

JUNE 18, 2023 - 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Email: <u>contact@holyfamilymh.ca</u> ~ Website: <u>www.holyfamilymh.ca</u> ~ Phone <u>403-527-6933</u> 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

C. V. C. J. J. C. J. J. C. J.

God's Cove and Compassion for Humanity

The readings for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A emphasize God's love for His people and His desire to save them from sin and death. God's love is demonstrated through His mercy and grace towards His people, and through His sending of Jesus Christ to die for our sins. The importance of proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of heaven: The passage from Matthew emphasizes the importance of proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus sends out His disciples to share the message of salvation and reconciliation with others, calling them to repentance and faith in God.

\* Who can we share the Good News with today?

+ Are there people in our lives who may need hope and encouragement?

+ How can we share the love of Christ with them?

### † Masses & Mass Intentions †



Saturday, June 17

5:00pm ~ Adam Ries +

Sunday, June 18

8:30am - Werner Huhn †

10:30am - John Kopp † & Cambert Streifel †

6:00pm ~ Holy Family Parish

Monday, June 19

9:00am - Ben Schafer †

Tuesday, June 20

9:00am - Irene Bachmier +

Wednesday, June 21

9:00am - Ed Weisgerber +

Thursday, June 22

9:00am - Clare Blore +

Friday, June 23

9:00am - Italo Dal Molin +

## JUNE 18, 2023 - 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Illth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Matthew 9:36-10:8





#### Mark your Calendars!

June 17 - 10:00am - Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

June 20 - 1:00pm - Faith Room

SSVP Meeting

June 20 - 7:00pm - HFP Church

Altar Servers Practice

June 21 - 9:30am - Faith Room

Bible Study

June 22 - 7:00am - Faith Room

Men's Prayer Group

June 24 - 10:00am - Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

June 25 - 10:00am - HFP Hall

Annual Parish Picnic

July 10-14 - 10:00am - HFP Hall

Deepening our Faith in God Bible Camp

OPERATING FINANCES	
MAY 1-31, 2023	
Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 45,976
Loose Collections	\$ 3,216
Future Development	\$ 4,023
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 3,408
\$ 52,931 - Budget Vs Actual	\$ 11,053
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 4,730
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,692
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 150
Mission Mexico	\$ 175
CARO	\$ 60
Seminary Fund	\$ 410
Thank You for your Generous Contributions	
Average Weekly Attendance	975



Year to Date: \$24,578 only 35% of total needed!

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

The more we can get into this fund early in the year, the less we must scramble and beg at the end of the year. Please give what you can to meet our goal!

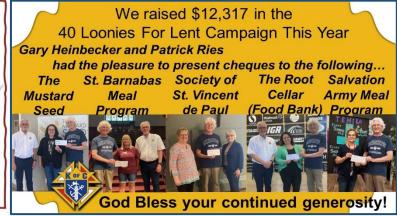
Your Generosity is Appreciated!



ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE Tuesday June 20th 7:00pm Holy Family Parish Sanctuary

This practice is for all current altar servers & any children or adults who wish to become altar servers.





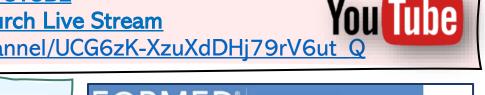


boxes. Money raised help local charities. Thank you for your support!

**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!** 

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut Q



Catholicyyc.ca/Faithfully Faithfully keeps you updated with what's happening in and around our Diocese!





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

# Brother Sun Sister Moon Heralds of Good News

Outdoor Family-Friendly
Pilgrimage Retreat
Saturday, July 22, 2023
Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre
41160 Retreat Road - Cochrane

With St. Francis of Assisi and Mary Magdalene as our guides we will celebrate God's creation.

Personal and Group Reflection

Pilgrimage Walk

**Prayer Moments** 

**Outdoor Mass** 

Picnic Lunch

**BBQ Supper** 

This is an outdoor event.

Please dress and prepare for the weather and terrain (good hiking shoes, walking poles).

Bring a water bottle and small day pack.

\$40 (14+)

\$20 (ages 6-13)

9:00 am - 7:00 pm

403-932-2012

mtfrancis@shaw.ca



IIth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

June 18, 2023

#### HE CALLS US BY OUR NAMES

The new parish priest of a small town arrived at the Church encouraged and motivated to celebrate an evening Mass, but as hours passed, no one came. After a long time, three children entered; 20 minutes after that, two young people entered. So, the priest decided to start the Mass with the five people. Over the course of Mass, a couple came in who sat on the last benches of the church.

