help in generous measure for those who were obedient to him, by drawing up a law that was suitable and fitting for every circumstance. He established a law for the people governing the construction of the tabernacle and the building of the temple, the choice of Levites, the sacrifices, the offerings, the rites of purification and the rest of what belonged to worship.

He himself needs none of these things. He is always filled with all that is good. Even before Moses existed, he had within himself every fragrance of all that is pleasing. Yet he sought

to teach his people, always ready though they were to return to their idols. Through many acts of indulgence, he tried to prepare them for perseverance in his service. He kept calling them to what was primary by means of what was secondary, that is, through foreshadowing to the reality, through things of time to the things of eternity, through things of the flesh to the things of the spirit, through earthly things to the heavenly things. As he said to Moses: You will fashion all things according to the pattern that you saw on the mountain. For forty days Moses was engaged in remembering the words of God, the heavenly patterns, the spiritual images, the foreshadowing of what was to come. Saint Paul says: They drank from the rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. After speaking of the things that are in the law he continues: All these things happened to them as symbols: they were written to instruct us, on whom the end of the ages has come. Through foreshadowing of the future, they were learning reverence for God and perseverance in his service. The law was therefore a school of instruction for them, and a prophecy of what was to come”.

Once a man got lost in desert. Water in his flask had run out two days ago. He knew if soon he doesn't find water, he will die surely. Just then he saw a small hut ahead. He thought it may be a hallucination, but he had no other option to move forward in the direction of hut.

As he got closer, he realized it was real. He reached the hut and when opening the door, he found out that hut was abandoned for a long time. He looked around with the hope to find water. He was surprised to see that, there was a water pump which had a pipe going down through the floor, perhaps deep to a source of water.

He began working the hand pump, but nothing happened. He kept pumping, but still no sign of water. Finally, he gave up from exhaustion and frustration. He felt that he is going to die but then just he noticed a bottle sitting in the corner of hut. It was filled with the water and corked up. Quickly he grabbed that bottle and was about to gulp down water, when he noticed a piece of paper attached to it. “Use this water to start the pump. Don't forget to fill bottle again when you are done”. He found himself in a dilemma; if he followed the instructions and the hand pump didn't work, he would die or should he trust that it would work? What if underground reservoir had long dried up? Even if the instruction were correct, should he risk it? If it turned out to be false then pouring that water into pump would be throwing away last source, he would have to save his life.

He closed his eyes, he said a prayer and then with trembling hands, he poured the water into pump and started working on the pump. A little while later, he heard a gurgling sound and then water came gushing out more than he could possibly use. He drank to his fill, got refreshed, and filled his flask and filled the bottle and corked it back up. After feeling much better, he looked around hut, he found a pencil and a map of region. Looking at the map, he realized that he was still far away from the nearest town but at least now he

knew where he was and which direction to go. Before leaving the hut, he put the bottle in its place and added his own writing below the instruction: "Believe me, it works".

Today's Gospel has a similar story of a Samaritan woman who has come to the well to fetch the water. After her knowing of Jesus, she requests him "to give her the water, that she may never be thirsty again".

St. Augustine reflecting on the Gospel says "A woman came. She is a symbol of the Church not yet made righteous but about to be made righteous. Righteousness follows from the conversation. She came in ignorance, she found Christ, and he began a conversation with her. Let us see what it is about, let us see why a Samaritan woman came to draw water. The Samaritans were not part of the Jewish people: they were foreigners. The fact that she came from a foreign people is part of the symbolic meaning, for she is a symbol of the Church. The Church was to come from the Gentiles, of a different race from the Jews. We must then recognize ourselves in her words, in her person, and with her give our own thanks to God. She was a symbol, not the reality; she foreshadowed the reality, and the reality came to be. She found faith in Christ, who was using her as a symbol to teach us what was to come. She came then to draw water. She had simply come to draw water, in the normal way of man or woman".

He continues to say "Jesus says to her: Give me water to drink. For his disciples had gone to the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore says to him: How is it that you, though a Jew, ask me for water to drink, though I am a Samaritan woman? For Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans. The Samaritans were foreigners; Jews never used their utensils. The woman was carrying a pail for drawing water. She was astonished that a Jew should ask her for a drink of water, a thing that Jews would not do. But the one who was asking for a drink of water was thirsting for her faith.

