



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 10, 2023 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

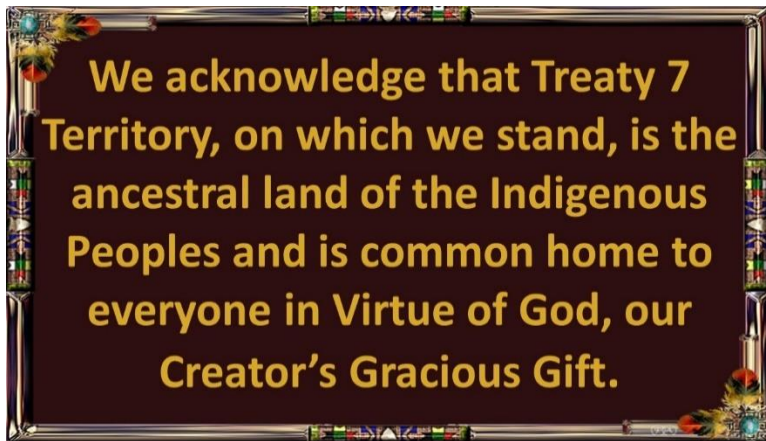
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm
ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am

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, December 9

5:00pm ~ Ron Buscholl & Family

Sunday, December 10

8:30am ~ Holy Family Parish

10:30am ~ Luciano Dal Molin †

6:00pm ~ Adam & Elizabeth Schneider†

Monday, December 11

9:00am ~ Orlando & Virginia Cabral †

Tuesday, December 12

9:00am ~ Michael & Philomena Hecker †

6:30pm ~ Kathryn Schafer †

Wednesday, December 13

9:00am ~ Jessica & Jared Jontz

Thursday, December 14

9:00am ~ Don Zahn †

7:00pm ~ Penitential Service

Friday, December 15

5:30am ~ Simbang Gabi

9:00am ~ Georgine Hecker †



DECEMBER 10, 2023 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPERATING FINANCES

NOVEMBER 1-30, 2023

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 44,777
Loose Collections	\$ 3,533
Future Development	\$ 3,259
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 9,102
\$ 60,671- Budget Vs Actual	- \$ 3,313

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 2,718
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,366
World Mission	\$ 65
Clergy Retirement	\$ 1,190
Mission Mexico	\$ 195
CARO	\$ 70
Seminary Fund	\$ 50
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$ 10

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

Average Weekly Attendance	956
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Dec. 9 - 7:00am - Faith Room

That Man Is You

Dec. 9 - 10:00am - Hope Room

Benedictine Group Meeting

Dec. 9 & 10 - at all Masses - HFP Foyer

CWL Bake Sale

Dec. 10 - 10:15am - Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Class

Dec. 11 - 7:00pm - HFP Hall

Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

Dec. 12 - 7:00pm - Hope Room

Catholic Women's League Christmas Potluck

Dec. 13 - 9:30am - Faith Room

Bible Study

Dec. 13 - 7:00pm - Faith Room

R.C.I.A.

Dec. 14 - 7:00pm - HFP Sanctuary

Advent Penitential Service

Dec. 15 to 23 - 5:30am - HFP Sanctuary

Simbang Gabi



Year to Date: \$55,207
only 78% of total needed!
\$15,731 to go!

The 2023 goal is \$70,938.

The end of the year is fast approaching.

We only have the rest of December

to raise \$15,731... YIKES!!!

May God bless your generosity!!!

Sacramental Preparation 2023-2024

1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30pm in Faith Room

Confirmation Class

Thursday, December 7 at 6:00pm in Faith Room

St. Patrick's 1st Reconciliation & Confirmation Class

Saturday, December 9 at 10:00am in Faith Room

1st Reconciliation Class

Sunday, December 10 at 10:15am in Faith Room

Second Sunday of Advent - 06 December 2020

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11. Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14. 2 Peter 3:8-14. Mark 1:1-8.

What Sort of Persons?

In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: "What sort of person ought you to be?" Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

✦ How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?

✦ What full-of-myself behaviors can I change, can I let go?

✦ Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another. What will I do?

CWL Christmas Bake Sale
 December 9th & 10th, Before & After Mass



Baking Donations
 may be dropped
 off in the Hall
 Saturday
 December 9th
 3:00-5:00pm

Come out and get your Christmas Goodies!

