



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MARCH 19, 2023 – 4TH 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

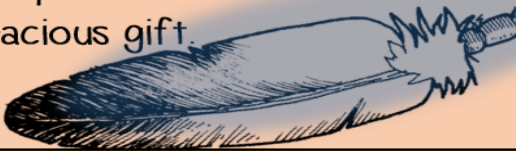
THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

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.



Seeing Christ

Even the blind man in today's gospel sees
Christ – and does what he is told by him.
Listening and then doing – even in the face of
opposition – brings sight and insight.



How will I look for Christ in every
person and in every action this lenten
week?



What is God asking me to do? How
will I do it?



How will I be a sign of Christ's light
and life for the elect preparing for Easter

† Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, March 18

8:30am ~ Linda Hamel †
5:00pm ~ Gabriel Zavala †

Sunday, March 19

8:30am ~ Holy Family Parish
10:30am ~ Mario & Cyril Mudri
6:00pm ~ Derrick Risling †

Monday, March 20

9:00am ~ Maria Sehn

Tuesday, March 21

9:00am ~ Joe Wagner †

Wednesday, March 22

9:00am ~ Shirley Martin †

Thursday, March 23

9:00am ~ Randy Drescher †

Friday, March 24

9:00am ~ Jade Sehn



MARCH 19, 2023 – 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

OPERATING FINANCES

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2023

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 44,155
Loose Collections	\$ 3,207
Future Development	\$ 3,233
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 7,523
\$ 58,118 - Budget Vs Actual	\$ 5,866

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 4,720
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 4,085
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 95
Mission Mexico	\$ 210
Seminary Fund	\$ 35
Ukrainian Relief	\$ 110
CARO	\$ 80

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

Average Weekly Attendance	912
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Mark your Calendars!

- March 17 ~ 7:30 ~ 9:00pm - HFP Hall
Men's Lenten Retreat
- March 18 ~ 8:00am ~ Noon - HFP Hall
Men's Lenten Retreat
- March 18 ~ 8:30am - HFP Church
Lenten Mass
- March 18 ~ 10:00am ~ Hope Room
Benedictine Group Meeting
- March 22 ~ 9:00am ~ Faith Room
Bible Study
- March 22 ~ 7:00pm ~ Faith Room
RCIA
- March 23 ~ 10:00am ~ Hope Room
Grief Share Meeting
- 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: \$11,189.61
only 16% 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!

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A



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PARISH
BREAKFAST
MARCH 26th

@ 9:30AM & 11:30AM

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





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

**Grief Share meets at Holy Family Parish,
Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Hope Room...
Call Karen at 403-487-4893**



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



DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER

**"FAITH IN RECONCILIATION"
WITH FATHER CRISTINO BOUVETTE**

Saturday March 25, 2023

Holy Family Parish Hall

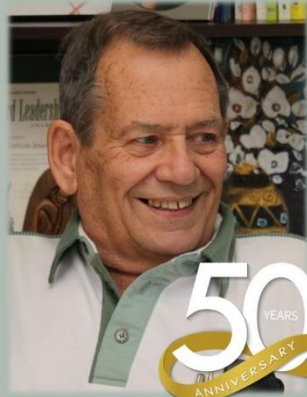
Mass at 5:00 PM –Dinner at 6:30 PM

\$20.00 per ticket (Sales end March 22nd Max 250 tickets)

Tickets available before and after mass or contact:

FN Andy Hamel 403 526 8156

"DEEPENING OUR FAITH IN GOD"
BIBLE CAMP JULY 10 – 14, 2023
8:00 AM – 12:15 PM DAILY – \$25.00 INCLUDES A T-SHIRT TO KEEP
AND A "BIG" HEALTHY SNACKS!
BIBLE THEMES, ANCHORED HABITS, DAILY CRAFT
CONFIDENCE/SELF ESTEEM, EXERCISE ETC.
MASS EVERY DAY AT 11:30 AM ~ THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOMED!
REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE FOYER @ HOLY FAMILY PARISH
CONTACT MJ 403-581-8004 OR MJ.RATH@YAHOO.COM



**Save the Date Saturday,
April 29th, 2023**

**A Celebration in Honor of
Father Greg Coupal's
50 years in the Priesthood
St. Gerard's Parish in Calgary**

**More details as we get
them!**

**Our parish would not be able to operate without volunteers.
HFP requires your assistance.**

**We have snow shovels located at our four church entrances.
(West, Main, Admin and North)**

**If you're coming to Mass and would be able to pick up a
shovel and clear snow it would be providing a big service to
our parishioners and adding to their safety.**

We are only referring to the main entrance sidewalks.

