



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NOVEMBER 12-19, 2023 – 32ND & 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 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 &
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

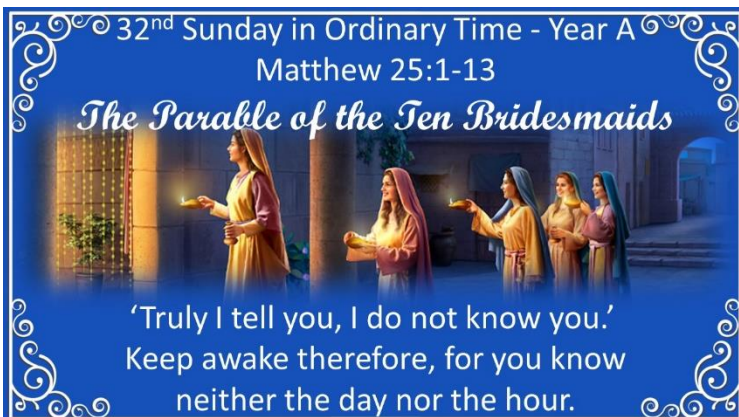
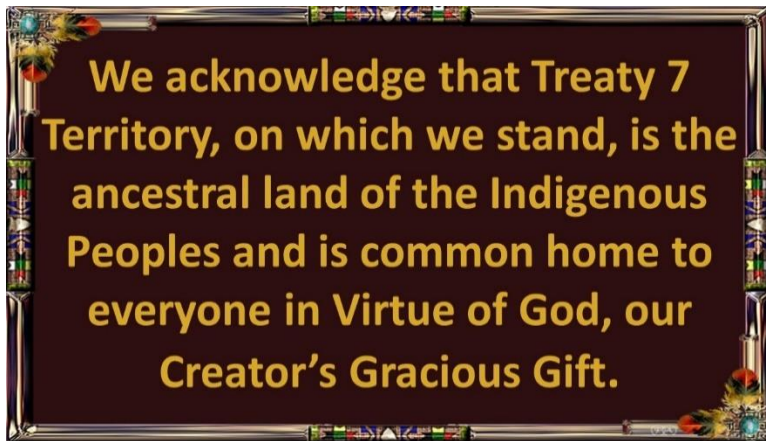
ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am

Knights of Columbus – Greg Martin

Catholic Women's League – Cathy Koch

Parish Pastoral Council Chair - Gary Heinbecker

Parish Finance Council Chair - Cheryl Pocsik



† Masses & Mass Intentions †



Saturday, November 11

5:00pm ~ Lynn-Ann Campbell †

Sunday, November 12

8:30am ~ Nick Pardi †

10:30am ~ Doris Klotz

6:00pm ~ Holy Family Parish

Monday, November 13

5:00pm ~ Fabian & Margo Delwo

Tuesday, November 14

9:00am ~ Jeri Fundebunk †

6:30pm ~ Jim Colberg †

Wednesday, November 15

9:00am ~ Mary Simpson †

Thursday, November 16

9:00am ~ Curtis Callahan †

Friday, November 17

9:00am ~ Mockey MacIntyre †

6:00pm ~ Knights of Columbus Deceased †

View the Full-Length Bulletin at www.holyfamilymh.ca or on
Facebook - Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

NOVEMBER 12-19, 2023 – 32ND & 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

OPERATING FINANCES

OCTOBER 1-31, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Budget 2022 | \$ 63,984 |
| General Envelope Collection | \$ 58,888 |
| Loose Collections | \$ 4,387 |
| Future Development | \$ 3,378 |
| Sale of Church Supplies & Other | \$ 3,192 |
| \$ 53,947- Budget Vs Actual | \$ 5,861 |

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Together in Action (TIA) | \$ 3,758 |
| St Vincent de Paul | \$ 4,784 |
| World Mission | \$ 1,740 |
| Clergy Retirement | \$ 175 |
| Mission Mexico | \$ 170 |
| CARO | \$ 90 |
| Seminary Fund | \$ 250 |
| Needs of the Canadian Church | \$ 335 |

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Average Weekly Attendance | 899 |
|---------------------------|-----|

December 31, 2023 - Goal \$70,938

total to date \$44,608

which is at 63%



\$26,330. still left to raise.

Please Give Generously ~ Thank You!

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12 November 2020

Wisdom 6:12-16. Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Matthav 25:1-13.

Being with Jesus – or Not.

The parable today of the ten lamp bearers is about vigilance. Not an idle standing by merely looking and waiting. No, a waiting that is prepared (extra oil!) for all that comes, a waiting filled with activity ready to accompany those who journey through doorways to heaven.

† How can I focus on the bridegroom, on Jesus, and all those he loves?

† How will I ready myself to do Kingdom of Heaven work this week?

† What will that work be? For whom will I do it?

Upcoming Events

Nov. 11 – 7:00am – HFP Hall

That Man Is You

Nov. 11 – 10:00am – Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

Nov. 13 – 5:00pm – HFP Church & Hall

Renewal Gathering Mass, Supper & Talk

Nov. 14 – 6:30pm – Holy Family Parish Sanctuary

Mass of the Angels

Nov. 14 – 7:00pm – Faith Room

Knights of Columbus General Meeting

Nov. 14 – 7:00pm – HFP Hall

Catholic Women's League General Meeting

Nov. 15 – 9:30am – Faith Room

Bible Study

Nov. 15 – 7:00pm – Faith Room

R.C.I.A.

