



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

OCTOBER 1, 2023 – 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Phone 403-527-6933

Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish ~ YouTube: Medicine Hat Holy Family Church

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Closed on Holidays.

## CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid &  
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 – Greg Martin

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.

# Obedience

Matthew 21:28-32

The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

## † Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, September 30

5:00pm ~ Marianne Wagner

Sunday, October 1

8:30am ~ Holy Family Parish

10:30am ~ Theresa Streifel †

6:00pm ~ Edith Sehn

Monday, October 2

9:00am ~ Angie & Nick Pardi †

Tuesday, October 3

9:00am ~ NO MASS - Study Days

Wednesday, October 4

9:00am ~ NO MASS - Study Days

Thursday, October 5

9:00am ~ NO MASS - Study Days

Friday, October 6

9:00am ~ Carmilito Pascual Sr. †

October 30, 2023 ~ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ~ Reflecting on History

# OCTOBER 1, 2023 – 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

## OPERATING FINANCES

AUGUST 1-31, 2023

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 45,165
Loose Collections	\$ 3,434
Future Development	\$ 2,976
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 2,372
<b>\$ 53,947- Budget Vs Actual</b>	<b>- \$ 10,037</b>

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 4,911
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,086
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 170
Mission Mexico	\$ 240
CARO	\$ 75
Seminary Fund	\$ 10

*Thank You for your Generous Contributions*

Average Weekly Attendance	839
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**Together IN ACTION**  
Annual Bishop's Appeal

Year to Date: \$39,518  
only 56% of total needed!

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

Only 3 more months to go and \$31,420 more to raise. Please give what you can to meet our goal!

*Your Generosity is Appreciated!*

Sept. 30 - 7:00pm - HFP Hall

*That Man Is You*

Sept. 30 - 10:00am - Hope Room

*Benedictine Group Meeting*

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 - After Masses - HFP Foyer

*Ministry Fair*

Oct. 1 - 10:15pm - Faith Room

*1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Class*

Oct. 2 - OFFICE IS CLOSED

In lieu of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 2 - 7:00pm - Faith Room

*Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting*

Oct. 3 - 7:00pm - Hope Room

*Catholic Women's League Executive Meeting*

Oct. 4 - 9:30am - Faith Room

*Bible Study*

Oct. 4 - 7:00pm - Faith Room

*R.C.I.A.*

Oct. 6 - 9:30am to 9:30pm - HFP Chapel

*12 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Oct. 6 - 9:30-10:30am & 8:00-9:30pm

*Reconciliation*

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28. Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

Philippians 2:1-11. Matthew 21:28-32.

*I Don't Want To!*

Sometimes we bristle at being told what to do. We may say a yes or a no, then do something else. The demands of Christian living are not easy. But we look to Jesus for guidance, for encouragement, for example. Reread Philippians all week. It is a longer version of what we heard on Palm Sunday. It urges us to be like Christ.

† What attitude-adjustment do I need to be more like Christ?

† What will I do to be more compassionate and merciful?

† What interest of another will be important to me this week?



The Office is Closed

Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

& Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Sacramental Preparation 2023-2024

1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30pm in Faith Room

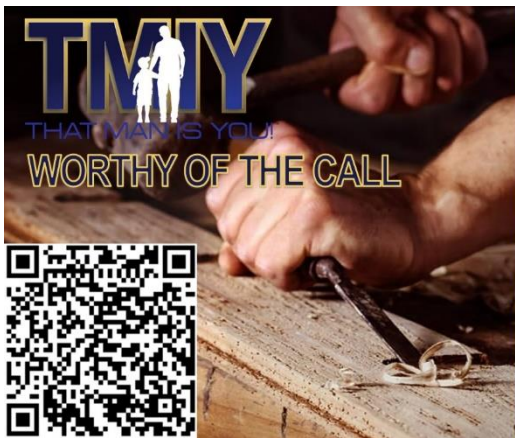
Confirmation Class

Thursday, October 26 at 6:00pm in Faith Room

1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Class

Sunday, October 29 at 10:15am in Faith Room





Holy Family  
Parish Hall  
Breakfast 7:30am  
Presentation  
8:30 – 9:30 am  
October 7  
Theme  
Pride: First we  
Come, Then we Go  
Presenter  
Jason Angelette

Listen...with the ear of your heart.

This is the opening line of the rule of St. Benedict.  
Come join us (Benedictine Oblates) in prayer as we  
listen to the voice of God in our lives.



We meet every Saturday morning  
at 10:00 in the Hope Room  
at Holy Family Parish.

For more information call Carol at 403-526-0415.



Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

**WEDNESDAYS**

**7:00PM**

**FAITH ROOM**

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO LEARN ABOUT  
THE TRADITIONS AND TEACHINGS OF THE  
CATHOLIC FAITH? DO YOU FEEL A NEED  
FOR A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR  
FAITH BELIEFS IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH  
THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF YOUR  
CHILDREN?

IF SO, PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE  
INTERESTED IN THE RCIA PROGRAM.

### *12 Hour Adoration* Friday,

October 6th, 2023

9:30am - 9:30pm

Reconciliation

9:30 - 10:30am

& 8:00 - 9:30pm

All parishioners welcome and encouraged to attend



"The grace of  
Adoration of Jesus  
in the most Blessed  
Sacrament is given  
to everybody"

If you can help out for a  
half hour time slot,  
there is a sign-up sheet  
by the Parish office.

### *First Saturday Mass*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of  
each month  
at 8:30am*

*October 7, 2023*



### PRAESIDIUM Volunteer Training

**All Volunteers are Required to Attend**

**October 13 from 6:00-8:00pm**

**or 14, 10:00am-Noon**

**Holy Family Parish Faith Room**

The purpose of the training is to ensure that as adults,  
we assume the responsibility and accountability for  
keeping our children and vulnerable adults safe at all  
times.

Safe environments start here.