**If you have any suggestions kindly contact me and thank you
again.**

Patrick Ries, Planning and Maintenance Chair HFP

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!

Love of God In Action

**There is a desire in the hearts of parishioners, who are homebound
or in the hospital, who would like to receive the Eucharist.**

**Consider 1 hour of your time as a holy and happy sacrifice for our
Lord Who desires our love for Him through our neighbors, 2 people
are required to go to a private home, so we would never go alone.**

**Please take this to our Lord in prayer and let Him speak to your
heart. May God bless you.**

**Charity is the sweet and holy bond which links the soul with its
Creator. - St. Catherine of Siena**

Bernice Foley



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



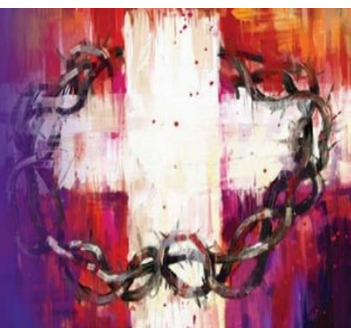
**To all former Schuler parishioners who were members
of St Joseph's Parish in Schuler at the time that Fr
Nestor Gregoire was parish priest and Fr Mike Dechant
helped at Operation Sonlight Camp (mid 70's), you are
invited to attend a reunion to visit and reminisce. The
Come and Go Tea will be held at Holy Family Parish
(enter through the hall doors) on Monday, April 10
from 1-4 pm. Please call Sandra Seitz (Schafer) to get
more information at 403-529-5187 or email
csseitz58@gmail.com**

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 17 – R.C.I.A.

Friday, March 24 – FINANCE COUNCIL

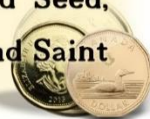
Friday, March 31 - MHCBE

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 - \$6,016.00

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



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.



Sunday 10:30am Mass on YOUTUBE

Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

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



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Listen to Mass on your phone... Download the "Audio Fetch" app. 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!

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



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!



Covenant Health
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St. Joseph's Home Seniors Lodge

ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

\$1,200/month
(bachelor suite)

\$1,700/month
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Includes 3 meals/day & weekly housekeeping

Eligible Home Care services available

* based on single occupancy

Contact **403-526-3818** for a tour.
Visit us at: **156 - 3 St. NE Medicine Hat**

CovenantHealth.ca



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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 Lent Year A

March 19, 2023

HE KNOWS US

As we continue our Lenten journey, once again we are reminding to look deep inside of ourselves to examine our relationship with the Lord. Do we know him as he knows us? He is our Good Shepherd and there is nothing we shall want. He leads us to green pastures and leads us with his rod and staff through the green pastures and will anoint us with the purest oil. Let us reflect on this story before I continue.

Once a woman lost her husband when her son was only four. Since she was young and found it hard to raise her son alone, decided to marry another. One day when she came back from her work and saw her son sitting on the ground with a very sad face. She came closer to him and asked, "what happened son?" "Do fathers tell lies?" asked the son in return. "Absolutely not" answered the mother. "Then my first father was a liar, and my other father is truthful" said the son with anger. "How can you say he was a liar?" asked the mother. "When I used to play, and he would call me to eat, but I continued to play. He would ignore what I was doing and give me food. But when I do the same thing with my other father, and he says that he won't give me food and hasn't for the last three days I am starving".

Isn't it an amazing story to relate with this Sunday's Readings. God knows our ins and outs and he loves us though we are weak and fall short of his grace but he's slow to anger and bounding in love and mercy. God knows us more than we do, because he created us in his own image and has given his breath for us to breathe. During this month, I have gone to schools for Lenten Liturgies and Penitential services which has led me to reflect on the following as I spoke with students:

1. Does God know who am I?
2. How can I deepen my relationship with him?
3. Do you think God will forgive me if I commit sin or forget to pray?

4. Why did Jesus die on the Cross with nails in his hands and feet and a crown of thorns on his head?
5. Why did he die on the Cross?
6. How can I feel that God is here for me?

There were more questions and answers I got, and I believe they all lead us to understand that God knows us very well. When I say God knows us, it is not something to consider superficial but to understand that He knows and wants to save us (Please read Ezekiel 33:1-12).