Nov. 17 – 6:00pm – Holy Family Parish Sanctuary

Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass

Nov. 18 – 7:00am – HFP Hall

That Man Is You

Nov. 18 – 10:00am – Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

Nov. 21 – 6:30pm – Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Nov. 22 – 9:30am – Faith Room

Bible Study

Nov. 22 – 7:00pm – Faith Room

R.C.I.A.

Nov. 23 – 6:00pm – Faith Room

Confirmation Class

Nov. 25 – 7:00am – HFP Hall

That Man Is You

Nov. 25 – 10:00am – Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

Nov. 26 – 10:15am – Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Class

Knights of Columbus
Memorial Mass

Friday, November 17, 2023

Candles at 6:00pm - Mass at 6:30pm



The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30



33rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
– Year A

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ 19 November 2020

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31. Psalm 128:1-5.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.

Matthew 25:14-30.

Talents Given, Talents Returned.

One more Kingdom of Heaven parable today. God gives in the great hope that these treasures, these talents, these baptismal charisms will bear fruit. God's gifts are not for burying or hiding in safety. They are to be risked, to be used for the benefit of both self and others.

When that happens, God says: "Well done. Come share my joy."

- † What gifts of God must I unbury and put to use?
- † How will I serve God this week by serving another?
- † What action will I do that prompts God to say: "Well done"?

† Masses & Mass Intentions †



Saturday, November 18

5:00pm ~ Kathryn Schafer †

Sunday, November 19

8:30am ~ Angie Pardi †

10:30am ~ Mel Martin Family

6:00pm ~ Holy Family Parish

Monday, November 20

9:00am ~ Anne Keck †

Tuesday, November 21

9:00am ~ Lorette Young †

Wednesday, November 22

9:00am ~ Lorena & Graham Kelly

Thursday, November 23

9:00am ~ Troy & Neil Tumbach †

Friday, November 24


9:00am ~ Tony & Eugenia Schafer †

Mass of the Angels



Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Mass 6:30pm

Flowers provided by  PATTISON
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Knights of Columbus

General Meeting

November 14 at 7:00pm

Faith Room



Catholic Women's League (CWL)

General Meeting

November 14 at 7:00pm

HFP Hall

Sacramental Preparation 2023-2024

1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30pm in Faith Room

Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 23 at 6:00pm in Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Class

Sunday, November 26 at 10:15am in Faith Room

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

Ticket Sales before & after

Masses Nov. 25th & 26th

and Dec. 2nd & 3rd.

Draw Date: December 12

ONLY A TOONIE A TICKET!



TMVY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

WORTHY OF THE CALL



Holy Family
Parish Hall
Breakfast 7:30am
Presentation
8:30 – 9:30 am
November 25/23
Theme
The Nativity of
Our Lord
Presenter
Mark Hartfiel

TMVY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

WORTHY OF THE CALL



Holy Family
Parish Hall
Breakfast 7:30am
Presentation
8:30 – 9:30 am
November 18/23
Theme
Sloth:
The Visitation
Presenter
Mark Hartfiel

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

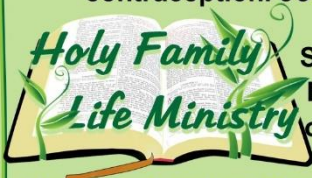
Are you interested in hosting an international student? Desire to help a student learn about our Canadian culture? The international program with MHCBE is currently recruiting homestay families for our February intake. We have students joining us from all over the world to attend our highly rated junior high and high schools. If you have a spare room and the ability to make a student feel like part of the family, please reach out to... lori.frelick@mhcbe.ab.ca

Seeds of the Word

Pro Mundi Vita

Advent Mission Talk
Monday, December 4, 2023
7:00pm at Holy Family Parish

Pope Paul VI's controversial encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, reaffirms the Church teaching on artificial contraception. Join us as we read and discuss *Humanae Vitae* together.



Subtitled *On the Regulation of Birth*, *Humanae Vitae* focuses on the procreative and unitive nature of married love.

Monday, October 23 and
Monday, November 27
7:00, in the Faith Room

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



Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal Tickets

The Annual Knights of Columbus Alberta fundraiser for the Charitable Foundation & the State Board. Ticket proceeds from our local Council go to Project Rachel & Elizabeth House. Holy Family Parish Knights needs your support!

Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code on the Bulletin Board at Holy Family or go to www.kofc5050.com. When purchasing tickets under **Select** option PLEASE look for **09502, Joe McKenna, Medicine Hat**, or we will not get credit for tickets purchased. Sales end Nov 25, 2023

Ticket prices are 200 tickets for \$100, 50 tickets for \$50, 10 tickets for \$20 and one ticket for \$5

Thank you for your support.

Vincentian Corner

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference helps those in need in Medicine Hat on an ongoing basis. We are fortunate that we can make a difference in many people's lives thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. God bless you all.

Have you ever wondered if God may be calling you to join us? If you feel that you might enjoy helping others, we would be happy to have you join one of our experienced Vincentians on a 'call' as you discover through this experience how rewarding it is to help our neighbours in need. We meet people face to face to ask them about their request for assistance. As we listen to the details of their situation, they feel cared about and less alone. Our attention encourages them to be part of the solution to improve their current plight. People are so thankful to be heard and offered direction and/or assistance.