When the priest preached and explained the Gospel, another half-dirty person came in with a rope in his hand. Disappointed and not understanding the cause of the weak involvement of the faithful, the priest nevertheless celebrated Mass with love and preached with enthusiasm and zeal.

On his way back home, he was robbed and beaten by two thieves who carried his folder where his Bible and other valued belongings were. Arriving at his rectory, while bandaging his wounds, he described that day as: "The saddest day of my life, a failure of my ministry, and the most unfruitful day of my career; but... never mind, I do everything with God and for Him"

After five years, the priest decided to share this story with parishioners at church. When he was finished telling the story, a couple in that parish stopped him and said, "Father, the couple in the story that sat at the back was us. We were on the brink of separation because of several problems and disagreements in our home. That night we finally decided to divorce, but first we decided to come to church one last time as a couple and then each one would follow their path. However, we left the thought of divorce aside after listening to your homily that same night. As a result of your homily, today we are here with our home and family restored".

As the couple spoke, one of the most successful entrepreneurs who helped in the livelihood of that church raised up his hand, asking to speak and when given the opportunity

he said, "Father, I am the person who came in half dirty with a rope in my hand. I was on the verge of bankruptcy, lost in drugs, my wife and my kids had left home on account of my behavior. That night I tried to kill myself, but the rope broke so I went out to buy another one. When I got on my way, I saw the church open, I decided to come in even though I was so dirty and had a rope in my hand. That night, your homily pierced my heart, and I walked out of here a changed person. Today I'm off the drugs, my family came home, and I became the most successful businessman in the town."

At the gate of the sacristy entrance, the Deacon shouted, "Father, I was one of those thieves who stole your belongings. The other one died that same night while we were doing the second robbery. In his briefcase, there was a Bible. I read it every time I woke up in the morning. After all this reading, I decided to apply it to my life and participate in this church." The priest was shocked and started crying along with the faithful. After all, that night he regarded as a night of failure was a very productive night.

Today's Readings are speaking the exact message to us, God has chosen with out limitations and have called us by our names because no matter how fragile and sinful we may be, if we commit all our work and vocations into the hands of the Lord, He will make it good. We should therefore always exercise our calling (work/mission) with dedication and zeal, giving it our best every day, because we can be instruments God can use for the good of someone else's life. And always keep in mind that even in the worst days of our lives we can still be a blessing to someone else because God can use the "bad circumstances" of a life to produce the best for others.

The Priest Origin calls us to understand our journey of faith and calling with commitment to our baptismal promises. "As a Christian, you should not be amazed to hear of these wonders performed for men of the past. The divine Word promises much greater and more lofty things to you who have passed through Jordan's stream by the sacrament of baptism: he promises you a passage even through the sky. Listen to what Paul says concerning the just: We shall be caught up in the clouds to meet Christ in heaven, and so we shall always be with the Lord. There is absolutely nothing for the just man to fear; the whole of creation serves him. Listen to another promise that God makes him through the prophet: If you pass through fire, the flame shall not burn you, for I am the Lord your God. The just man is everywhere welcome, and everything renders him due service. So, you must not think that these events belong only to the past, and that you who now hear the account of them do not experience anything of the kind. It is in you that they all find their spiritual fulfillment. You have recently abandoned the darkness of idolatry, and you now desire to come and hear the divine law. This is your departure from Egypt. When you became a catechumen and began to obey the laws of the Church, you passed through the

Red Sea; now at the various stops in the desert, you give time every day to hear the law of God and to see the face of Moses unveiled by the glory of God. But once you come to the baptismal font and, in the presence of the priests and deacons, are initiated into those sacred and august mysteries which only those know who should, then, through the ministry of the priests, you will cross the Jordan and enter the promised land. There Moses will hand you over to Jesus, and He himself will be your guide on your new journey. Mindful, then, of all the mighty works of God, remembering that he divided the sea for you and held back the waters of the river, you will turn to them and say: Why was it, sea, that you fled? Jordan, why did you turn back? Mountains, why did you skip like rams, and you hills, like young sheep? And the word of the Lord will reply: The earth is shaken at the face of the Lord, at the face of the God of Jacob, who turns stones into a pool and rock into springs of water".

The Bible is full of vocation stories for us to read and reflect. I would like to share some of them briefly to refresh our minds.

Noah was called to be a symbol of purification and save the righteous during the Great Flood which became the symbol of baptism which makes an end to our sins.

Abraham was called to leave his ancestral land and go to an unknown land to dwell. His commitment and dedication to his call was rewarded by having a son and he himself became the father of the multitudes.