### **Parish Breakfast ~ October 15th After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses**

**SAUSAGES - PANCAKES**

**OMELETTES - FRUIT**

**&**

**THE BEST FELLOWSHIP EVER!**

**BREAKFAST-\$10, UNDER 12- \$5 & UNDER 6-FREE**



### **FR. NAVEED ARIF**

Fr. Naveed will continue to be the Parish  
Administrator of St. Mary's Parish, Cluny,  
Holy Trinity Parish, Siksika, and St.  
Columba Parish, Bassano.

Come and visit with Fr. Naveed

Friday, October 20, 2023

Supper at 5:00pm

Holy Family Parish Hall

Please continue to support Fr. Naveed with your prayers.



View the Full-Length Bulletin at [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) or on  
Facebook - Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish





Bulletin has  
more  
information

**What?** A food and social event celebrating our cultural diversity.  
**When?** Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, after the 5:00pm Mass.  
**Where?** Holy Family Parish.  
**Who?** Everybody is encouraged to attend!  
**Why?** To celebrate that each of us!  
**How?** By sharing your culture with our community.  
Please contact PPC Chair Gary Heinbecker at [tasteoftheworld2023@gmail.com](mailto:tasteoftheworld2023@gmail.com)

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

### FALL SUPPER

13 yrs. – Adult -\$20.00, 7 – 12 yrs. -\$10.00  
6 yrs. & Under - Free

~Hosted by~  
Holy Family  
Catholic  
Women's League

~MENU~  
Roast Beef, Mashed  
Potatoes, Salads &  
Apple Strudel

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00pm

## Gifts from God

### The Art Show

November 18-19, 2023  
Following each Mass

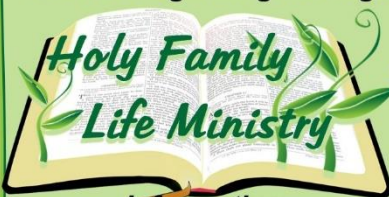
Registration deadline November 3, 2023  
see bulletin for info.

## Children's Liturgy has started a new season of learning about God!

10:30am Mass

Questions or to  
volunteer call  
Tammy at 403-866-7886

If you are passionate about the dignity of life & would like to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches regarding the dignity of life, please join us.



Information  
Valerie at 587-588-5788  
Sonia at 403-528-0028

Prayer and Adoration  
2nd Tuesday of the month  
at 7:00pm in the Chapel.  
Education Evening  
4th Monday of the month  
at 7:00pm in the Faith  
Room.

## St. Patrick's Parish

### Annual Fall Dinner

Sunday, October 22, 2023

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

6 and under free, 7-12 \$5.00, 13 over \$15.00

## MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL

Mother Teresa School has a total population of approximately 240 children in K-6 as well as an Early Learning Program. We offer an Out of School Care Program to all students in K-6 and a Nutrition Program for everyone!

At Mother Teresa School, we are implementing a Health and Wellness Program for the 2023-2024 school year. We will be diving deep into the 5 main pillars of Health and Wellness (Physical, Mental, Spiritual, Nutritional and Digital) through our F.I.T. Fridays which stands for Facing It Together. Mother Teresa School would not be what it is without the support of our parents, community members and, of course, our parish. We encourage all stakeholders to continue to communicate with us at the school. Your opinions matter!



## Vincentian Corner

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to respond to our neighbors in need here in our community. With costs of everything rising, we are seeing an increase in both numbers as well as dollar amounts required to get the person or family out of their situation. We are so very grateful for the support we receive from our fellow parishioners both in prayers and in donations. Those we assist are so grateful for the ways in which we can help—they are often moved to tears as they express their appreciation. Thank you for making it possible for us to 'lighten the load' of the heavy burden many among us are carrying. May God bless you for your generosity and kindness.

Our local conference is always ready to welcome new volunteers. Please pray to discern if you are being called to join us in seeing the face of Jesus in our neighbors as they struggle to keep afloat during these difficult times. As followers of Jesus, we all need to play our part in serving our friends in need. Please call either church office if you would like more information about being a Vincentian in our community. May God bless you and your families.

SSVP Medicine Hat Vincentians



**FORMED**® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

USE WITH

Roku

Apple TV

Fire TV

Chromecast

1 Scan this with your phone camera  
2 Enter our parish name or zip code  
3 Enjoy the content you want

Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) for more information

E-transfer  
ONLINE GIVING



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

*Faithfully*  
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

[catholicyyc.ca/Faithfully](http://catholicyyc.ca/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\*



**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-XzuXDHj79rV6ut\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXDHj79rV6ut_Q)





Therefore, Parish Pastoral Council would like to invite everyone of you to join and participate in this wonderful and exciting event happening in our Parish Community.

**Where:** Holy Family Parish Hall

- cooking only for 15-20 people.
- Wear your own traditional outfits.
- Prayers of the Faithful will be in the local language.
- Traditional dance or music.

Please contact Gary Heinbecker: [tasteoftheworld2023@gmail.com](mailto:tasteoftheworld2023@gmail.com)



# Joe McKinnon Council #9502 Knights of Columbus



Position	Name
Grand Knight	Greg Martin
Deputy Grand Knight	Jimmy Tablan
Financial Secretary	Pat Ries
Treasurer	Ron Pisoni
Chancellor	
Recorder	Pat Brigham
Advocate	Andy Hamel
Warden	Walter Pratt
Inside Guard	Dale Maddaford
Outside Guard	Michael Camphor
Year 1 Trustee	Herb Durda
Year 2 Trustee	Gary Heinbecker
Year 3 Trustee	Kent Friedt
Lecturer	Rick Brown
Membership Director	Garry Lux
Faith in Action Program Director	Greg Martin
Faith in Action Life Director	Allan Lawson
Faith in Action Family Director	Jimmy Tablan
Faith in Action Faith Director	Darrell Bonagofsky
Faith in Action Community Director	Ron Pisoni
Pastoral Parish Council Representative	Garry Mastel