Everyone's time is valuable, and you only need to be involved when you are able. There is no minimum time commitment.

If you would like to go on a call, please phone either church office to arrange an opportunity to experience what we do. We would love to share the joy of helping others with you!

SSVP Medicine Hat Vincentians





Monsignor McCoy High School

Monsignor McCoy High School is the only high school in the Medicine Hat Catholic School Division. We are privileged to be able to work with our Division's students who are closest to realizing their goal of achieving their High School Diploma and the completion of high school. This year, we have become home to a large number of international students, as well. Their involvement at our school has brought a wonderful dynamic of energy and diversity as they

have become a part of the fabric of our school and community. As a school community, our students are involved in charitable activities throughout the year, including donating turkey hampers to our families in need during the Christmas season.

Our school provides a wide variety of high-interest curricular and extracurricular programming that provides them with a transcript of experiences that better prepares them for their transition to work and post-secondary education. Along with traditional, in-class programming, Monsignor McCoy High School offers an array of online programming and a Learning Centre to support students who prefer to work outside of the classroom, or at home. St. Joseph's Education Centre, which runs out of our school, provides many different pathways for students to complete high school.

Our school also provides a full slate of extracurricular programming, including a Fine Arts Academy with eight different fine arts courses. All our students can also take part in an annual musical production. We offer a Baseball Academy, and our students also participate in many different sports throughout the school year with great success, including provincial appearances by our golf and volleyball teams this fall.

We look forward to your continued support of Monsignor McCoy High School with your prayers, your attendance at our events, and your financial support of our different projects.



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

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accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

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Our Network is: HFP_LIVE
The Password is: Liv3HFP*



Joe McKenna 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 |



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

November 12, 2023

Openness to Divine Wisdom

These last Sundays of the Ordinary Times in Year A, are preparing us to welcome Jesus as we begin our Advent season. During Advent season “stay awake, be ready, stay alert and be ready etc.” will be the phrases we will hear frequently which will invite us to Divine Wisdom to live our lives according to the teaching of the Lord. Brethren, we ought to regard Jesus Christ as God and judge of the living and the dead. We should not hold our Saviour in low esteem for if we esteem him but little, we may hope to obtain but little from him. Moreover, people who hear these things and think them of small importance commit sin, and we ourselves sin if we do not realize what we have been called from, who has called us, and to what place, and how much suffering Jesus Christ endured on our account.

How then shall we repay him? What fruit can we bear that would be worthy of what he has given us? For how many benefits are we not in his debt! He has enlightened our minds; he has called us sons as a father does; he saved us when we were about to perish. How then shall we praise him, how repay him for his gifts? Spiritually blind, we worshiped stones and pieces of wood, gold and silver and bronze, things made by men, and our whole life was death. Darkness enfolded us, and nothing but gloom met our eyes. Then, by his will, we escaped from the cloud that enveloped us and recovered our sight. For he saw our many errors and the damnation that awaited us and knowing that apart from him we had no hope of salvation, he pitied us, and in his mercy saved us. He called us when we were not his people and willed us to become his people. Rejoice, O barren woman who never bore a child; break into shouts of joy, you who never knew a mother’s pangs; for the deserted wife shall have more children than she who has a husband. When he says: Rejoice O barren woman who never bore a child, he is speaking of us, for our Church was barren until children were given her. When he says: Break into shouts of joy, you who never knew

a mother's pangs, he means that we should not grow weary like women in labour, but tirelessly and in all simplicity offer our prayers to God. He declares that the deserted wife shall have more children than she who has a husband, because faith has now made our people who seemed to have been deserted by God more numerous than those who were thought to possess him. Another text says: I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, for it is those who are perishing who must be saved. It is a great and wonderful work to uphold those who are falling, rather than those who already stand firm. Christ willed to save people who were in danger of losing their souls, and he has been the salvation of many. When we were on the point of perishing, he came and called us.

There was a person coming to a new village, relocating, and he was wondering if he would like it there, so he went to the Zen master and asked: do you think I will like it in this village? Are the people nice?

The master asked back: How were the people in the town where you come from? "They were nasty and greedy, they were angry and lived for cheating and stealing," said the newcomer. Those are exactly the type of people we have in this village, said the master.

Another newcomer to the village visited the master and asked the same question, to which the master asked: How were the people in the town where you come from? "They were sweet and lived in harmony, they cared for one another and for the land, they respected each other, and they were seekers of spirit," he replied. "Those are exactly the type of people we have in this village, said the master.

This is the exact message we receive today from the Sacred Scripture Readings. In the first Reading we come to know the attributes of wisdom. It is a song of wisdom which not only appreciates the gift of wisdom but also hails the person who desires and seeks it. This is a very interesting fact that as we are coming closer to the start our new liturgical year, we are asked to desire for wisdom. Why are we asked to reflect on the gift of wisdom? It has a twofold meaning: first of all, to understand our relationship with the Lord and secondly to prepare ourselves for his Second Coming.

Holy Father Pope Francis explaining this mystery of Jesus' Second coming says, "In the Creed we profess that Jesus "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead". Human history begins with the creation of man and woman in God's likeness and ends with the Last Judgement of Christ. These two poles of history are often forgotten; and, at times, especially faith in Christ's return and in the Last Judgement, are not so clear and firm in Christian hearts. In his public life Jesus frequently reflected on the reality of his Final Coming".