#9502 Knights of Columbus
Family Christmas Party
 Monday, December 11 ay 6:00pm
 Holy Family Parish Hall
 Spaghetti Supper
 For Members & their Families



RSVP to Greg Martin by December 4
 Call or Text 403-878-0639 or
 gmartin7@telus.net



Holy Family Parish Catholic Women's League
Christmas Potluck



December 12, 2023
 after 6:00pm mass
 HFP Hall
 We will be accepting
 donations for the
 Women's Shelter.

For the Potluck bring enough for yourself and a little extra.

**Feast of
 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

December 12


Advent Penitential Services

Holy Family Parish – Thursday, Dec. 14 @ 7pm
 St. Patrick's Parish – Friday, Dec 15 @ 7pm



Reconciliation

**A Filipino
 Christmas Tradition**




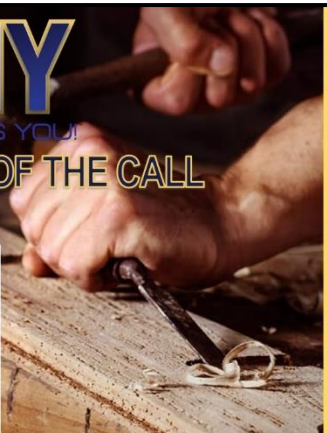
Simbang Gabi is a novena of
 Masses celebrated at dawn,
 when the roosters crow.

December 15th
 to the 23rd at 5:30am

The New 2023-24 Year B Missals are For Sale in the Foyer
\$5.00 each or \$7.00 for the Youth Missal.

AND Christian Christmas Cards for Sale at the Office for \$2.00

TMIY
 THAT MAN IS YOU!
 WORTHY OF THE CALL

Holy Family
 Parish Hall
 Breakfast 7:30am
 Presentation
 8:30 – 9:30 am
 December 16/23
 Theme
 A Sweet Exchange
 Presenter
 Mark Hartfiel

**Parish Breakfast ~ December 17th
 After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses**



**PANCAKES,
 SAUSAGE, FRUIT &
 THE BEST
 FELLOWSHIP EVER!**

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

Thank You to all that Attended!!!

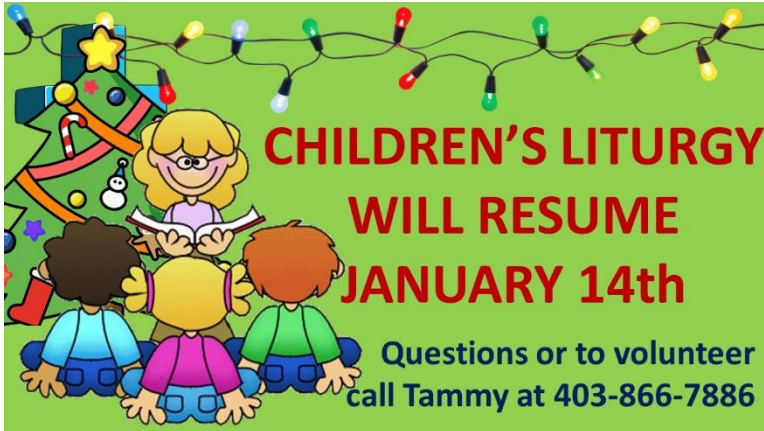


ADVENT WOMEN'S RETREAT

Sponsored by Catholic Women's League



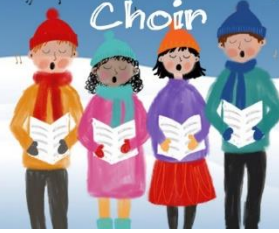
"Having a Mary Heart During a Martha Season"



CHILDREN'S LITURGY WILL RESUME JANUARY 14th

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

Christmas Eve
5:00pm Mass
Children & Youth
Choir



Practices will be
Friday Dec. 22
6:00pm to 7:30pm &
Saturday Dec. 23
1:00pm to 3:00pm.

For Info. Call...

Sally at 403-527-6933 Ext 105

sac.prep@holyfamilyymh.ca

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools'
Education Foundation AGM



January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
at Medicine Hat Catholic Board Office

All public welcome to attend!

Christmas Mass Schedule 2023

Sunday Dec. 24

9:30am – Sunday Mass

The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday Dec. 24

5:00pm, 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Monday Dec. 25 - 10:30am

Tuesday Dec 26 - No Mass

Simbang Gabi

is a Filipino
Christmas
tradition.