Jacob was chosen to be called Israel and became the foundation of the chosen nation. Moses was called to save Israel from Egyptian slavery and lead them to the promised land. Samuel was chosen to be the judge over Israel who set the house of Israel in a systematic nation.

Then we can also read the stories of prophets' call to be the messenger of God's merciful work. Some of them chosen from their mothers' womb even before they were born. God calls everyday to remind us that whatever the life we are living, it's from his divine providence. He cares about us. Following is a little passage from St. Therese of Child Jesus which shows that how God cares about us. Mother Agnes of Jesus shares: "Descending the steps leading into the garden, Thérèse saw a little white hen under a tree, protecting her little chicks under her wings; some were peeping out from under. I noticed her eyes were filled with tears, and I said: "You're crying!" She put her hand over her eyes and cried even more. "I can't explain it just now; I'm too deeply touched." That evening, in her cell, she told me the following, and there was a heavenly expression on her face: "I cried when I thought how God used this image to teach us His tenderness towards us. All through my life, this is what He has done for me! He has hidden me totally under His wings! Earlier in the day, when I was leaving you, I was crying when going upstairs; I was unable to control

myself any longer, and I hastened to our cell. My heart was overflowing with love and gratitude." Saint Thérèse, Last Conversations

Holy Father Pope Francis says "A disciple of the Lord, is called to set out on a journey that is not a "stroll" but a mission to proclaim the Gospel and spread the good news of Salvation. And this is the task that Jesus gives to his disciples. One who "stands still and doesn't go out, doesn't give to others what he received in Baptism, is not a true disciple of Jesus". Indeed, "he lacks the missionary spirit", and doesn't "go out of himself to bring something good to others".

He continues to say "We are called to serve and love our brothers and sisters in the same way that God has done with us. Realize that the Lord is full of gifts for us. He asks just one thing: that our hearts be open. When we say, 'Our Father' and we pray, we open our heart, allowing this gratuitousness to enter. All God's gifts are given without cost. And sometimes the heart folds in on itself and remains closed, and it is no longer able to receive such freely given love.

We should not bargain with God. In our spiritual life we always run the risk of slipping up on the question of payment, even when speaking with the Lord, as if we needed to bribe the Lord. No! That is not the correct path. Christian life means walking. Preach and serve, but do not make use of others. Serve and give freely that which you have received freely. Pastor Jeremiah Steepek transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service, only 3 people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him.

He asked people for change to buy food — no one in the church gave him change.

He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back.

He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation.

"We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steepek." The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation.

The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with all eyes on him.

He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment then he recited,

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me."

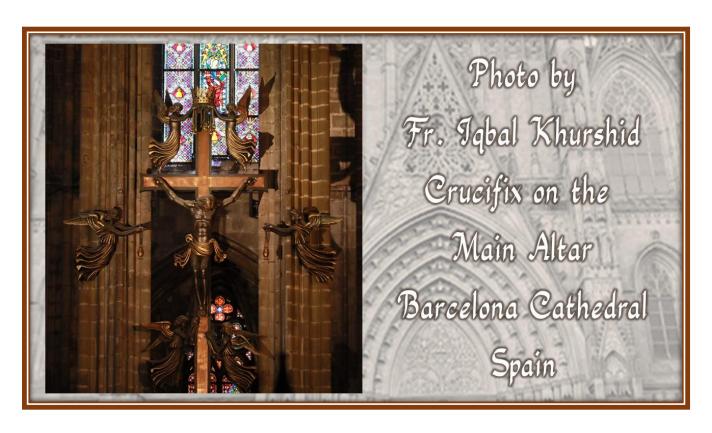
"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry, and many heads were bowed in shame.

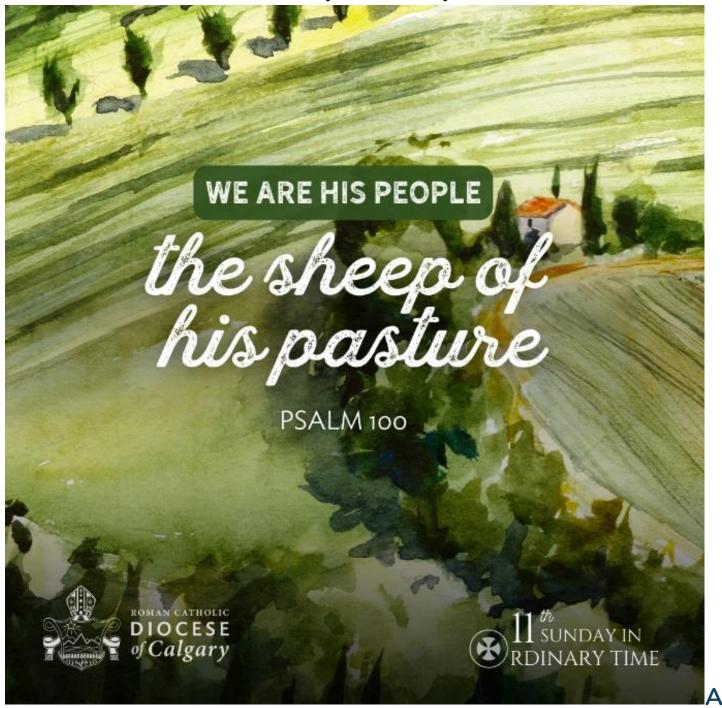
He then said, "Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples?" He then dismissed service until next week.