Let us remember that in the Ascension the Son of God brought to the Father our humanity, which he had taken on, and that he wants to draw all to himself, to call the whole world to be welcomed in God's embrace so that at the end of history the whole of reality may be consigned to the Father. Yet there is this "immediate time" between the First and

the Final Coming of Christ, and that is the very time in which we are living. The parable of the ten virgins fits into this context of “immediate” time. They are ten maidens who are awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom, but he is late, and they fall asleep. At the sudden announcement that the bridegroom is arriving they prepare to welcome him, but while five of them, who are wise, have oil to burn in their lamps, the others, who are foolish, are left with lamps that have gone out because they have no oil for them. While they go to get some oil, the bridegroom arrives, and the foolish virgins find that the door to the hall of the marriage feast is shut. They knock on it again and again, but it is now too late, the bridegroom answers: “I do not know you”. It must be very painful for those women who have been waiting for the bridegroom for hours and hours. They must be filled with anger and hate. I remember a Sunday when someone who couldn’t enter the Church as the doors were locked as per Covid protocol, but the person came for the next mass and his first question was “why did we close the doors? Just imagine if it happens to us, how would we feel? Would you blame other people or take responsibility that you could not get ready on time to join the celebrations.

There are some interesting facts in the Gospel today:

1. There is a wedding taking place.
2. People are invited to join.
3. There are ten bridesmaids to join: five wise and five foolish.
4. Wise are carrying extra oil and foolish do not care.
5. Groom is delayed.
6. Lamps are running out of oil.
7. Groom arrives very late.
8. Wise get ready to join.
9. Foolish beg for the oil but are refused.
10. Wise joined while foolish went to buy the oil.
11. Doors are locked after everyone who was invited to join along with the wise virgins.
12. Foolish are denied entry to wedding banquet.
13. Foolish virgins receive very heartbreaking and painful answer “they are not known to the groom”.
14. Conclusion of the parable is “Keep awake”.

These amazing facts from the parable prepare us to get ready.

As we read from the First Reading “she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her”. This short story will help us to understand how and where to start the action to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus.

Once upon a time a little old wise man sitting in the village and a young man comes into him and he says, “Little old wise man, how do you become a little old wise man?” And he smiled and he said, “Well, Sonny, when I was your age, I wanted to convert the world. “And I tried my best, but the world didn’t want to be converted. “And so, I said, well maybe I am aiming

too high, so what I will try to do, this time, is my village. I will bring my village so that they will understand the realities of life. And I will give them the wisdom and gather them together and show them how they can be saved. "And I tried it for a while, but they didn't want to be saved either. "So, then I said, well, I'll try my family. And so, I talked to my family and tried very hard to change their ways, to make them perfect in the ideal way that we should all be. "And I found out that even my family didn't want to have anything to do with this. "So, finally," he said to the young man, "finally, I decided I would convert myself. "And that's when I became a little old wise man."

What does Jesus wish to teach us with this parable? He reminds us that we must be ready for the encounter with him. Many times, in the Gospel, Jesus exhorts keeping watch, and he also does so at the end of this narrative. He says: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour". But with this parable he tells us that keeping watch does not only mean not to sleep, but to *be ready*; in fact, all the maidens are asleep before the bridegroom's arrival, but upon waking some are ready, and others are not. Thus, here is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is a matter of not waiting until the last minute of our lives to cooperate with the grace of God, but rather to do so as of now. It would be good to consider for a moment: one day will be the last. If it were today, how prepared am I? But I must do this and that.... Be ready as if it were the last day: this does us good. The Holy Father Pope Francis explains the Gospel in these words "The lamp is a symbol of the faith that illuminates our life, while the oil is a symbol of the charity that nourishes the light of faith, making it fruitful and credible. The condition for being prepared for the encounter with the Lord is not only faith, but a Christian life abundant with love and charity for our neighbour. If we allow ourselves to be guided by what seems more comfortable, by seeking our own interests, then our life becomes barren, incapable of giving life to others, and we accumulate no reserve of oil for the lamp of our faith; and this faith will be extinguished at the moment of the Lord's coming, or even before. If instead we are watchful and seek to do good, with acts of love, of sharing, of service to a neighbour in difficulty, then we can be at peace while we wait for the bridegroom to come: the Lord can come at any moment, and even the slumber of death does not frighten us, because we have a reserve of oil, accumulated through everyday good works. Faith inspires charity and charity safeguards faith".

All holy men and women always helped us prepare for his Final Coming with mercy and patience. It is a time of watchfulness; a time in which we must keep alight the lamps of faith, hope and charity, a time in which to keep our heart open to goodness, beauty, and truth. It is a time to live in accordance with God because we do not know either the day or the hour of Christ's return. What he asks of us is to be ready for the encounter, ready for an encounter, for a beautiful encounter, the encounter with Jesus, which means being able to see the signs of his presence, keeping our faith alive with prayer, with the

sacraments, and taking care not to fall asleep so as to not forget about God. Here are some quotes from the saints to understand the Divine Wisdom.