It will be
celebrated

December 15th to
23rd at 5:30am

Sunday Dec. 31

Sunday Mass

8:30 & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary

5:00pm

Monday Jan. 1 - 9:00am

St. Francis Xavier School

St. Francis Xavier School is proud to be part of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. We are a kindergarten to grade 6 elementary school that prides itself as being a small school that works closely with our families, community supports and our wonderful parishes and pastors. Located at the top of the hill in Crescent Heights, we are a short walk down the hill to St. Patrick's Church where we engage in retreats, school masses and holiday events. This December we are very much looking forward to celebrating our Christmas Mass followed by our annual Christmas Dinner.

Both Holy Family Parish and St. Patrick's Church open their doors each day to evangelize those in our community, just as St. Francis himself did in his missionary work. We are proud to be part of the Catholic community here in Medicine Hat and a special thank you goes to you parishioners for your continued prayers and support for Catholic education.

As a school community here at St. Francis, we treat all of our children with the dignity and respect they deserve. We engage in conversation about our faith lives and work together to strengthen the bond we have with God the Father. During this season of Advent, let us remember to keep the birth of Jesus at the center of all that we do. Let us remember that God gave us his only son as the path to live a life filled with love and joy, and it is up to us to follow it.

God bless and Merry Christmas!
Ryan Irving - Principal

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@mhcbce.ab.ca



Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM

FAITH ROOM

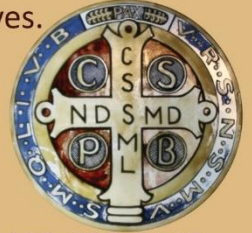
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

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.

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 MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Thursday Mornings - 7:00 to 7:30 – Faith Room

Open to all men seeking to nurture their relationship with God and each other through prayer, song and reflection on the daily scripture readings.

More Information - Gord 527-7423 or Alan 527-4169

Pamphlets available at the Greeting Desk

REAL MEN PRAY

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

Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

Holy Communion to the Hospital

Volunteers are needed to bring Holy Communion to parishioners, in hospital, who desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Training will be provided.

If you have a family member or friend who is in hospital and is requesting Holy Communion, please phone the Parish Secretary with the name and room number of the parishioner. The information will be forwarded to Pastoral Care. Thank you!

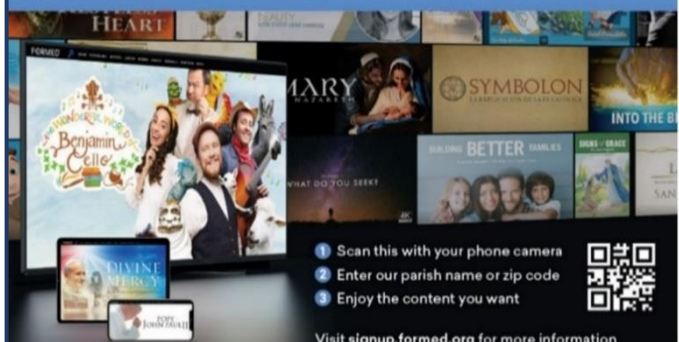
EMAIL SCAMS AGAIN FROM PREISTS, CHURCH, STAFF, ETC.

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!**

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



- 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 for more information

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E-transfer
ONLINE GIVING



accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

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





2nd Sunday of Advent- Year B

December 10, 2023

PEACE PREPARES THE WAY

We continue our Advent journey as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. We light the second candle which symbolizes the desire and gift of Peace. We struggle everyday for peace but especially when we hear about war, violence, marginalization, and suffering, however in this deadly war between four countries, the desire for the peace has grown so high. The second candle during Advent keep reminding us that Jesus is the only one who could illuminate our hearts, minds, and souls to experience peace which is the way to eternal life. This week we are given St. John the Baptist to walk with and examine our emptiness in our lives. He is crying and pleading for people to mend their ways and get ready to welcome the one who was, who is and who will be forever. Let me share a following story with you before I meditate on the Word of God today.

Once A daughter was telling her mother how everything was going wrong. She was failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend was moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake." "Here, have some cooking oil," her mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter. "How about a couple of raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!" To which the mother replies, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves, but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times as we are experiencing right now, but God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! Does God not pay attention

to our present situation, one may raise this question? However, Prophet Isaiah gives the answer in this way; “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God...”