The Gospel today reminds us that we called by our name to the instruments of divine love and mercy to other people. Do we respect our call? Do we keep the honour and dignity of our names? Remember what St. Paul says, "we have received this ministry from the Lord and we do not loose our hearts...because it is not ours but the power of God that he has called us" (2 Corinthians 4:1-15).



## **DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES**

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



#### Message from the Bishop

Bishop McGrattan speaks about the sanctification of priests and how their gift of ministry continues to bring healing, courage, and strength to those they serve. Read now at <a href="mailto:catholicyc.ca/blog">catholicyc.ca/blog</a>

#### Apply to receive spiritual direction

Would you like to receive eight months of spiritual direction free of charge? The current participants in the Spiritual Direction Training Program (SDTP), having completed one year of training, will enter into their practicum in the fall. They will provide individual spiritual direction to volunteers **beginning in October 2023 and concluding in May 2024**. It is a wonderful spiritual growth opportunity for people desiring to deepen their relationship with God. Space is limited so please apply soon. To apply, email Sr. Ann Marie at <a href="mailto:samwfcj@aol.com">samwfcj@aol.com</a> by July 15.

#### **Always Our Children**

The Courage & Encourage Apostolate of the Diocese will be hosting a camping retreat entitled: "Always Our Children" for parents, friends or anyone journeying with children or someone they know, experiencing their sexuality as same gender attraction. This weekend retreat is meant to provide a safe space for prayer, reflection, mediation and dialogue surrounded by the natural beauty and tranquillity of the eastern slopes of the Rockies,just over an hour north of Calgary. When: **Fri, Aug. 18 to 20** - at Aspen Ranch Outdoor Education Centre. Register by July 15 to <a href="mailto:info@aspenranchcanada.com">info@aspenranchcanada.com</a> or call +1 403-772-4041

# Reinstallment of statues in the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto - June 24

St. Paul's in Brocket, AB invites you to join them in the reinstallment of the restored statue of Mary and Bernadette at the Piikani's Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto with Fr. Roy Jayamaha. When: **Saturday, June 24 at Noon**, at St. Paul's Church in Brocket. There will be a Rosary Prayer followed by a concert and barbeque with Franciscan and Friends.

#### Faith Building - June 25

Half-day retreat for grand/parent and grand/child ages 7+ to spend some quality and fun time. Expect to combine a simple wood project with Lectio Divina! Building materials are provided but bring your own hammer and drill. When: **Sunday, June 25 at 1 pm to 4 pm**, FCJ Centre. Registration: <a href="https://www.fjccentre.ca">www.fjccentre.ca</a> or call 403-228-4215

#### His Building - Golf Tournament - July 8 in Strathmore

Support the construction of the new Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Strathmore and enjoy a round of golf! When: **Sat, July 8 at 12:30 to 9 pm, Strathmore Golf Club.** More info or register - or call 403-361-4214.

#### **Career opportunities**

Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - Our Lady of the Rockies, Canmore

- Family Faith Coordinator (Full-time) All Saints, Lethbridge
- Maintenance Worker (Part-time) Sacred Heart, Calgary
- Parish Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator (Full-time) St. Peter's, Calgary
- · Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper (Part-time) St. Anthony's, Drumheller
- Assistant Coordinator (Casual) Feed the Hungry, Calgary
- Housekeeper (Temporary Full-time) Dorchester House, Calgary
- High School Math Teacher St. John Choir Schola, Calgary
- Retreat Leaders FacetoFace Ministries
- Bookkeeper/Accountant (1 Year Term) FCJ Centre, Calgary

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

#### Subscribe to Faithfully

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the <u>Diocesan publication Faithfully</u> - to keep you updated with what's happening in our Diocese. New release is coming up this Monday! <u>catholicyyc.ca/faithfully</u>