## 2023-24 Knights Events

Date & Activity
Sunday, September 10 Corn Roast
Sunday, September 24 Knights Mass
Sunday, October 15 Breakfast
Sunday, November 19 Breakfast
Saturday, December 9 Knights Mass
Sunday, December 17 Christmas Breakfast
Sunday, January 21 Breakfast
Sunday, February 25 Breakfast
Sunday, April 7 Breakfast
Sunday, May 5 Breakfast
Sunday, June 23 Parish Picnic



26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

October 1, 2023

## OBEDIENCE THROUGH LISTENING

The value of obedience involves not only speaking but, perhaps even more importantly, listening. To truly be heard, we must first extend the gift of our attention to others. It's a powerful paradox that when we want people to listen to us, the key lies in our willingness to listen to them. Think of it as a bridge, where one end is your desire to share your thoughts, ideas, and emotions, and the other end is your capacity to truly hear and understand those of others. This bridge is fortified by empathy, patience, and the genuine curiosity to comprehend the world from their perspective. When we engage in active listening, we build connections that transcend mere words. We create spaces where voices are heard, where experiences are acknowledged, and where the magic of understanding blossoms. It's a silent affirmation that each person's story matters, that their presence is valued, and that their thoughts are worthy of consideration. In a world that often amplifies the noise of opinions, taking the time to genuinely listen becomes an act of courage and compassion. It's a testament to your commitment to fostering meaningful connections and enriching the lives of those around you. If we fail to listen and do whatever we like to do, then there is no difference between us and the trees in the following story.

There was once a forest made up of tiny trees that were all growing up together. They had been planted by a very old labourer who took care that they would all grow up to be straight and healthy. However, the area was battered by strong winds, and the little trees preferred to avoid the bothersome gusts, so they bent their trunks and branches to shelter themselves.

The old man, knowing they could never grow well like this, set about straightening them out, and spent many hours tying their slim trunks to supporting posts, hoping his beloved trees would understand he was doing this for their own good.

But those naughty trees had no desire to put up with all that wind. It mattered not to them that the old man would promise them that when they were tall and upright the air wouldn't bother them a lot. They always got by, by bending and twisting themselves, hiding from the



wind. Only one of those trees, one located right in the middle of the forest, forced itself to grow up straight, patiently bearing the annoying gusts.

The years passed, and the old man died. And from then on, the trees could grow however they liked, bending, and crouching from the wind just as they pleased, with no one bothering them about it. All, that is, except the single straight tree in the centre of the forest, who remained determined to grow up just as a tree should.

But as the forest grew, and the trees got thicker and stronger, they began to hear cracks from inside. Their branches and trunks needed to keep growing, but the trees were so twisted that the inexorable growth they were experiencing only brought them pain and suffering, even more than the suffering they had avoided by staying out of the wind. Each day and night, in the depths of the forest, one could hear the cracking and snapping of the trees, and it sounded like groans and sobbing. And around that area the place became known as the wailing forest.

And it was a place with a special charm since, right in its centre, surrounded by thousands of short, knotty, twisted trees, rose one impressive tree that was long and straight like no other. And that tree, the only one that never creaked or cracked, continued growing and growing, without a worry for the capricious wind and its accomplice, the breeze.

Obedience is a virtue of so excellent a nature, that Our Lord was pleased to mark its observance upon the whole course of His life; thus, He often says, "He did not come to do His Own will, but that of His Heavenly Father". He must have learned from his own mother whose words keep reminding us to obey the Lord and trust in him; "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word".

A young man had been to Wednesday night Bible Study. The Pastor had spoken about "listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice."

The young man could not help but wonder, "Does God still speak to people?" After service he went out with some friends for coffee and pie, and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God, if you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey."

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, "God is that you?" He did not get a reply, so he started on toward home. But again, the thought came to him... buy a gallon of milk.

The young man thought about Samuel, and how he did not recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. "Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk." It did not seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. So, he stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started toward home.

As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, "Turn down that street." This is crazy, he thought, and drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down Seventh Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half jokingly, he said out loud, "Okay, God, I will".

He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in a semi-commercial area of town. It was not the best, but it was not the worst of neighborhoods either. The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark, like people were already in bed.

Again, he sensed something, "Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street." The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. "Lord, this is insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad, and I will look stupid."

Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door and said, "Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something but, if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?"

Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face, and he didn't seem so happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. The man asked, "What is it?" The young man thrust out the gallon of milk and said, "Here, I brought this to you," he said.

The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway speaking loudly in Spanish. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face.

The man began speaking and half crying, "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We did not have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I ask him to send an angel with some. Are you an Angel?"

The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put it in the man's hand. Then he turned and walked back toward his car and tears were streaming down his face. He knew then that God does still speak to people... and answer prayers.

St. Augustine rightly compares two groups of people who go astray from the Lord by not listening and then comes back to the Holy Mother Church and obey. "They were scattered on every mountain, and on every hill and over the entire face of the earth. What is the meaning of the phrase: They were scattered over the entire face of the earth? Some men continually strive for all the goods of the world, the goods that are so evident on the face of the earth; yes, they love and prize them. They do not want to die, to have their lives buried in Christ. Over the entire face of the earth: such men love earthly things; moreover, such straying sheep are to be found over the entire face of the earth. They dwell in different places, but one mother, pride, has given birth to them all, just as one mother, our Catholic Church, has given birth to all faithful Christians scattered over the entire world. Small wonder that pride gives birth to division, and love to unity. But our



catholic mother is herself a shepherd; she seeks the straying sheep everywhere, strengthens the weak, heals the sick, and binds up the injured. They may not know one another, but she knows all of them because she reaches out to all her sheep.