Listen now and learn who it is that asks for a drink. Jesus answered her and said: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might have asked him and he would have given you living water.

He asks for a drink, and he promises a drink. He is in need, as one hoping to receive, yet he is rich, as one about to satisfy the thirst of others. He says: If you knew the gift of God. The gift of God is the Holy Spirit. But he is still using veiled language as he speaks to the woman and gradually enters into her heart. Or is he already teaching her? What could be more gentle and kind than the encouragement he gives? If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might ask, and he would give you living water. What is this water that he will give if not the water spoken of in Scripture: With you is the fountain of life? How can those feel thirst who will drink deeply from the abundance in your house?

This Sunday's Gospel passage, the third of Lent, presents Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman. He is on his way with his disciples, and they stop at a well in Samaria. The Samaritans

were considered heretics by the Jews, and much despised, as second-class citizens. Jesus is tired, He is thirsty. A woman arrives to get water and He asks her, "Give me a drink". Thus, breaking every barrier, He begins a dialogue in which He reveals to that woman the mystery of living water, that is, of the Holy Spirit, a gift from God. He was promising the Holy Spirit in satisfying abundance. She did not yet understand. In her failure to grasp his meaning, what was her reply? The woman says to him, Master, give me this drink, so that I may feel no thirst or come here to draw water. Her need forced her to this labor, her weakness shrank from it. If only she could hear those words: Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Jesus was saying this to her, so that her labors might be at an end; but she was not yet able to understand.

Indeed, to the surprised reaction of the woman, Jesus responds, "If you knew God's gift and who is the one who says to you, "Give me a drink!", you would have asked him and He would give you living water". He is the rock from where we get the water of eternal life. And the Apostle Paul interprets that rock as a symbol of Christ. He will say thus: "And the rock is Christ" (1 Cor 10: 4). He is the mysterious figure of his presence among the people of God on their journey. Those who thirst for salvation can draw freely from Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will become in him or in her a source of full and eternal life. The promise of the living water that Jesus made to the Samaritan woman became a reality in His Passion: "blood and water" came out of his pierced ribs (John 19:34). Christ, the lamb immolated and resurrected, is the source from which the Holy Spirit springs, who remits sins and regenerates to new life.

He is calling us "He is thirsty" and what do we offer him? Let us reflect and walk with Samaritan woman to who is begging Jesus to give her the water of eternal.



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The Third Sunday of Lent

Lenten Resources

Open your heart to new possibilities and utilize powerful Lenten resources to help make this season meaningful to you. [Visit our Diocesan Lenten Resources](https://catholicyc.ca/Lent) | catholicyc.ca/Lent

A Message from Bishop McGrattan

"Pope Francis has always encouraged the shepherds of the Church to have 'the smell of the sheep'. Through the Pastoral Visit of a parish, it has been my experience that this has in fact been a reality for me as a bishop." [Read the Bishop's message on our blog](#)

Profession of Vows - Seeds of the Word

Seeds of the Word community invites you to attend the First Profession of Vows of two male and two female novices who have been in formation here in Calgary, as well as the incorporation of a new missionary member to religious formation. This celebration with Bishop McGrattan will take place at St Mary's Cathedral on **March 19** at 7 pm.

Priestly Ordination of Santiago Torres

Rev. Mr. Santiago Torres, a transitional deacon currently completing studies at St. Joseph Seminary, Edmonton, has been called to ordination to the Holy Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary, on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, **Friday, June 16, 2023 at 7 pm.**

STMU - The President's Dinner

On **Thursday, March 23** St. Mary's University will be hosting their annual President's Dinner fundraising gala, featuring our new President Dr. Sinda Vanderpool and Bishop McGrattan as keynote speakers. When: **Thursday, March 23 at 6 pm**, Calgary Italian Culture Centre (416 1 Ave NE). To purchase tickets, please visit <https://stmu.ca/dinner>
Proceeds from the President's Dinner support the student experience at St. Mary's and the pursuit of academic excellence.