Saint Gregory the Great, reflecting on the Prophet Job says “Holy Job is a type of the Church. At one time he speaks for the body, at another for the head. As he speaks of its members, he is suddenly caught up to speak in the name of their head. So, it is here, where he says: I have suffered this without sin on my hands, for my prayer to God was pure. Christ suffered without sin on his hands, for he committed no sin and deceit was not found on his lips. Yet he suffered the pain of the cross for our redemption. His prayer to God was pure, his alone out of all mankind, for in the midst of his suffering he prayed for his persecutors: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Is it possible to offer, or even to imagine, a purer kind of prayer than that which shows mercy to one’s torturers by making intercession for them? It was thanks to this kind of prayer that the frenzied persecutors who shed the blood of our Redeemer drank it afterward in faith and proclaimed him to be the Son of God. The text goes on fittingly to speak of Christ’s blood: Earth, do not cover over my blood, do not let my cry find a hiding place in you. When man sinned, God had said: Earth you are, and to earth you will return. Earth does not cover over the blood of our Redeemer, for every sinner, as he drinks the blood that is the price of his redemption, offers praise and thanksgiving, and to the best of his power makes that blood known to all around him. Earth has not hidden away his blood, for holy Church has preached in every corner of the world the mystery of its redemption”.

He continues to reflect to help us to understand that God knows us “Notice what follows: Do not let my cry find a hiding place in you. The blood that is drunk, the blood of redemption, is itself the cry of our Redeemer. Paul speaks of the sprinkled blood that calls out more eloquently than Abel’s. Of Abel’s blood Scripture had written: The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to me from the earth. The blood of Jesus calls out more eloquently than Abel’s, for the blood of Abel asked for the death of Cain, the fratricide, while the blood of the Lord has asked for, and obtained, life for his persecutors. If the sacrament of the Lord’s passion is to work its effect in us, we must imitate what we receive and proclaim to mankind what we receive. The cry of the Lord finds a hiding place in us if our lips fail to speak of this, though our hearts believe in it. So that his cry may

not lie concealed in us it remains for us all, each in his own measure, to make known to those around us the mystery of our new life in Christ”.

Someone rightly wrote that that there 12 things in Bible says God knows us:

1. My hair — Matthew 10:29-30
2. My beginning — Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13-18
3. My relationship with Him — Nahum 1:7, Romans 8:16-17, John 10:28
4. My name — Exodus 33:12, 17
5. My heart — Jeremiah 17:9-10, 1 John 3:20, 1 Kings 8:39, Psalm 66:18, Matthew 5:8
6. My thoughts — Psalm 139:2b, Job 42:2, 2 Corinthians 10:5
7. My worries — Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7
8. My actions — Ecclesiastes 12:14, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
9. My words — Psalm 139:4, Matthew 12:36
10. My way — Job 23:10, Psalm 23:4, Proverbs 16:9, Psalm 139:3
11. My weakness — Psalm 103:14, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
12. My days — Psalm 90:12, James 4:14, Hebrews 9:27, Psalm 31:15a

In today's First Reading is a beautiful passage of learning to understand that God knows as he did with David “He is the one after my own heart”. We all know that God chose King David to rule over the House of Israel and shepherd them. He became such a faithful servant of the Lord that he promised him that his kingdom and the promised was fulfilled in the Saviour “God will give him the throne of his ancestor King David and there will be no end to his Kingdom” as we read in the Gospel of St. Luke. We can learn that God does not look at what man looks at. Eliab was the oldest, and Samuel was immediately impressed by his physical appearance. Perhaps he was bigger, taller, and stronger than the rest. Either way, Samuel was impressed by him and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.” He certainly looked the part! God does not look at what man looks at. God says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#)). When Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount he began with the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” We read the Beatitudes, and it seems like Jesus is turning all our attitudes upside down. We don't naturally think that way. But that's because God does not think the way we think, and God does not look at what we look at.

During the season of Lent, we are invited to build our relationship with the Lord and walk with him to deepen our relationship with the Lord. However sometimes we fail to see that he knows us and he has called us to be his children. St. Augustine as a teenager was good and did everything to get worldly pleasures but the day he came to know God and give his life to him, he became “Father of the Church” and had such a deep understanding

of God that we can't live without praising him. His "Confession" basically reveals his inner story of life that was known by God. Whenever he pens his reflection, we could see the depth of his faith and relationship with the Lord; "The Lord tells us: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgment: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What is life, if not the life about which it is written: With you is the fountain of life?" Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: You have broken my chains? Another psalm says of him: The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.

Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness. The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: Truth has sprung up from the earth. He himself has said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow? We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face. John the apostle says in one of his letters: Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you," you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life," in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality; life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

He is our Good Shepherd who leads us to green pastures and there is no fear of the valley of death because his staff and rod leads us. (Please read Ezekiel 34 & John 10). "I am the Good Shepherd who lays his life for his sheep because he knows them, and they know him" as St. John says. I just like to share few quotes of saints to understand that God knows us and how our relationship with him should be:

“Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart; you know my desires. Possess all that I am—you alone. I am your sheep; make me worthy to overcome the devil.”- St. Agatha

“It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world.”— St. Aloysius Gonzaga

“He who trusts in himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things.”

“What does it cost us to say, ‘My God help me! Have mercy on me!’ Is there anything easier than this? And this little will suffice to save us if we be diligent in doing it.”— St. Alphonsus Liguori

“It is with the smallest brushes that the artist paints the most exquisitely beautiful pictures.”— St. André Bessette

“No one will have any other desire in heaven than what God wills; and the desire of one will be the desire of all; and the desire of all and of each one will also be the desire of God.”-St. Anselm

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire!” — St. Catherine of Siena

“As soon as I believed there was a God, I understood I could do nothing else but live for him, my religious vocation dates from the same moment as my faith: God is so great. There is such a difference between God and everything that is not.” — Blessed Charles de Foucauld

I would like to give you recap of the Gospel Readings for the last three Sundays to understand how important our Lenten journey is. First Sunday we reflected on the Temptations of Jesus in the desert to help us that God will never put us to any test or temptation which is beyond our power. On the Second Sunday of Lent we reflected on the Transfiguration of the Lord to work on our conversion of heart and just be like St. Peter who says, “Lord it good to be here...”. And then the Gospel of Last Sunday invited us to be thirsty for Jesus the living water and become messenger of his message to others, as Samaritan woman did. The Gospel did remind us that he is thirsty for us and keeps asking us “give a drink” and what is our response, we need to think and reflect upon that. However today’s Gospel brings us to a very interesting situation about a blind person whose sight was restored by the Lord but the attitude of the people is a complete rejection of the Lord.

Holy Father Pope Francis has a beautiful reflection on the Gospel and he says “Today’s Gospel sets before us the story of the man born blind, to whom Jesus gives sight. The lengthy account opens with a blind man who begins to see, and it closes, and this is curious with the alleged seers who remain blind in soul. The miracle is narrated by John in just two verses, because the Evangelist does not want to draw attention to the miracle itself, but rather to what follows, to the discussions it arouses, also to the gossip. So many times, a good work, a work of charity arouses gossip and discussion, because there are some who do not want to see the truth. The Evangelist John wants to draw attention to something

that also occurs in our own day when a good work is performed. The blind man who is healed is first interrogated by the astonished crowd, they saw the miracle and they interrogated him, then by the doctors of the law who also interrogated his parents. In the end the blind man who was healed attains to faith, and this is the greatest grace that Jesus grants him: not only to see, but also to know Him, to see in Him “the light of the world”. While the blind man gradually draws near to the light, the doctors of the law on the contrary sink deeper and deeper into their inner blindness. Locked in their presumption, they believe that they already have the light, therefore, they do not open themselves to the truth of Jesus. They do everything to deny the evidence. They cast doubt on the identity of the man who was healed, they then deny God’s action in the healing, taking as an excuse that God does not work on the Sabbath; they even doubt that the man was born blind. Their closure to the light becomes aggressive and leads to the expulsion from the temple of the man who was healed.

The blind man’s journey on the contrary is a journey in stages that begins with the knowledge of Jesus’ name. He does not know anything else about him; in fact, he says: “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes”. Following the pressing questions of the lawyers, he first considers him a prophet and then a man who is close to God. Once he has been banished from the temple, expelled from society, Jesus finds him again and “opens his eyes” for the second time, by revealing his own identity to him: “I am the Messiah”, he tells him. At this point the man who had been blind exclaims: “Lord, I believe!”, and he prostrates himself before Jesus.

Our lives are sometimes similar to that of the blind man who opened himself to the light, who opened himself to God, who opened himself to his grace. Sometimes unfortunately they are similar to that of the doctors of the law: from the height of our pride, we judge others, and even the Lord! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives.