Thus, she is like a vine that is spread out everywhere in its growth. The straying sheep are like useless branches which because of their sterility are deservedly cut off, not to destroy the vine but to prune it. When these branches were cut down, they were left lying there. But the vine grew and flourished, and it knew both the branches that remained upon it and those that had been cut off and left lying beside it. She calls the stray sheep back, however, because the Apostle said about the broken branches: God has the power to graft them on again. Call them sheep straying from the flock or branches cut off from the vine, God is equally capable of calling back the sheep or of grafting the branches on again, for he is equally the chief shepherd and the true farmer. And they were scattered over the entire face of the earth, and there was no one to search for them, no one to call them back, that is to say, no one among those wicked shepherds. There was no one to search for them, that is, no one among men”.

In our modern world two words become obsolete: Listening and Obeying. No one either in the family or society wants to listen and obey and these issues are causing more problems in the society. In our present times, people think these two words are making them lose their own identity and respect. Why should we listen and obey to others when we do not need other people in our lives? We know everything and no one has the right to touch or teach them anything. However, I believe by listening and obeying we discipline ourselves and enhance our spiritual growth. In our Catholic faith there are so many wonderful saints who have given us the example of perfect obedience through their own lives that there is so much for us to learn. We blindly assume obedience is exhausted by the demeaning submission of our freedom to an extrinsic imposition of an authority figure. We tend to look at any suffering that results from obedience as something to be avoided at all costs. Saint Catherine of Siena spent her life encouraging a deeper obedience to God the Father. Although the earthly life of this Doctor of the Church ended over six hundred years ago, her spiritual teaching has passed into the universal patrimony of the Church. In particular, the personal relationship she enjoyed with the eternal Father through her faith in Christ crucified can help us reassess our own attitudes toward the Fatherhood of God, the obedience of Christ and suffering for the Lord.

For Saint Catherine of Siena, the painful but beautiful mystery of Christian obedience is rooted in the truth about the Father revealed in Christ. The Father is not indifferent to our plight, and He is not removed or far away from the hardships we must endure. In the wisdom of Saint Catherine, He is completely aware of us and knows the truth about who we are. He knows the peril we face and ever hopes for our return to Him, even as we demean and hurt one another in ways He finds completely unacceptable. The Father desires that we obey His Eternal Word, and this requires us to be obedient to one another out of reverence for Christ. This is as true in the obedience rendered in religious life as it is in the obedience, we owe one another in our marriages and in our families. When we

respond to one another with an impatience unbecoming of the Lord, we glimpse at our lack of trust in God. There is an abyss that yawns between the impatient power games we play with each other and true Christian obedience. If it is painful at times, the obedience of Christ is always open to friendship and salvific solidarity in the most unexpected and beautiful ways”.

This Sunday's Scriptures Readings are teaching us the lesson to learn how to be obedient to God the Almighty Father. Prophet Ezekiel is inviting everyone to listen to the voice of God and turn back from their sinful ways and have eternal life. To obey the Lord, we need to listen his voice first but sometimes we react in different way as the Psalmist says “O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.” Therefore, in my anger I swore, they shall not enter my rest.”

In the Gospel through the Parable the Lord is teaching us to learn to be obedient. The obedience doesn't come from mere words, but it is shown through the action. This obedience is not only human, but it is divine as well. Our Saviour and Teacher has us through his own life to be faithful; “he was obedient to the death even death on the cross”. In the Book of Revelation, we read it is written “be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of eternal life.

Here are some quotes from the saints regarding obedience and I believe they are going to teach so much during this whole week to meditate:

Saint Teresa

“I know the power obedience has of making things easy which seem impossible”.

Saint Ignatius

St. Teresa of Avila

“It is not hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey”.

“I often thought my constitution would never endure the work I had to do, (but) the Lord said to me: ‘Daughter, obedience gives strength.’”

St. John Chrysostom

“On each occasion I say: ‘Lord, thy will be done! It's not what this or that one wants, but what You want me to do.’ This is my fortress, this is my firm rock, this is my sure support.”

St. Gregory the Great

“Obedience, is rightly placed before all other sacrifices, for in offering a victim as sacrifice, one offers a life that is not one's own; but when one obeys one is immolating one's own will.”

St. Francis de Sales

“The Devil doesn't fear austerity but holy obedience.”



St. Thomas Aquinas

“Obedience unites us so closely to God that in a way transforms us into Him, so that we have no other will but His. If obedience is lacking, even prayer cannot be pleasing to God.”

St Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul

My daughter, know that you give Me greater glory by a single act of obedience than by long prayers and mortifications. (894)

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Don't give in to discouragement..... If you are discouraged it is a sign of pride because it shows you trust in your own powers. Never bother about people's opinions. Be obedient to truth. For with humble obedience, you will never be disturbed.

Holy Father Pope Francis shares his reflection on the Gospel: “Today’s Gospel in fact, it penetrates the soul and brings to light the secrets and contradictions of the heart.

Today it challenges us with the parable of the two sons, who respond to the Father's invitation to go into his vineyard: One says no, but then goes; the second says yes, but then doesn't work. There is, however, a big difference between the first son, who is lazy, and the second, who is hypocritical. Let's try to imagine what happened inside them. In the heart of the first, after his no, the invitation of his father still rang out; in the second, however, despite his yes, the father's voice was buried. The memory of the father awakened the first child from laziness, while the second, although he knew the good, contradicted his word with his actions. In fact, he had become impervious to the voice of God and of conscience, and without any problems accepted the duplicity of life. Jesus with this parable places two paths before us. Experience shows that we are not always willing to say yes in word and deed, because we are sinners. But we can choose whether to be sinners on the way, who listen to the Lord, and when they fall, they repent and rise, like the first child; or sitting sinners, ready to always justify themselves and only with words according to what suits them.

This parable Jesus was addressed to some religious leaders of the time, the Son with his double life, while ordinary people often behaved like the other son. These leaders knew and explained everything, in a formally flawless way, like true intellectuals of religion. But they did not have the humility to listen, the courage to question themselves, and no strength to repent. And Jesus is very strict: he says that even tax collectors are more likely to enter the Kingdom of God. It is a harsh rebuke, because the tax collectors were corrupt traitors of the homeland. So what was the problem with these leaders? They were not simply mistaken about something, but they were mistaken in the way of life before God: they were, in words and with others, unyielding guardians of human traditions, unable to understand that life according to God is on the way and requires the humility to open up, repent and start again.