Evening of Conversation with Fr. Raymond De Souza

In partnership with the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, St. Mary's University invites you to an evening of food for the soul, mind and body featuring a talk by Fr. Raymond De Souza with conversation and questions from Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President of St. Mary's University. When: **Thursday, March 16 at 7 pm** at St. Mary's University. There

will be time to connect with others and enjoy a pulled pork sandwich prior to the talk. Call (403) 531-9130 for more information.

God Squad's annual Men Conference!

All men are welcome to a weekend of formation with guest speakers: Fr. Raymond De Souza and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on God Squad's upcoming Conference "Memento Mori: Remember your death and live for heaven". When: March 17-18 at St. Michael's Church (800 85 St SW, Calgary). For more information or to register, visit godsquad.ca/register or call 587-888-5482. Order today and get a [Terror of Demons-Disc Golf set](#) (supplies are limited)

Holy Week & Triduum with Bishop McGrattan

All are welcome! Bishop McGrattan will celebrate the following liturgy at St. Mary's Cathedral:

- Chrism Mass, Monday, April 3 at 7 pm
- Holy Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm
- Good Friday, April 7 at Noon and 3 pm
- Easter Vigil, April 8 at 8pm
- Easter Sunday, April 9 at Noon

Career opportunities

- Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - Our Lady of the Rockies, Canmore
- Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - St. Pius X, Calgary
- Caretaker (Casual) - St. Ambrose, Coaldale
- Hospitality/Security (Part-time) - Sacred Heart, Calgary
- Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Calgary

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

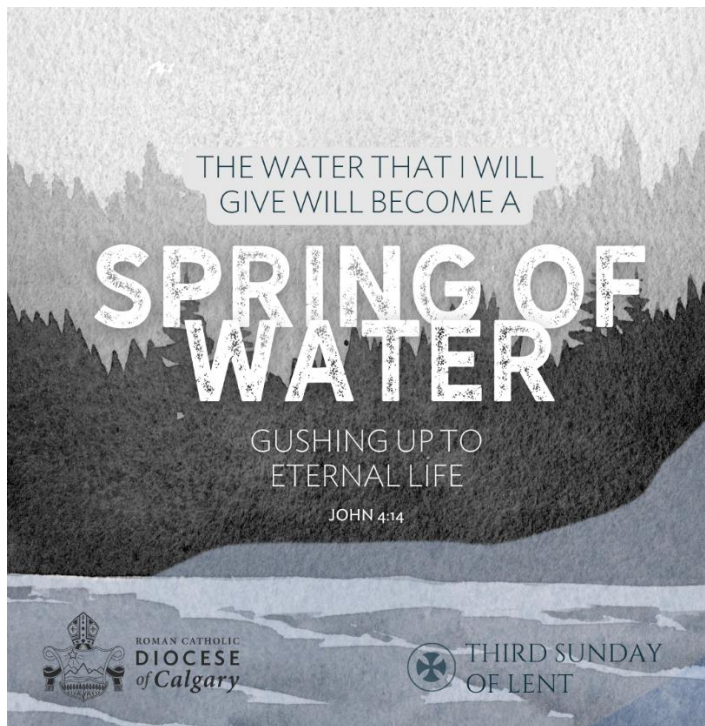
Calgary Catholic Education Foundation Board and Committee Volunteers Needed

Have you ever wondered what it's like to volunteer for an amazing Catholic organization? Why not join the CCEF and make a difference here in Calgary and the area? Call [\(403\) 200-7192](tel:4032007192) for more information.

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. Get a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people in our Diocese and find opportunities to spread the Good News of Christ beyond the walls of our churches. Subscribe at catholiccyyc.ca/faithfully

Third Sunday of Lent



Kid's challenge this week: Today we hear a story about Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman at a well. This story reminds us that God loves all people no matter where they are from. God asks us to be like Jesus and to respect and care for all people no matter who they are. Show 3 ways you can treat others like Jesus this week.