Today’s Word of God has some very interesting elements to reflect upon as we walk with Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist. First God comforts everyone. Prophet Isaiah is giving this message to the Israelites who are in Babylonian exile and are completely devastated with things happened with them and the city of Jerusalem. In the Book of Exodus, we read “God said to Moses, I have heard the cry of my people and have come to save them”. God does not leave anyone in pain or suffering but wipes the tears from every eye as St. John writes in the Book of Revelation “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” God’s only Begotten Son took human flesh to comfort everyone and even he cried and had compassion for people because they were like sheep without shepherd.

Secondly a voice is crying. Why is this voice crying? Why is only a voice is coming is mentioned? In the First Reading and the Gospel we have the same passage which explore the love and compassion of God who wants people to come back to him as Prophet Ezekiel says “ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? (33:10-11). In our day-to-day life whenever we see someone crying, we experience the sadness, brokenness, pain of rejection, and suffering. This crying makes people come up to console or strengthen someone either by simple hugs or words. However, in the Readings today God’s sadness is immense because people have become unfaithful to him and have started following other gods and ways which are contrary to his commandments, but he wants them back because he does not want anyone to die in their sins as Psalmist says “harden not your hearts today”. St. Paul explains the compassion and love of God even if we deny him “The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:11-13). One may ask the question why is there crying in the wilderness when the people were living in the cities? It is a valid question however we must understand the content and meaning of “wilderness” in the Bible. The Wilderness in the Bible is considered “a place of loneliness and emptiness” and “a state of quietness” which means one must be alone and quiet to “listen to his voice”.

Eusebius of Caesarea once wrote “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God’s salvation is to be made known to all mankind. It was in the wilderness that God’s saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God’s salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father’s voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. Prepare the way of the Lord: the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God’s saving power”.

Thirdly invitation to repent: This is so very important to understand that we want to have peace not only within ourselves but with God as well, then we must repent our shortcomings, sins, and failures. By confessing them we become humble, and humility plays a vital role in achieving peace. Prophet Isaiah says “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low’ the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken”. In our Christian faith we have the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation which helps us to experience peace and healing in the Lord. St. John Baptist while inviting people to confess their sins, is also reminding them to prepare themselves to welcome the one who is more powerful than him. St. Peter in the Second Reading is encouraging people “do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but all to come to repentance”. The season of Advent is a season of seeking God’s peace, love, and presence; “Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace”.

Lastly acknowledging the Saviour: St. John the Baptist acknowledges the Saviour that he is more powerful than him “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals, I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit”. He was the first one who even before his birth leaped for joy in his mother’s womb. Jesus is prince of peace who is seated on the eternal throne of King David. Prophet Isaiah says “See, the Lord God comes with

might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd..."

Let me end my reflection with this story which will help us to understand that the shadow of fear will destroy our lives, but the light of faith will show us the peace. In the center of the most beautiful garden in the world stood the Tree of Wisdom. From this great tree there grew many branches and leaves. It spread its roots throughout the land. The tree was a place of comfort. Creatures would often come to it and sit in its shade and feel its great truths.

For many years there was harmony. Then one day a shade from one long branch decided that it was not happy. The shade did not wish to give comfort or shelter. "Fools," cried the shade as it spread beneath the tree. "I know more than any of them. I am not made to serve. I should rule over everything."

And so, it was that in pride and hatred the shade tugged and pulled and stretched itself until at last it was able to break its attachment to the great tree. It became the first shadow. Instead of using its power to give shade, it created a cold darkness that blinded all those it touched to the truth. Instead of using its voice to impart great truths to those around it, The Shadow whispered only lies.

The Shadow crept away from the Tree of Wisdom and drifted far into a barren place where it crawled into a hole in the sand. It sank deep into the earth. The Shadow grew and plotted. It would wait beneath the surface until a sad or doubting creature came near. Then The Shadow would rise and overtake the unsuspecting creature and blind it to truth and bend it to its will. Over many years and many miles, the shadow created an underground army. Then the army of The Shadow began to strike without warning bringing fear, sadness and hate to innocent creatures. "You cannot fight. I will win," it lied.