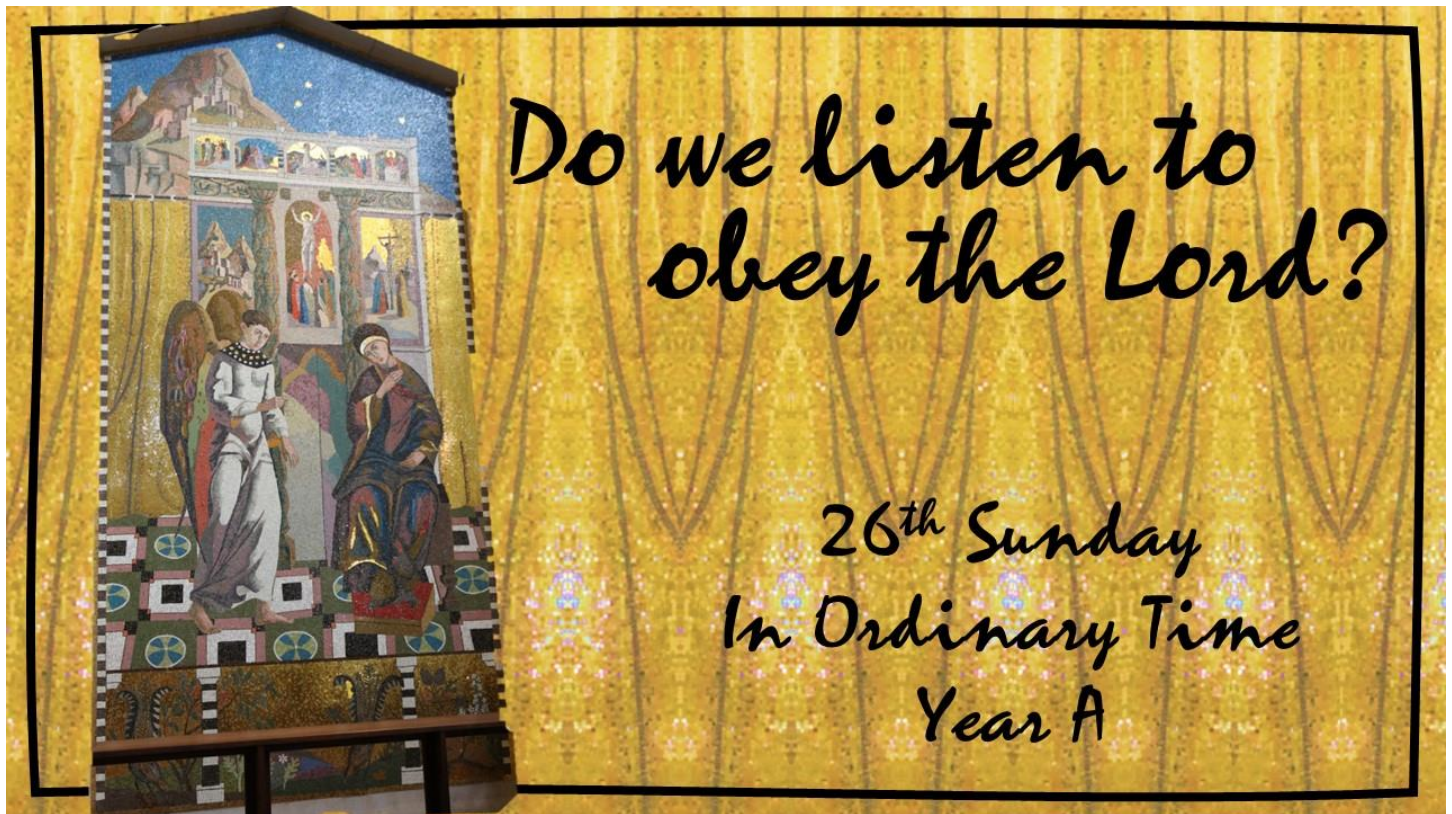
The will of the Father, who every day gently speaks to our conscience, is carried out only in the form of repentance and continuous conversion. In the end, everyone has two paths ahead of them: to be repentant sinners or hypocritical sinners. But what matters is not the reasoning that justifies and attempts to save appearances, but a heart that moves forward

with the Lord, struggles every day, repents, and returns to Him. Because the Lord seeks the pure of heart, not pure "on the outside".

Let us listen to the voice of God and obey him because he is our Father, and we are his children the work of his hand. To listen and obey the Lord is let go and let God in our troubled world and life as this following story will remind us.

Some few years ago a university student was listening to a Bible reading on the first chapter of Genesis. The speaker described God in His work of turning chaos into cosmos, and he played on the word "let"—"And God said, Let there be light; and there was light," and urged his hearers to "let God." This young man went home with the Word of God ringing in his ears and he could not get rid of them. He carved them out in wooden letters, threaded them on a string and hung them in his dressing room. "Let God!" But how could he "let God"? It meant so much. And then one morning in desperation he banged his bathroom door as he went out, saying, "I cannot let God." When he came back the "d" from his legend was missing and it read, "Let go." And he saw his difficulty. He saw the thing to which he was clinging, which kept him from blessing, and he "let go" and "let God."

Do we listen to obey the Lord?





# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary time



### **Journeying Together | Hope & Healing**

Oct 13&14

The Diocese of Calgary invites individuals or families to join a transformative workshop designed for those navigating the grief of miscarriage. Connect with others who understand your pain, share your experience in a safe and compassionate environment, and learn coping strategies from professionals and peers who have gone through this journey. When: Friday & Saturday (Oct. 13 & 14) at Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary.