Faith strips the mask from the world and reveals God in everything. It makes nothing impossible and renders meaningless such words as anxiety, danger, and fear, so that the believer go through life calmly and peacefully, with profound joy -like a child, hand in hand with his mother. SAINT CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

I always begin my prayer in silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. God is a friend of silence. We need to listen to God because it's not what we say but what He says to us and through us that matters. Prayer feeds the soul and brings you closer to God. It also gives you a clean and pure heart. A clean heart can see God, can speak to God, and can see the love of God in others. MOTHER ST. TERESA

Prayer opens the understanding to the brightness of Divine Light, and the will to the warmth of Heavenly Love – nothing can so effectually purify the mind from its many ignorances, or the will from its perverse affections. It is as a healing water which causes the roots of our good desires to send forth fresh shoots, which washes away the soul's imperfections, and allays the thirst of passion. ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

During the time immediately before and quite some time after my conversion, I thought that leading a religious life meant giving up all earthly things and having one's mind fixed on divine things only. Gradually, however, I learnt that other things are expected of us in this world.

I even believe that the deeper someone is drawn to God, the more he has to 'get beyond himself' in this sense, that is, go into the world and carry divine life into it. ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE HOLY CROSS

If we fail to do so, St. John in the Book of Revelation will draw the thin line in this way for us "I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent".

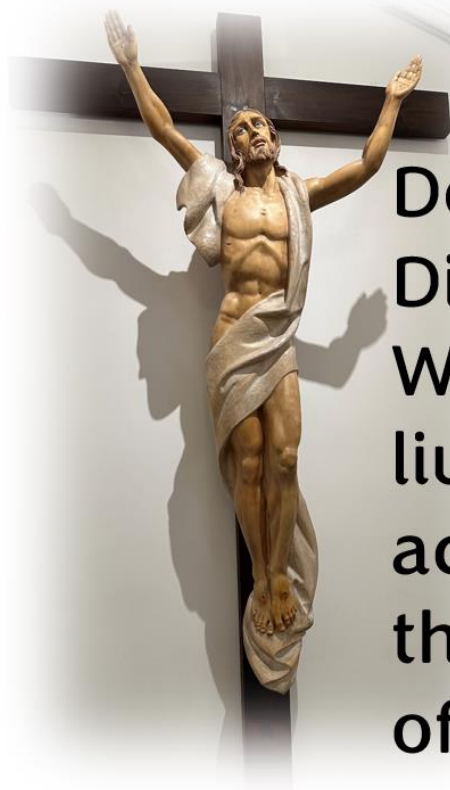
Once upon a time, there was a high-class rich man. As he became older, he realized that the suffering of old age was about the same for rich and poor alike. So, he gave up his wealth and class position, and went into the forest to live as a poor monk. He practiced meditation and developed his mind. He freed himself from unwholesome thoughts and became contented and happy. His peacefulness and friendliness gradually drew 500 followers to his side.

At that time, long ago, most monks usually looked serious. But there was one monk who, even though he was quite dignified, always wore at least a little smile. No matter what happened, he never lost this glimmer of inner happiness. And on happy occasions, he had the broadest smile, and the warmest laughter of all.

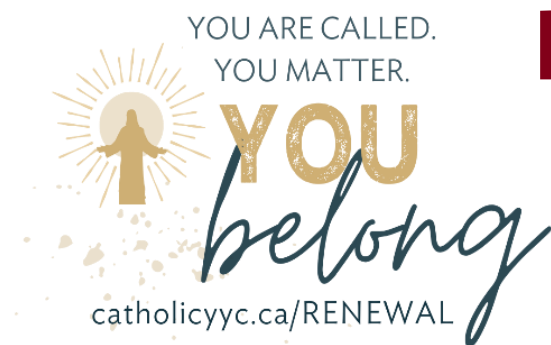
Sometimes monks, as well as others, would ask him why he was so happy that he always wore a smile. He chuckled and said, "If I told you, you wouldn't believe me! And if you thought I spoke a lie; it would be a dishonor to my master." The wise old master knew the source of the happiness that could not be wiped from his face. He made this happiest monk his number one assistant.

After the rainy season, the old monk took them to the city and as the king heard about their visit, he went to visit them. He paid his respects to the chief monk. However, the one from the forest just kept saying, "What happiness! Oh, what happiness!" He did not even stop to greet the king and show proper respect. This disturbed him, and he thought, "With all my worries, as busy as I am looking after the kingdom, I take time out for a visit and this monk does not respect me enough to even recognize me. "How insulting!" He said to the senior of the two monks, "Venerable sir, this monk must be stupid from overeating. That must be why he is so full of happiness. Does he lie around here so lazy all the time?" The head monk replied, "Oh king, have patience and I will tell you the source of his happiness. Not many know it. He was once a king, just as rich and mighty as you! In search of wisdom and peace he left his throne and now he thinks his old happiness was nothing compared to his present joy!" Now, sitting alone in the forest with nothing to fear, he has no need for armed guards. He has given up the burden of worrying about wealth that has to be protected. Instead, free of the worry of wealth and the fear of power, his wisdom protects him and others. He advances in meditation to such inner peace and wisdom that for him earthly happiness is nothing than heavenly.

Do we choose Divine Wisdom to live our lives according to the teaching of Jesus?