Some began to hide and fear the very light of day, for they thought that it was the cause of The Shadow. Others began to hate and fear all the shade of the world, not being able to tell the difference between shade and shadow. It came to pass that creatures began to feel anger toward all things different from themselves. They even became afraid of their own shadows. They stayed in their homes. When they went out, they didn't go far.

One day a field mouse went to the Tree of Wisdom, shook its small fist, and shouted, "How could you create such a terror upon us? Why is this allowed to continue?" The great tree bowed its huge trunk. It shook and leaves fell like tears. But it did not answer. Then a voice spoke from all around, "I created light and darkness. I made creatures great and small. To one and all I gave the power to build or destroy, bring joy or pain. One among you has chosen darkness and pain. This is not my wish."

Though dazzled by being in the presence of this great power the Mouse was still angry. "Why do you not stop The Shadow?" cried the Mouse. "Because I have given that power

to those The Shadow harms. The Shadow has grown through the lack of caring in creatures. Now it is your job to stop it," the great voice answered.

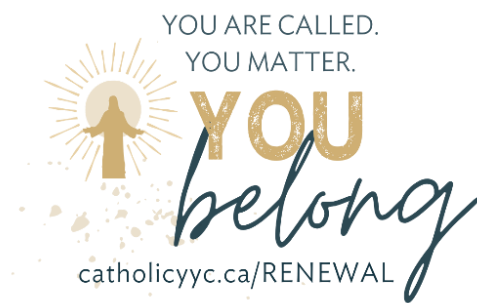
The Voice told the mouse how to win. "You cannot live in fear. Fear only makes The Shadow grow. To be rid of darkness - shine a powerful light of truth. To be rid of cold - bring only warmth wherever you go." The Mouse answered, "I will go out and tell the others what you taught me. I will remember not to hate, because hate makes The Shadow stronger." But Mouse worried, "I am only one small being and the shadows are now many. How can I ever hope to succeed?" Suddenly Mouse was surrounded in a beautiful golden light and warmth, "You will know that as The Shadow began with one small dark being now the light will grow with you, my small messenger."

So it was that one tiny creature set out into the world. With every kind word and every truth, it spoke, the world around it healed. Others joined the mouse and soon the light grew, and the shadows faded. One by one, The Shadow's followers fell before the mouse and the light. The Shadow sank back into its hole in the earth, vanishing like drops of water in the burning sands of time.

So today as we enter into the second week of Advent to follow the light and journey with Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, to experience God's love and peace during these horrific wars so that our souls are not dragged by the evils of doubt rising from these situations. Let's repent from our sins, shortcomings and failures and prepare the way to welcome Jesus Christ so that he may become the true reason of the season and peace may prevail in our homes, families, communities and in the World. Come Lord Jesus Prince of Peace and fill our hearts with your love and peace. Maranatha... Come Lord Jesus. Amen

Do we believe that peace can prepare the way to welcome Jesus?





DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

Second Sunday of Advent

Mission Mexico Sunday

Since the new millennium the financial support of the Catholic faithful from the Diocese of Calgary has provided much needed health and education projects for the Indigenous Peoples in the mountains of the State of Guerrero which is the poorest region in the country of Mexico. Let us continue to help our brothers and sisters to have a better future, and to sow hope among those who suffer. There will be a second collection on the Second **Sunday of Advent** for Mission Mexico. To donate online now please visit missionmexico.com

Sunday Mass at Calgary Hospitals

Great news! The celebration of Sunday Mass has resumed at three hospitals in the City of Calgary on the First Sunday of Advent. Patients, family members and friends, and hospital staff are now able to avail themselves of this pastoral outreach in the following facilities:

- Sundays at 3:30 pm - Foothills Hospital Chapel
- Sundays at 3:00 pm – Peter Lougheed Hospital Chapel
- Sundays at 3:30 pm – Rockyview Hospital Chapel

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples | Dec. 12

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on December 12 every year, on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, who appeared to a humble native peasant, [Juan](#)



Advent Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples

Each year, Advent invites us to prepare for the greatest event in human history - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. You are invited to St. Michael's Advent Mission with speaker Peter Thompson.

- **Mon, Dec. 18 at 7 pm** | Theme: God's love affair with humanity
- **Tue, Dec. 19 at 6 pm** (Mass followed by Mission) | Theme: Who do you say that I AM? Matthew 16:15
- **Wed, Dec. 20 at 7 pm** | Theme: His mercies never come to an end. Lamentation 3:22

Location: St. Michael's Parish (800 85 St. SW, Calgary.