Register online at:

[miscarriageliturgy.ca/workshop](http://miscarriageliturgy.ca/workshop)

Calgary Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Society (CCCRS) invites you to come to their annual Conference with theme "God is more than Able." When: Fri and Sat (Oct 20-21) at St. Luke's Parish, Calgary. For more information or to register visit [cccrs.com](http://cccrs.com)

Understanding the History & Legacy of the Indian Residential Schools

You are invited to a talk by Justice Len Marchand British Columbia Court of Appeal who will be joining via livestream, on Saturday, Sep. 30 at St. Peter's Catholic Church Parish Hall at 10 am.

### **Like a Mighty River Conference**

### **Pastoral Care Ministry Training**

The Diocese of Calgary is offering a Pastoral Care Ministry Training for those who feel called to assist their parish in a healing ministry to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound and bereaved members.

When: Saturdays (Nov 11 & 25) at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, Calgary.

Register at: [catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare](http://catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare)

### **Walking Together as People of Faith**

- with Fr. Cristino

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League invites you to attend a virtual retreat celebrating Truth & Reconciliation Day. The retreat promises to be a compelling gathering encouraging us as we Walk together as People of Faith.

Facilitator: Fr. Cristino Bouvette. When: Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, Zoom - from 1:30 pm to 3 pm. More info on our calendar of events - [catholicyyca.ca/news](http://catholicyyca.ca/news)

### **Movie Screening: The Letter**

The Letter, a thought-provoking new documentary that has been developed with the help and participation of Pope Francis, is uniting the Church across the globe in its call for environmental and social justice. When: Wed, Oct. 4 at 7 pm - FCJ Centre, Calgary. Free admission & refreshments.

### **Evening with Mary**

All are invited to attend a very special "Evening with Mary" in preparation for the Feast of Mary, Queen of the Rosary! When: Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, at 7 pm at Canadian Martyrs Church, Calgary. Featuring: St.

Luke Contemporary Choir and Friends for the recitation of the Holy Rosary, Mezzo-soprano Eswina Ngai, and a reflection by Father Cuong. A free will offering will go towards the Canadian Martyrs special projects' fund.

### **40-Hour for Vocations**

Take part in a 40 Hours Adoration to ask the Lord for an increase of vocations in our Diocese. When: Friday, Oct 6 at 3 pm to Sunday Oct 8 at 7 am - St. Anthony's Adoration Chapel, Calgary. Get code to enter the chapel by signing up

### **Perogies & Yard Sale**

at Our Lady Queen of Peace

Come visit the Parish Yard Sale, and see what treasures you can find! There will be perogies and other baking products for sale. When: Sat & Sun, Oct 7 & 8, at 10 am to 5 pm - Our Lady Queen of Peace, Calgary.

### **Nigerian Thanksgiving Mass**

Join the Nigerian Thanksgiving Mass with celebrant Fr. John Gannon. Reception will follow after Mass. Kindly bring non-perishable food items for the thanksgiving. When: Sunday, Oct. 8 at 6 pm - Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary. Candlelit Rosary

### **In the month of Holy Rosary**

St. Bonaventure invites you to their parish candlelit Living Rosary for our Blessed Mother. When: Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 pm - St. Bonaventure, Calgary.



### **Love More 6.0 Concert**

You are invited to the annual benefit concert for the care of retired priests in the Diocese of Calgary, organized by the Couples for Christ. When: Sat, Oct. 14 at 7 pm - St. Thomas More, Calgary. To get tickets, contact 587-700-8284.

### **Career opportunities**

The Diocese of Calgary is hiring various roles for the parishes in the Diocese and the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Visit [catholiccycc.ca/careers](http://catholiccycc.ca/careers) for more details, and please help us spread the word!

### **Holy Spirit Retreat**

Calgary Catholic Charismatic Renewal Society invites you to deepen your connection with the Holy Spirit in this weekend retreat at Mount St. Francis. When: Oct 13-15, Mount St. Francis, Cochrane. For more information, contact Doreen at 403-969-0966.

### **Love More 6.0 Concert**

"We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19). Couples for Christ invites you to their annual benefit concert for the care of our retired priests, and ANCOP. When: Sat, Oct. 14 at 7 pm - St. Thomas More Parish, Calgary. The concert will feature local artists with their amazing voices and talents. Ticket is \$10/person. Text or call 587-700-8284 to reserve tickets.

### **"She Sings"**

An Evening of Music and Testimony for Women

Beloved Daughters Ministry invites women of all ages to join them for a time of music and fellowship at the Cardel Theatre. The evening will be a showcase of local women sharing testimonies of life and faith through song and story telling. Light snacks and socializing to follow after the show. When: Saturday, Oct. 28 from 7 pm