With this blind man we see two elements: first as a human, we have little knowledge of others and God, and we are quick to judge. Second, God sees what is hidden from our human eyes and he heals us from infirmities and iniquities so that we can recognize him.

I suggest that today, you take the Gospel of John and read this passage. It will do you good, because you will see the road from blindness to light and the other evil road that leads to deeper blindness. Let us ask ourselves about the state of our own heart? Do I have an open heart or a closed heart? Is it opened or closed to God? Open or closed to your neighbour? If God knows us, do we know him?

Let me conclude my reflection with the following story to help us to deepen our relationship with God who knows otherwise....

Once evil spirits complained to God, “why are they treated so badly and live in ruins whereas good spirits dwell in such a magnificent palace and enjoy their lives? God explained

to them “I made everyone equal, but you have become evil spirits by your own actions and choice”. But even after God’s persuasion, evil spirits kept complaining about discrimination. So God thought for sometime and called all the good and evil spirits together and said, “I have made a decision on request of evil spirits, from today onward all the palaces and ruins that you had been given to stay in will be destroyed. Now both of you are given freedom to build your own separate cities.

Then a soul said, “But for this, where do we get bricks from?”

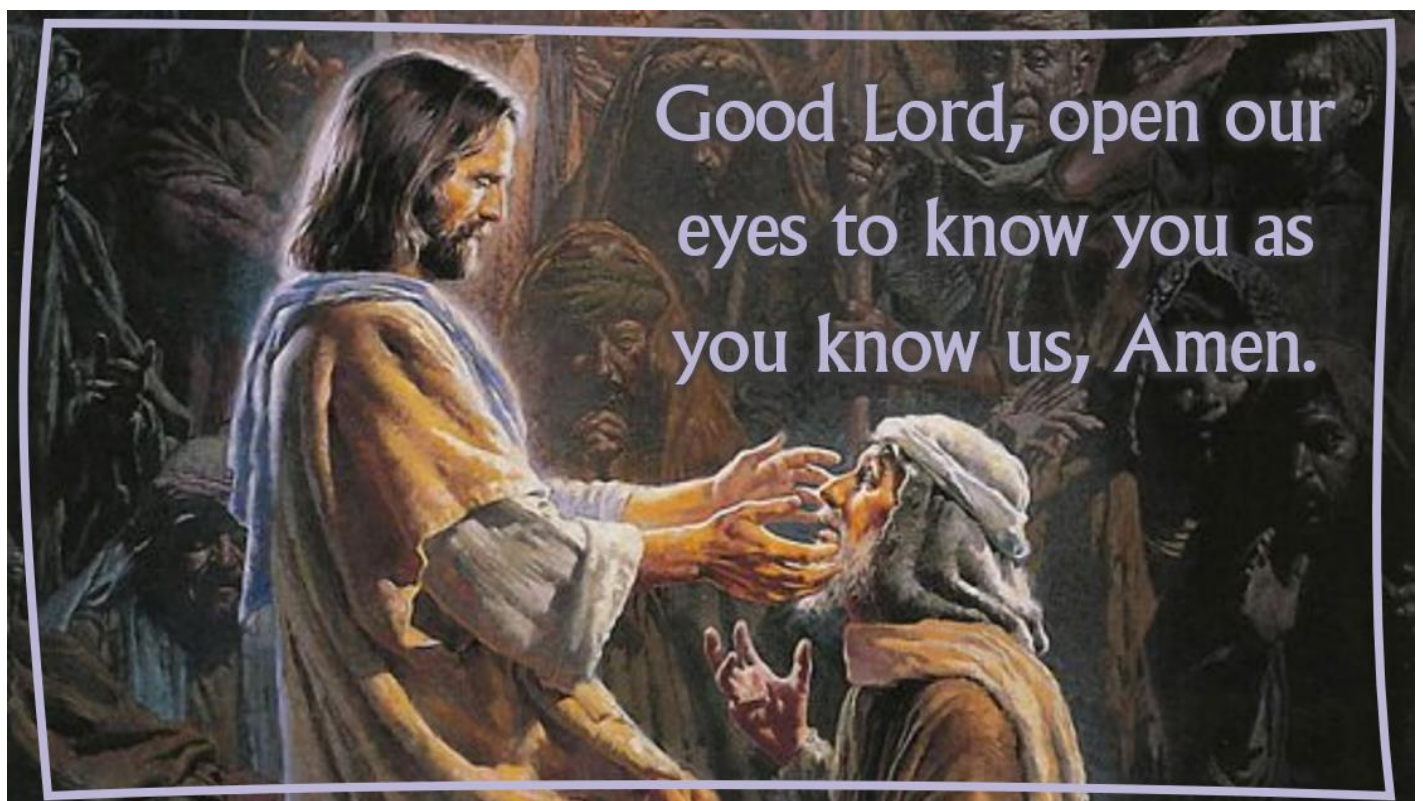
“When a person on earth tells a truth or lie, a brick will be prepared here in return for it. All the bricks will be same in strength. Now, it is for you to decide whether you will take bricks made out of truth or lies” replied God.