[Diego](#), in Mexico in 1531. The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council celebrates this day for prayer, solidarity and reconciliation, by issuing an annual message honouring Aboriginal people who were inspired by their Catholic faith.

Marian Christmas Stamp from Canada Post

Did you see the 2023 Christmas stamp from Canada Post? This Vancouver artist Horvath's latest work holds special importance for him as a Christian. His design for the 2023 Christmas stamp, Madonna and Child, portrays the newborn Jesus cradled in Mary's arm as she gently gazes down with love. Available at [Canada Post](#).

Calgary Couple's generosity supports Elizabeth House

Thanks to a generous Calgary couple, Elizabeth House can run a special year-end matching

campaign again. This presents a fantastic opportunity for you to double your gift and its impact. Don't miss out on this chance - it's available until Dec. 16! Double your gift at catholiccyyc.ca/donateelizabethhouse

Warming Stations Volunteers

The Salvation Army Community Services (Calgary) Mobile Warming Station is looking for volunteers! If you have a passion for working with vulnerable populations, this position may be for you!

Volunteers will meaningfully engage with participants accessing the Mobile Warming Station. Time commitment: 2 hours per week. For more information, call 403-410-1109 or email

cscalgary.volunteerservices@salvationarmy.ca



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

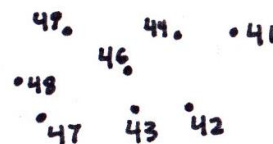
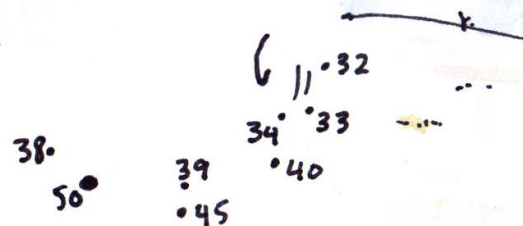
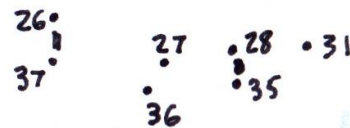
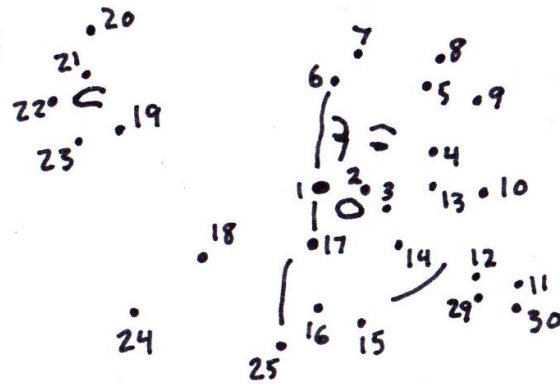
Sunday, May 5
Breakfast