### **Corpus Christi Sunday**

Kid's challenge this week: Today's Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus sending out His twelve apostles to do His work in the nearby towns... Did you know that you are also called to be a disciple of Jesus? For most of us - especially when we are young - we are called to do Jesus' work close to home. What are some of the ways you can be an apostle for Jesus? Maybe you can pray for sick or hurt people that you know of. You can tell people the stories of Jesus that you know... Can you think of more ways? (Kid's Bulletin)

- Colouring page this Sunday
- Kid's Bulletin this Sunday
- Sunday Connection 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 <u>Diocesan Event Calendar</u>
Follow us on Social Media
<u>Facebook</u> | <u>Instagram</u> | <u>Twitter</u>

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:
<a href="https://www.catholicyyc.ca">https://www.catholicyyc.ca</a> | 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

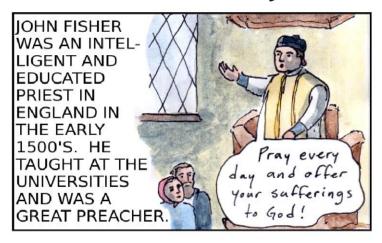
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 18th, 2023



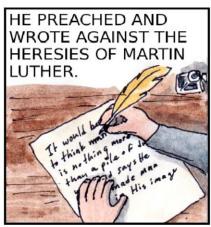
Jesus sent His Apostles to the surrounding towns to preach and heal. Can you find the way to the nearby town for the Apostles?

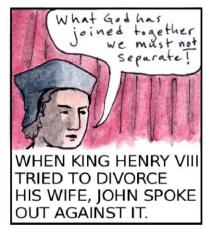
# Saint John Fisher

June 22

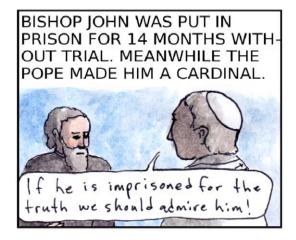














BECAUSE HE
WOULD NOT
CHANGE HIS
MIND ABOUT
THE KING, HE
WAS FINALLY
TRIED BY A
JURY, ACCUSED
OF TREASON
AND SENTENCED TO
BEHEADING.

SAINT JOHN FISHER DID NOT FEAR THE KING'S ANGER, SINCE HE KNEW THAT OBEYING GOD'S LAW IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING ALIVE. HE SPOKE THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT WAS VERY HARD. YOU CAN PRAY TO ST. JOHN FISHER WHEN YOU FEEL PRESSURED TO GIVE IN AND AGREE WITH THINGS THAT ARE WRONG.

# Jesus Sends out the Apostles Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS hidden in the puzzle. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called PETER, and his brother ANDREW; JAMES, the son of Zebedee, and his brother JOHN; PHILIP and BARTHOLOMEW, THOMAS and MATTHEW the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and THADDEUS; SIMON from Cana, and JUDAS Iscariot who betrayed him.

JESUS sent out these twelve after INSTRUCTING them thus, "Do not go into PAGAN territory or enter a SAMARITAN town. Go rather to the lost SHEEP of the HOUSE of ISRAEL. As you go, make this PROCLAMATION: 'The KINGDOM of heaven is at hand.'

IPKINGDOMAJP
SABNTHOMASEO
RGASSHEEPASD
AARTIGIVEMUE
ENTRCSJTPASM
LDHUKMAHERHO
PROCLAMATION
HELTETEDETUS
IWOIPTSDRASJ
LYMNEHTELNEO
IOEGREJUDASH

PUWESWSSIMON

Cure the SICK, raise the dead, cleanse LEPERS, drive out DEMONS. Without cost YOU have received; without cost you are to GIVE."



# Jesus Sends Us to Do His Work

Today's Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus sending out His twelve apostles to do His work in the nearby towns. He was teaching them to do His work: healing the sick, raising the dead, and even driving out demons.

Do you think they might have been a bit nervous, or even scared, to do this work?

Did you know that you are also called to be a disciple of Jesus? Some people are called to be missionaries and bring Jesus' word to far away places, but most of us - especially when we are young - are called to do Jesus' work close to home.

What are some of the ways you can be an apostle for Jesus? Maybe you can pray for sick or hurt people that you know of. You can tell people the stories of Jesus that you know. And did you know that even by being a good example to others, you are teaching them about the love

of Jesus by your actions?



Don't be scared - do Jesus' work for the people around you today!

Answer to Word Find: APOSTLES

#### 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.





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.