Evil spirits thought, more people tell lies on earth, if they took bricks made by lies then a huge city could be built. So, they told God that they would be using bricks made of lies, and on the other hand good got bricks made by truth.

Construction of both cities began simultaneously; within a few weeks city of evil spirits began to take huge form as they constantly started getting bricks made of lies and they were able to build a magnificent city. However, construction of good spirits was very slow. They were only able to build a very small part of the city.

But after few days as the evil spirits were enjoying their stay in their new homes, suddenly a strange incident happened, bricks began to disappear and then their city turned into ruins. Troubled evil spirits immediately ran to God and asked, “Why have these bricks suddenly started disappearing from our homes, our city has become ruin again?”

God smiled and said, “Bricks started disappearing! Well, it seems that the lies of those who lied were caught and that’s why it happened. People have come to know me as I know them”.



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The Fourth 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://catholiccyc.ca/Lent) | catholiccyc.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.**

Pope's Prayer Intention - March, 2023

Let us pray for victims of abuse. *We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.*

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

Braiding Together: Bishop McGrattan's reflections on Pope Francis' pilgrimage to Canada

On His pilgrimage to Canada in July of 2022, the Holy Father engaged with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in a very direct and intimate manner, offering his apology and learning from each encounter. Bishop McGrattan was instrumental in the preparations for the visit and accompanied the Holy Father during his time in our country. He has distilled his own reflections into ten key messages which he will present and discuss with us. Please join us at St. Peter's Parish, 541 Silvergrove Drive NW, Calgary on **Saturday, April 15th** as we walk together on the journey of healing, truth-telling and reconciliation. Bishop McGrattan will celebrate the 8:30 am Mass, followed by his presentation.

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
- Children's Liturgy Coordinator (Casual) - St. Michael Catholic Community, Calgary

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent



- We hear how Jesus helped a blind man to see again. God has given us the gift of sight to see all the wonderful things that he has made in our world. But we also need to open our eyes to see things that are damaging the world, and our planet. Let's think of one way you can try to make a difference, to care for our earth and to help people who are poor to change their lives for the better.
 - [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> | 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](#)

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023

*What did the man that Jesus cured say to the people
who thought Jesus was a sinner?
Use the code at the bottom to find out!*

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A B D E F G H I L M N O R S T U W Y

THE ANNUNCIATION

MARCH 25

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO SEND THEM A SAVIOUR. WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT HE SENT AN ANGEL TO A YOUNG WOMAN.



MARY WAS SHOCKED. WHO WAS THIS? WHAT WAS THE MEANING?



You shall conceive and bear a Son, and call Him Jesus...



How shall this be done, since I know not man?



The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...



SHE ACCEPTED GOD'S PLAN EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW IT WOULD NOT BE EASY.