# The Kids' Bulletin

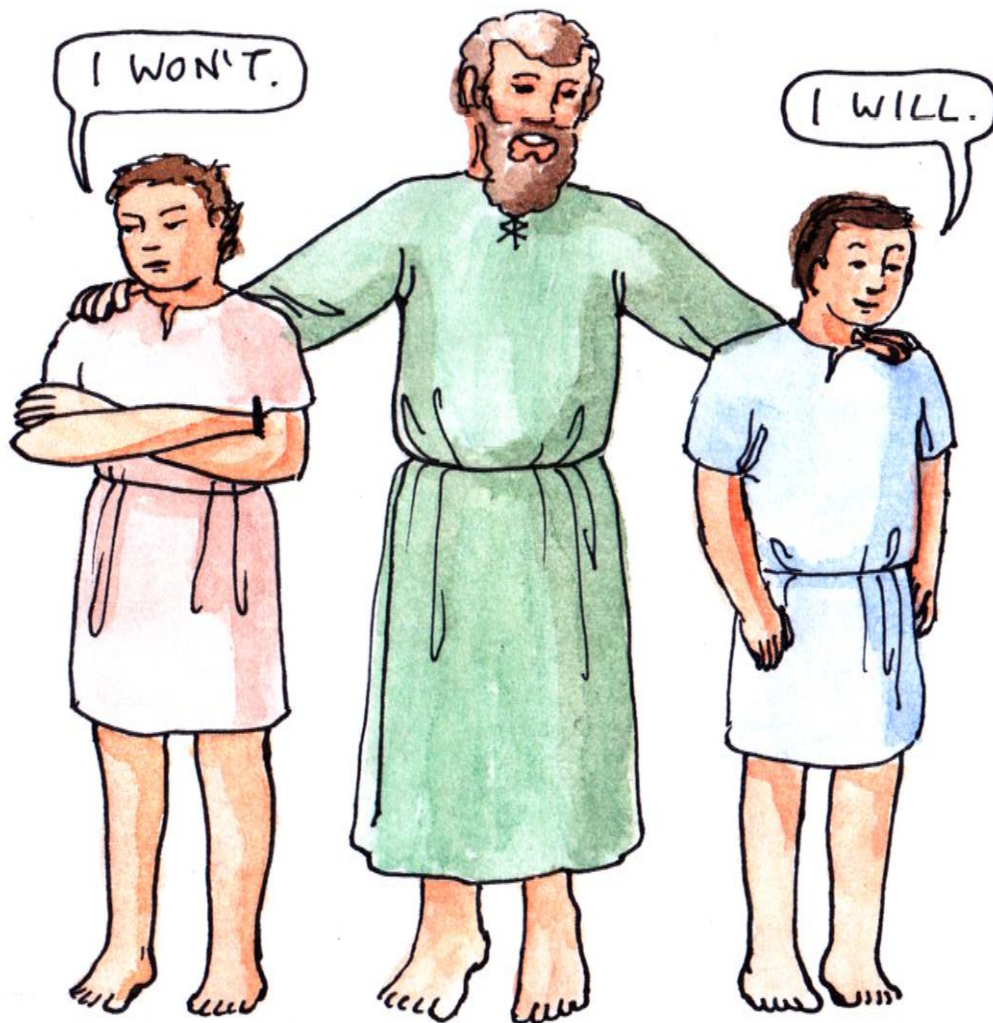
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1st, 2023

*In today's Gospel parable, a father asked his two sons to work in the vineyard.*

*Which one did what his father asked?*

Use every second letter to fill in the blanks and find out the answer!



T A H B E C O D N E E F W G H H O I S J A K I  
L D M H N E O W P O Q U R L S D T N U O V T

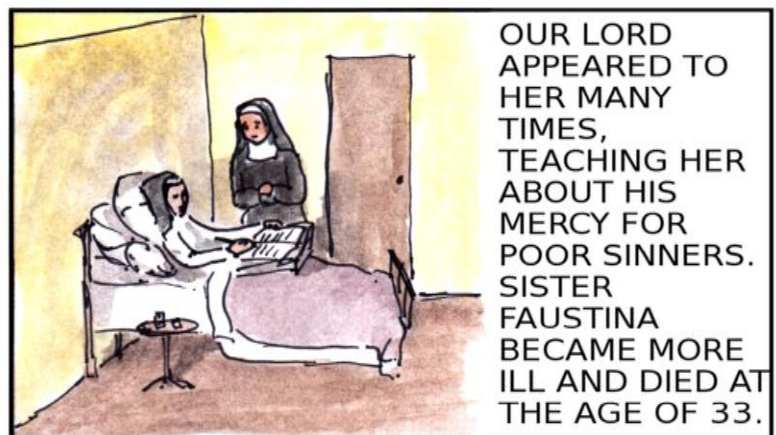
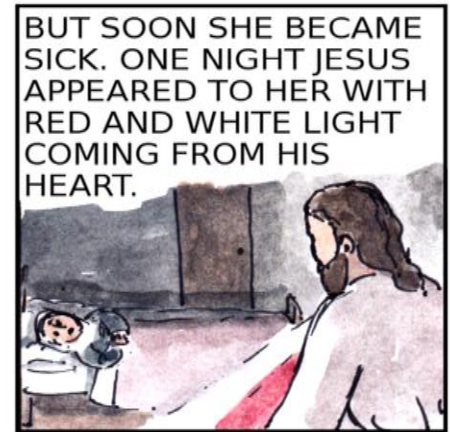
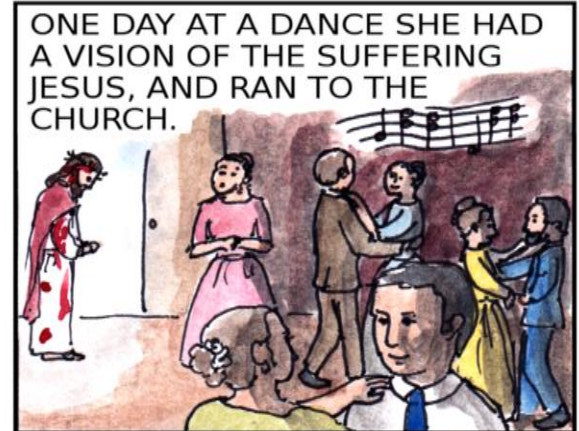
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# Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

## October 5



OUR LORD USED SAINT FAUSTINA, WHO HAD BEEN A SIMPLE COUNTRY GIRL, TO TEACH THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT HIS GREAT MERCY. SHE WROTE WHAT HAPPENED IN HER VISIONS IN NOTEBOOKS. ONE OF THE GREATEST PRAYERS THAT JESUS GAVE HER WAS THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.



# Ezekiel 18 Cross-Word

Use the words from  
the list to fill in the  
blanks in the reading  
and the puzzle.

a=across & d=down.