- [Colouring](#) page this Sunday
- [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
- [Sunday Connection for this Sunday](#) (Gr. 1-8)
- 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> | TEL US 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](#)

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12th, 2023

N E S I

I E L R

R T V L

T W H

*Jesus says that if we drink
His living water, we*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15



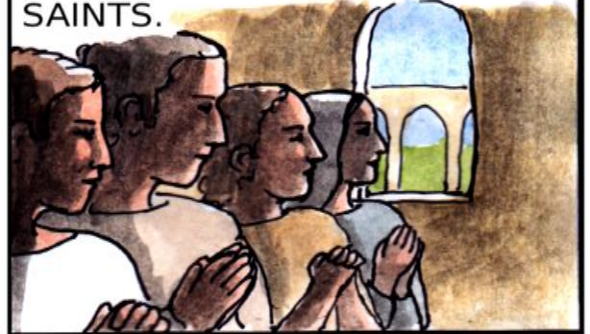
Saint Leander of Seville

March 13

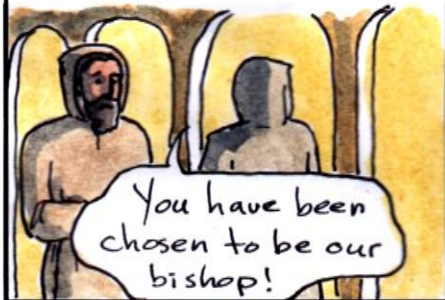
SAINT LEANDER WAS BORN TO A WEALTHY ROMAN FAMILY IN THE 500'S. THE FAMILY MOVED TO SEVILLE, IN SPAIN.



THE FAMILY WAS CHRISTIAN- HE HAD TWO BROTHERS AND A SISTER WHO ALL BECAME SAINTS.



LEANDER BECAME A MONK, BUT WAS CHOSEN TO BECOME BISHOP OF SEVILLE.

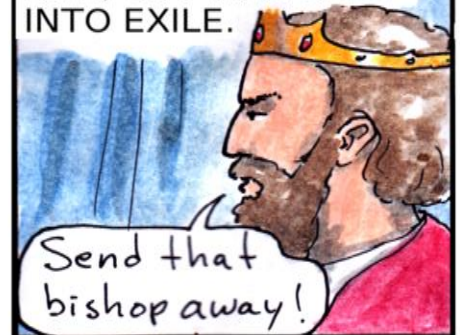


So you see, Jesus isn't really God.



AT THAT TIME MANY PEOPLE AND LEADERS BELIEVED IN THE ARIAN HERESY.

LEANDER HELPED CONVERT THE KING'S SON, BUT WAS SENT INTO EXILE.



IN EXILE IN BYZANTIUM HE MET AND BECAME FRIENDS WITH POPE SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT.



I believe in one God, the Father Almighty...



SAINT LEANDER WROTE AND PREACHED AGAINST THE HERESY, BRINGING MANY BACK TO THE TRUE FAITH. HE STARTED USING THE NICENE CREED IN THE MASS.

SAINT LEANDER DIED AROUND THE YEAR 600. WHEN HE DIED HIS BROTHER BECAME THE NEW BISHOP. BECAUSE THE LEADERS HATED THE TRUTH, BISHOP LEANDER HAD RISKED HIS LIFE TO TRY TO CONVERT PEOPLE. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIM THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FAITH.

Fill-in-the-Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.
Use the marked letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

And hope does not disappoint,
1. the love of God has
been poured into our 2.
through the Holy 3. who
has been 4. to us. For
Christ, while we were 5.
helpless, died at the appointed
6. for the ungodly. Indeed,
only with 7.
does one die for a just person, though
perhaps for a good person one
8. even find
9. to die. But
10. proves his love for us in that...
...WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS

 FOR US.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

COURAGE

DIFFICULTY

HEARTS

GOD

TIME

GIVEN

STILL

SPIRIT

MIGHT

BECAUSE

Water...



In today's first reading, the Israelites in the desert are thirsty and ask Moses for water. So God tells him to strike a big rock with his staff and water comes out. In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that He can give her living water so that she will never be thirsty.

Water is a symbol of life. In the first story the people in the desert would have died if they didn't get water. Now Jesus gives us His life, which is grace. We receive it especially in Holy Communion. This is the living water that He is talking about. Our souls need His grace to stay alive.



When you have a drink of water, think about how your body needs water to stay alive, and how your soul needs God's grace. Saying a prayer is kind of like giving your soul a little drink!



Answer to puzzle on front: will never thirst.
Answer to puzzle inside: because, hearts, Spirit, given, still, time,
difficultly, might, courage, God. "Christ died"



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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.