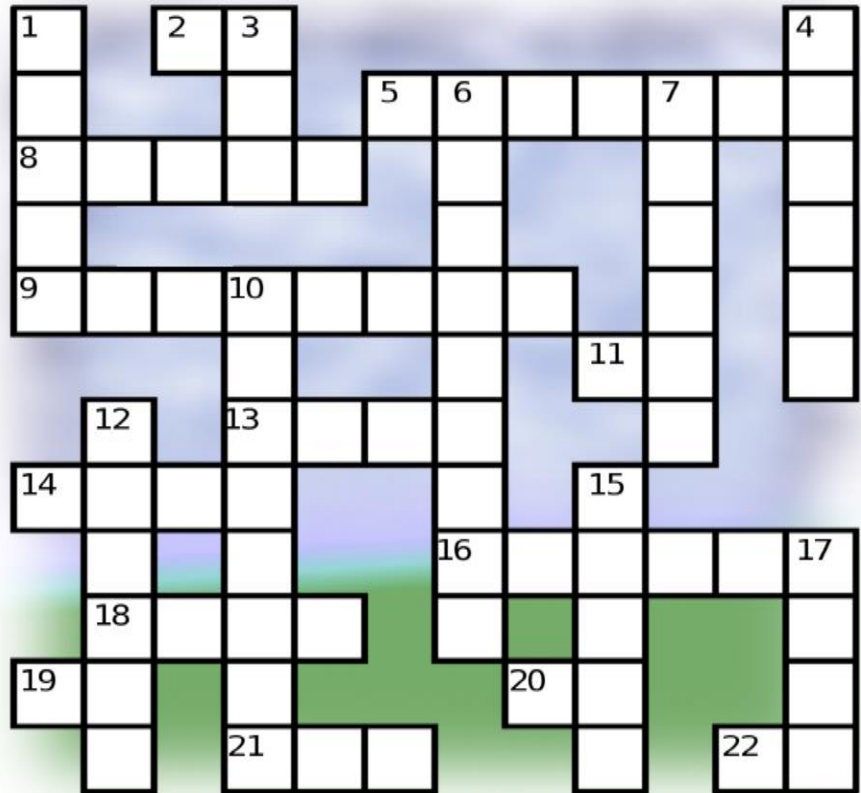
FROM THAT MOMENT THE BABY WHO WAS THE SON OF GOD BEGAN TO GROW INSIDE HER. JESUS HAD COME INTO THE WORLD HIDDEN INSIDE HIS MOTHER.



THE ANNUNCIATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE YEAR BECAUSE IT IS WHEN JESUS FIRST CAME TO EARTH, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS STILL HIDDEN. GOD DEPENDED ON MARY TO SAY 'YES' TO HIS WILL EVEN THOUGH IT WAS VERY HARD. WE SHOULD BE ALWAYS READY TO DO GOD'S WILL TOO!

The Lord is my Shepherd...

OVERFLOWS IN
SHEPHERD OF
WATERS HE
BEFORE OIL
TABLE SAKE
STAFF SOUL
WANT PATHS
LORD VALLEY
SET ANOINT
ME COURAGE
NO PASTURES



The _____(18A) is my _____,(9A)

I shall not _____.(14A)

In verdant _____(10D) he gives me repose;

beside restful _____(16A) he leads me;

he refreshes my _____.(13A)

_____(22A) guides ____ (19A) in right _____(1D)

for his name's _____.(17D)

Even though I walk in the dark _____(12D)

I fear _____(2A) evil; for you are at my side

with your rod and your _____(15D)

that give me _____. (5A)

You _____(21A) the _____ (8A)

_____ (4D) me

_____(11A) the sight ____ (20A) my foes;

you _____(7D) my head with _____;(3D)

my cup _____.(6D)

Saint Joseph

This Monday, March 20th, is the feast day of Saint Joseph. He is one of the greatest saints in the Church. The Bible doesn't tell us very much about him, but we know that he was very obedient and trusted God, and that he must have been a very holy man- God chose him to look after His own Son, Jesus!