**Do we choose
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DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

32nd Sunday in Ordinary time

Priestly Vocations Night

Have you ever thought God might be calling you to be a priest? Join the 'Priestly Vocations Night.' Mass at 5 pm, Evening Prayer, supper, a talk about discerning a vocation, and silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. When: Saturday, Dec. 9 from 5 pm to 9 pm. To attend, please register to Fr. Derek Remus at derek.remus@calgarydiocese.ca or call 403-282-9488.

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate - Nov 18

All are welcome to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate with Bishop William McGrattan. The Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, November 18 at 11 am, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Door opens at 10 am.

Vocations talk with Sr. Michelle

Join Serra Club of Calgary for a vocation talk with Sr. Michelle, FCJ who is making her final vows. The talk will take place Saturday, Nov. 18 at the FCJ Centre, Calgary from 9 - 10 am, followed by the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

at St. Mary's Cathedral at 11 am. Everyone is welcome!

The Four Constitutions of Vatican II Webinar Series

In preparation for Jubilee 2025, the year 2023 is dedicated to Vatican II. The CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis will host a webinar series, "The Four Constitutions of Vatican II", inviting the faithful to reflect on the meaning of these documents for the life of the Church today.

"Dei Verbum" — Bishop Yvan Mathieu, SM (Tue, 14 Nov — 11 am - 12:30 pm MT)

"Gaudium et Spes" — Sr. Donna Geernaert, SC (Tue, 21 Nov — 11 am - 12:30 pm MT)

"Lumen Gentium" — Dr. Catherine Clifford (Tue, 28 Nov — 11 am - 12:30 pm MT).

Register here, or contact 403-218-5521 if you need some support.

Career opportunities

The Diocese of Calgary is hiring various roles for the parishes in the Diocese and the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Visit catholiccyyc.ca/careers for more details, and please help us spread the word!

Live-In Retreats in Okotoks

Calgary Live-In Society invites you to a Live-In weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus. If you have attended your own Live-In, we invite you to serve others in this retreat. When: Nov. 24-26, St. John Paul II Collegiate School, Okotoks. For more info, call 403-271-7365.

Retreat for Religious Educators

St. Gilbertine Institute invites Catholic educators, homeschoolers, and parents to a weekend retreat with four excellent speakers on the following: Primary Educator, Homeschooling by Heart, Classical Education, and Catholic Educator. Fee is \$80 (early bird rate before Nov 1). When: Nov. 24-25 at St. John the Evangelist, Calgary. Register

Inspiration Unplugged: The Filthy Feet of Sacred Service

Listen to speaker Dr. Troy Davies from Catholic Social Services, "The Filthy Feet of Sacred Service: What happens when prayer gets off its knees." Everyone is invited to attend this dynamic lecture, which will feature a mixture of real on-the-ground stories, while also drawing upon the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching and the theology of outreach - engaging the head and the heart of all who attend. When: Thu, Nov. 28 at 6 pm - St. Mary's University, Calgary.

Why Wait? A 5-Week Ignatian Retreat in Advent Life

In prayer and in community, come explore what the characters of the Advent story can teach us about waiting as a worthwhile experience for growth and enlightenment. The retreat will be offered on Zoom on Monday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm. To register, call 403-228-4215 or email info@fcjcentre.ca

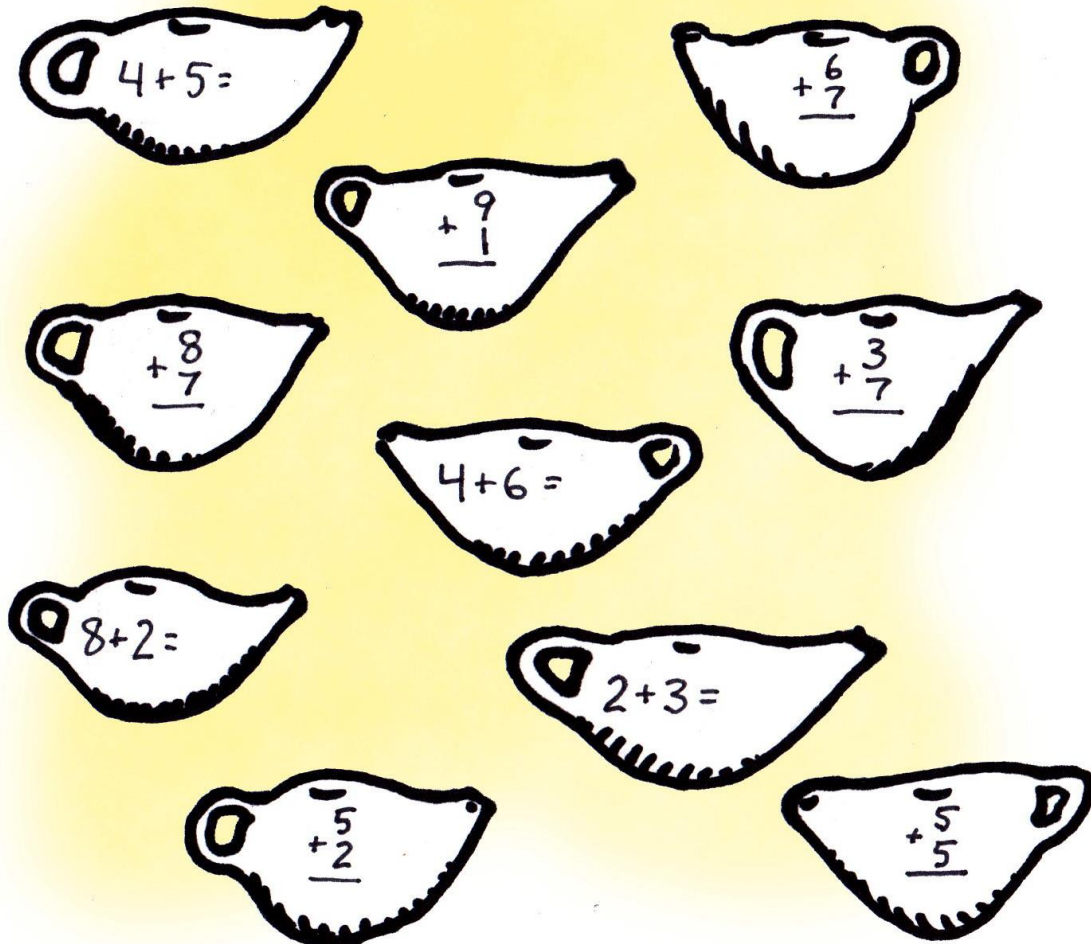
Advent Twilight Retreat - Long Time Ago in Greccio