COMMITTED

INIQUITY

BECAUSE

UNFAIR IT

VIRTUE IS

TURNS IF

SHALL HE

SINCE DIE

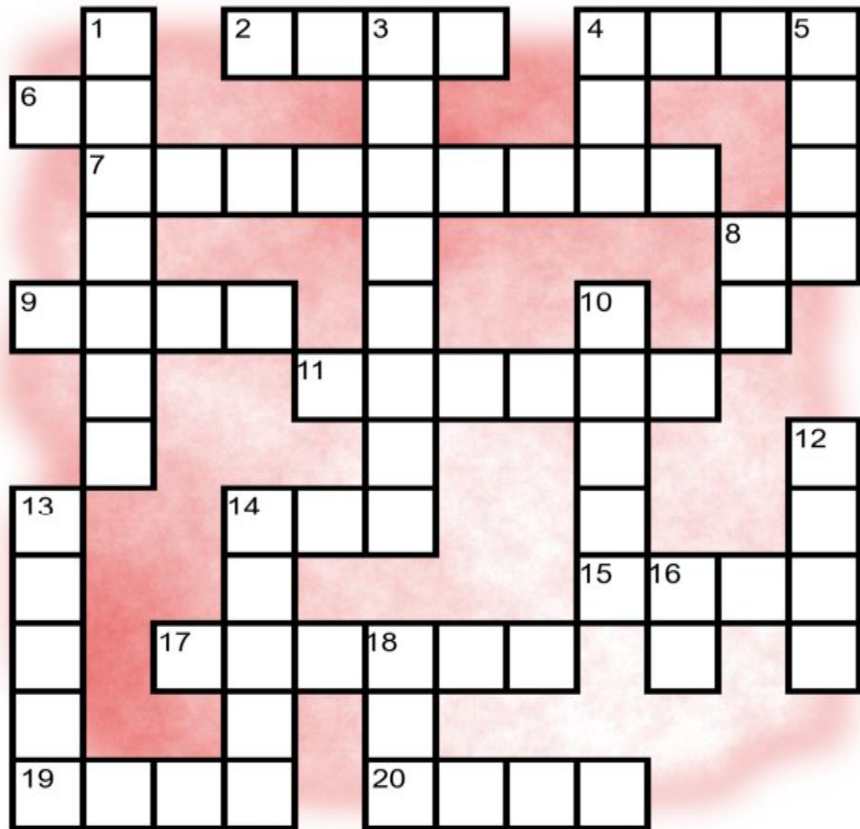
MUST ALL

LORD SAY

SAYS FAIR

JUST SINS

DOES LIVE



Thus \_\_\_\_\_ (5d) the \_\_\_\_\_: (20a) You \_\_\_\_\_, (14a)  
"The Lord's way is not \_\_\_\_\_!" (2a) Hear now, house  
of Israel: \_\_\_\_ (8a) it my way that is unfair, or rather, are  
not your ways \_\_\_\_\_? (17a) When someone  
virtuous \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) away from \_\_\_\_\_ (11a) to  
commit \_\_\_\_\_, (3d) and dies, \_\_\_\_ (8d) is  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1d) of the iniquity he committed that  
\_\_\_\_ (6a) \_\_\_\_\_ (12d) die. But \_\_\_\_ (16d) he turns from  
the wickedness he has \_\_\_\_\_, (7a) and \_\_\_\_\_  
(4a) what is right and \_\_\_\_\_, (9a) he shall preserve his  
life; \_\_\_\_\_ (14d) he has turned away from \_\_\_\_\_ (18d)  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (15a) that he committed, he \_\_\_\_\_ (13d)  
surely \_\_\_\_\_, (19a) he shall not \_\_\_\_\_. (4d)



# Changing Your Mind

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord tells the parable of the two sons whose father asked them to help in the vineyard. The first son told his father he wouldn't help, but then he changed his mind and did what he was asked. The second son said he would help, but he didn't.

In the end it doesn't matter so much if we say we are going to do what's right. What is important is that we do it. We call ourselves Christians because we believe in Jesus and the Church He gave us, but we only really are being Christians if we do what He says.



I SHOULD HAVE  
DONE MY HOMEWORK...  
I'LL DO IT NOW.



Sometimes we decide not to obey God. But if we are sorry afterwards and do what is right, God will not look at the bad things we did. On the other hand, if we do good things and then change to doing bad things, then

we have decided to turn away from God, and we will be punished for our sins.

Answer to puzzle on front page: The one who said he would not.  
Across: 2. fair 4. does 6. he 7. committed 8. is 9. just 11. virtue  
Down: 1. because 3. iniquity 4. die 5. says  
8. it 10. turns 12. must 13. shall 14. since 16. if 18. all

# EMBRACING THE POWER AND THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKSHOP



**DATES: Fri., Oct. 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

**Sat., Oct. 28, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Saint Mary's Catholic Church**

**511 - 4th Street West Brooks, Alberta**

**Friday's Workshop:**

***Receiving the infusion of the Holy Spirit.***

**Saturday's Workshops:**

***Tongues, Prophecy, Wisdom, Knowledge, Resting in the Spirit  
& Intro to Healing.***

**Registration: Lynne Stevens**

**Email: [lstevens@redeemer.ab.ca](mailto:lstevens@redeemer.ab.ca) or Phone: 403-363-6088**

**Cost: Love Offering**

**Saturday Lunch: provided at \$15.00 per person.**

**Presented by: Our Lady of Assumption Prayer**

**Community (Lethbridge) *Taste And See, That The Lord Is Good.***

***Psalm 34***



# LIFE CHAIN



**Join us on Sunday, October 1st  
to stand up for the unborn!**

**SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 1  
2:00 - 3:00**

**NON-GRAPHIC  
SIGNS WILL  
BE PROVIDED.**

**2948 DUNMORE RD SE  
IN FRONT OF THE  
HEALTH UNIT  
BUILDING**

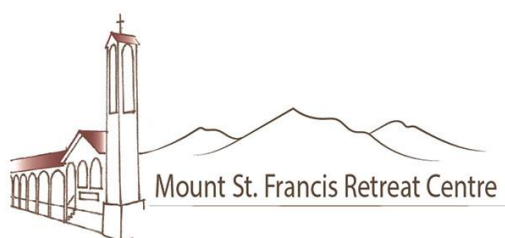
**JOIN US FOR ONE HOUR TO  
PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION.**

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