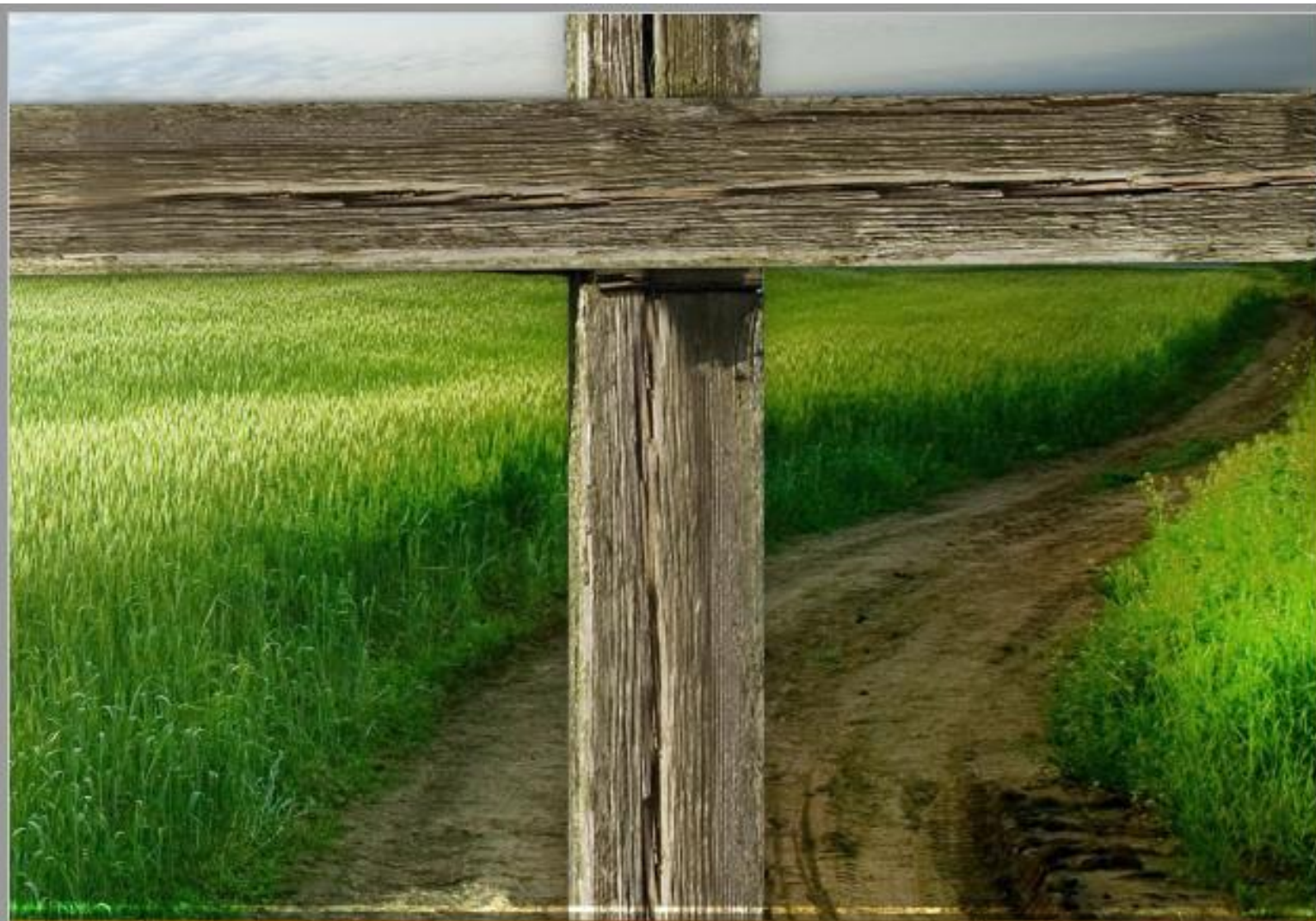
Saint Joseph was just a poor Jewish carpenter, but God saw that he was a very good man so He chose him to be the husband and protector of Mary, who would be the Mother of Jesus. Saint Joseph provided for Mary by his hard work.



When Jesus was born Saint Joseph protected Him from the evil King Herod, who wanted to kill Him. He spent his days working to support Jesus and Mary and taught Jesus how to be a carpenter. Saint Joseph was Jesus' teacher, but he also learned from Jesus how to be holy.

Saint Joseph died a holy and peaceful death in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Now he is in Heaven, helping us when we pray to him. We should pray to him because he is a great protector and teacher for us, just like he was for Jesus.

Answer to Front: If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything. Answers to cross-word: Across: 2.no 5.courage 8.table 9.shepherd 11.in 13.soul 14.want 16.waters 18.Lord 19.me 20.of 21.set 22.he Down: 1.paths 3.oil 4.before 6.overflows 7.anoimt 10.pastures 12.valley 15.staff 17.sake



Crossroads

Charity of the Cross - A Retreat During Holy Week

April 5 | 9am - 3 pm or 5:30 - 9 pm

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre

41160 Retreat Road

To Register: 403-932-2012 ~ mtfrancis@shaw.ca

Includes either noon meal or supper, presentation, quiet time,
prayer resources and ritual.

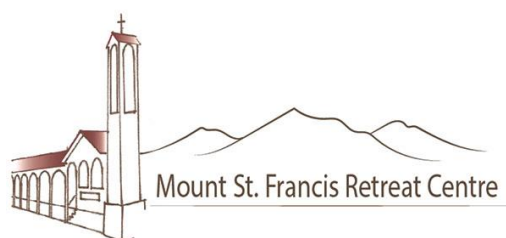
\$30

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.