You are invited to Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre on Thursday, November 30th for this annual event. Cost is \$30/per person. To register, call 403-932-2012 or email: mtfrancis@shaw.ca

The Kids' Bulletin

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

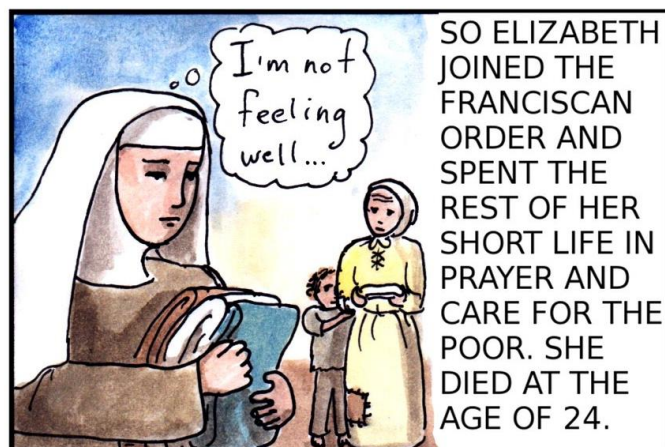
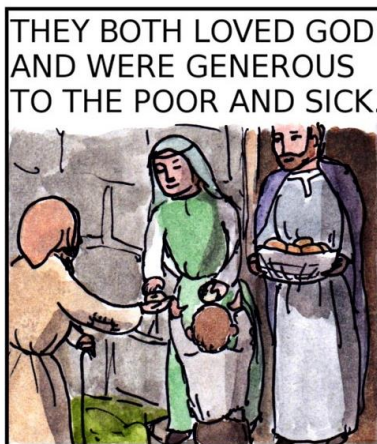
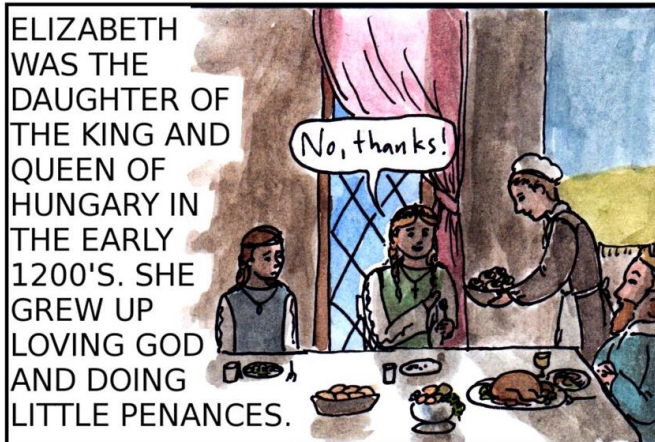
November 12th, 2023



*In today's parable, ten bridesmaids
are waiting with their lamps.
How many of them brought extra oil?
Figure out the problems on each lamp.
Colour in the ones that equal 10
to find out the answer!*

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

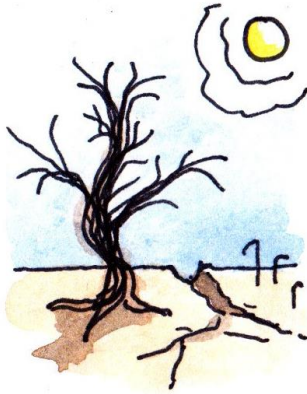
November 17



SAINT ELIZABETH DID NOT LET BEING RICH AND IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD GET IN THE WAY OF LOVING GOD AND OTHERS. SHE USED HER MONEY AND TIME TO CARE FOR THE POOR AND SICK, AND WHEN SHE HAD NO MONEY SHE STILL CARED FOR THEM. CAN YOU PRAY FOR THE POOR AND SICK PEOPLE TODAY?

Psalm 63 Word-Find

See if you can
find all the words
in CAPITALS in
this part of
today's Psalm.
The leftover
letters will spell
out a little prayer
to God when you
write them in the
blanks at the end.