Sunday, June 23
Parish Picnic

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

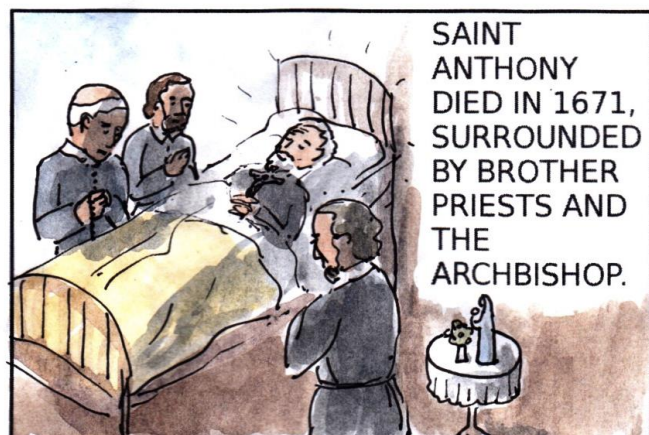
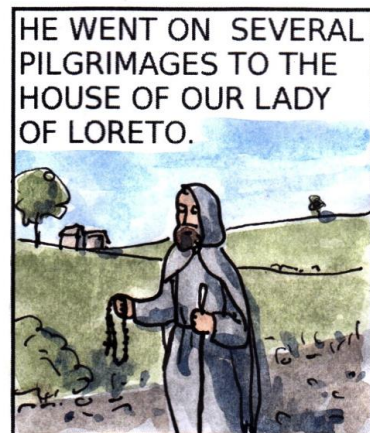
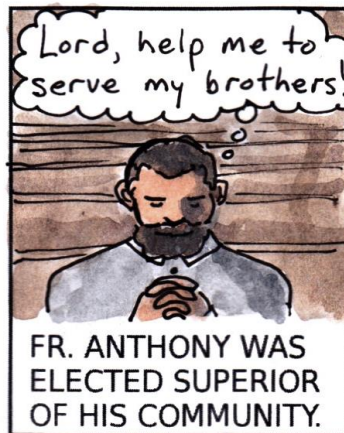
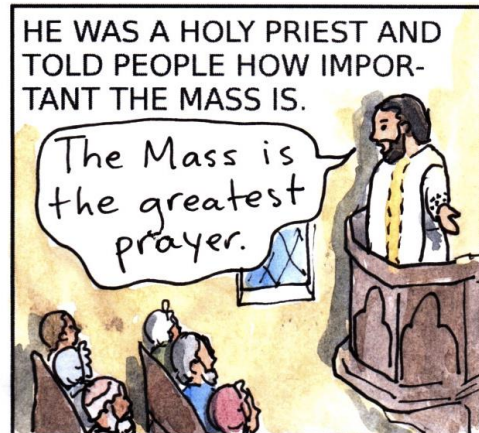
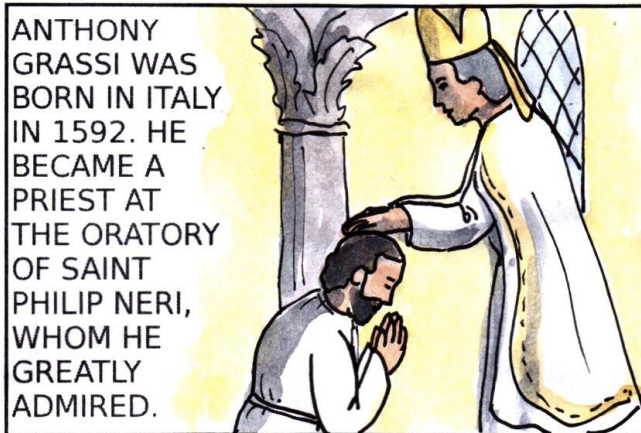
*I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert,
"Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make straight
his paths!"*



*What did God send before Jesus to prepare the
people for His coming?
Connect the dots to find out!*

Blessed Anthony Grassi

December 13



BLESSED ANTHONY HAD A GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LADY AND OFTEN VISITED HER SHRINE AT LORETO. DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A STATUE OF OUR LADY THAT YOU CAN PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO? PRAY OFTEN TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER- SHE WILL ALWAYS HELP US GROW CLOSER TO HER SON JESUS.

ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

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



*Find the words in
CAPITALS in
today's first
reading in the
puzzle.*

*Then use the
letters that are
left over to fill in
the blanks
at the end!*

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION,
herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with
STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good
TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities
of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the
LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm
RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with
him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him.
He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD,
he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he
will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY
LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

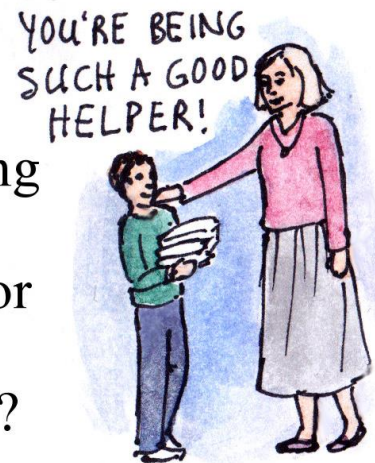
Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our



sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"

Answers to Isaiah 40 Word Find: The Messiah is coming!
Answer to front page: Saint John the Baptist.



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, 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

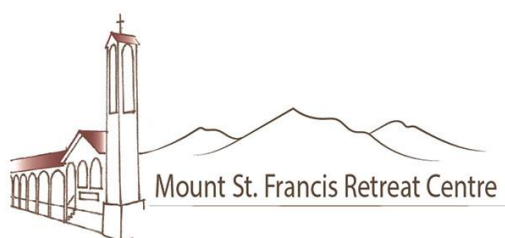


Retreat Centers in Southern Alberta

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.