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | R | C | H | E | D | P | O | W | E | R |
| M | W | Y | S | B | A | N | Q | U | E | T | W |
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| R | I | C | H | E | S | G | O | O | D | R | T |
| Y | H | E | E | K | I | N | D | N | E | S | S |

O GOD, you are my God whom I SEEK;
for you my FLESH PINES and my soul THIRSTS
like the EARTH, PARCHED and WITHOUT WATER.

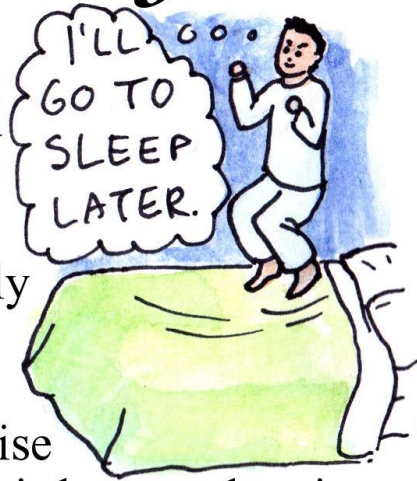
Thus have I GAZED TOWARD you in the SANCTUARY
to see your POWER and your GLORY,
for your KINDNESS is a greater GOOD than LIFE;
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus WILL I BLESS you while I LIVE;
lifting up my HANDS, I will CALL upon your NAME.
As with the RICHES of a BANQUET shall my SOUL be
satisfied,
and with exultant LIPS my MOUTH shall praise you.

____ _ !

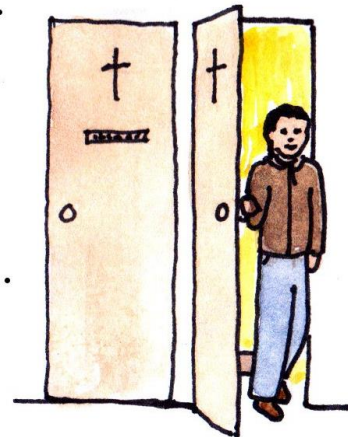
Always be Ready

Have you ever thought to yourself that it would be better to have fun and be bad now, and then be good later? That's what some of the bridesmaids in today's parable were like. They only brought enough oil for their lamps, and didn't bother to bring any extra. But the other bridesmaids had been wise and took along extra flasks to refill their lamps when it got late. When the bridegroom came, those who hadn't brought extra oil were gone, getting more oil, and missed the feast!



Sometimes people say that they have lots of time to change from their evil ways, so they don't repent right away. This parable shows us that it is very foolish to leave important things until later. Nobody knows when they will die, so we should always be ready.

The oil of the bridesmaids is like the grace in our souls. We need to make sure that our soul always has sanctifying grace, which we need to get into Heaven. We lose that grace when we do a serious sin. That is why if we ever commit a serious sin, we should go to confession as soon as we can so that we will always have grace and be ready for when we die.



Answer to front puzzle: 5 had extra oil. Answer to Word-find:
My soul thirsts for Thee.



Back for a second series, Fr. Tim Boyle will speak on The Art of Accompaniment, picking up on the theme from the Synod preparation document "Enlarge the Tent."

St. Martha's Parish, Lethbridge

Monday, November 20, 2023

"What unbelievers can teach us about the mystery of God"

Monday, January 22, 2024

"Zacchaeus... the first of Many Seekers... and why they don't want to join"

Monday, February 19, 2024

"Finding the Real Presence of God outside the church"

Monday, March 18, 2024

"Mother Maria of Russia... on uniting the Cross and the Sword"

Monday, April 15, 2024

"Flourishing... not just maintaining the Faith".

Gatherings begin at 10:15 am with 15 minutes of checking in with participants.

Mass follows at 11:15 am

St. Martha's parish, 355 Columbia Blvd W., Lethbridge – 403 381 8891



Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre
41160 Retreat Rd.

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



1. Advent Twilight Retreat
Long Time Ago in Greccio
November 30 Thursday @ 6:00 pm
\$30/person

2. Advent Weekend Retreat
Come to the Manger
December 1-3

3. Blessing of Christmas Crèches
Sunday, December 3 @ 2:30 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi created the
first crèche-nativity scene in 1223.
Celebrate the 800th Anniversary by
joining the Franciscans at Mount St.
Francis Retreat Centre for this special
blessing.
Bring your family nativity set to be
blessed.
Please register before December 1.
mtfrancis@shaw.ca 403-932-2021

4. The Bambino of Bethlehem
Day Away Retreat
Wednesday, December 6 @ 8:30 am
Registration with Coffee, and Muffins
Day includes presentation, Eucharist,
Sacrament of Reconciliation, Lunch
and Quiet Time
3:00 pm Departure

\$30/person (\$40 private room)

5. Winter Stillness Retreat
December 8 – 10
Individuals make their own silent
retreat.
Stay for one night or two.
No Presentations. Prayer Suggestions
Provided.
Join the Friars for Prayer and
Eucharist.
Registration begins Friday at 4 pm -
Supper at 6 pm
Concludes with Sunday Lunch.
\$215 suggested contribution

6. Christmas at Greccio
Christmas at The Mount St. Francis
Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 10 @ 2:30 – 5:00
pm
Sleigh Rides (weather permitting)
Hot Chocolate and Snacks
Pageant at 3:45 pm
This is an outdoor pageant, please
dress for the weather.
Accepting donations for Cochrane
Food Bank.
No registration - Open House



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 so it can be sent to the diocese.