



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B, SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024

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.

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.**

**"Look,
here is the
Lamb of God!"**

2nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19. Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20. John 1:35-42.

Listening, Discerning and Watching, Coming, Seeing, Finding.

These words ending in *-ing* (technically "gerunds") in the first and gospel readings indicate some continuing action. They point out good Christian behaviors as we start this wintertime between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. Like Samuel, we want to be always listening for God's voice, even while needing the help of another for discerning it. Like the Baptist, we want to be watching for Jesus moving among us, looking for his activity in surprising ways in our midst and, perhaps, the surprising people around us.

† How am I coming closer to Jesus day by day, week by week?

† How am I seeing Jesus active in our world?

† How am I finding myself following Jesus without question?

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B, SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024

OPERATING FINANCES

DECEMBER 1-30, 2023

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 63,984
General Envelope Collection	\$ 96,288
Loose Collections	\$ 7,982
Future Development	\$ 7,083
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ -6,346
\$105,007- Budget Vs Actual	\$ 41,023

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 14,049
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 6,246
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 170
Mission Mexico	\$ 3,547
CARO	\$ 65
Seminary Fund	\$ 60
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$ 40

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

Average Weekly Attendance 1,023

Together in Action \$7,377 short of our goal for 2023

† Masses & Mass Intentions †

Saturday, January 13

5:00pm ~ The Welford & Hellman Families

Sunday, January 14

8:30am ~ Ross & Lois Duke †

10:30am ~ Joyce Risling †

6:00pm ~ Holy Family Parish

Monday, January 15

9:00am ~ Peter & Margarette Fitzgerald †

Tuesday, January 16

9:30am ~ Bernie Domagala

Wednesday, January 17

9:30am ~ Roberta Rae †

Thursday, January 18

9:00am ~ Michele Roach †

Friday, January 19

9:00am ~ Dennis Wirachowsky †

Happenings in Holy Family Parish

Saturday, January 13

7:30am ~ TMIY - HFP Hall

10:00am - Benidicton Group - Hope Room

Monday, January 15

7:00pm - K of C General Meeting - Faith Room

Tuesday, January 16

9:30am - Gr. 3 Retreat - Mother Teresa School - Hall

6:30pm - 1st Communion Parents Meeting - Faith Room

Wednesday, January 17

9:30am - Gr. 3 Retreat - Ecole St. John Paul II School - Hall

9:30am - Bible Study - Faith Room

7:00pm - RCIA - Faith Room

Thursday, January 18

6:00pm - Confirmation Class - Faith Room

Saturday, January 20

7:30am ~ TMIY - HFP Hall

10:00am - Benidicton Group - Hope Room

Sunday, January 21

Following 8:30 & 10:30 am Masses - Parish Breakfast - Hall

10:15am - 1st Communion Class - Faith Room

Monday, January 22

7:00pm - Life Ministry - Faith Room

Wednesday, January 24

9:30am - Bible Study - Faith Room

7:00pm - RCIA - Faith Room

Thursday, January 25

9:30am - Gr. 3 Retreat - St. Patrick's School - Hall

Saturday, January 27

7:30am ~ TMIY - HFP Hall

VOCATIONS

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 14, 2024

A good vocation prayer to say every day - from the time we are young until we are in our golden years - is found in today's first Scripture reading: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Just try it with sincerity, starting today and, if you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

vocations@calgarydiocese.ca www.catholicyc.ca/vocations.html

Medicine Hat Pro-Life Association
Notice of Meeting
Monday, January 15, 2024
7:30 pm
St. Patrick's Church Hall

For more information: George Ibach, 403-527-7434

Knights of Columbus



General Meeting
Monday, January 15 at 7:00pm
Faith Room

Sacramental Preparation 2024

1st Communion Parents Meeting
Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30pm in Faith Room

Confirmation Class
Thursday, January 18 at 6:00pm in Faith Room

1st Communion Class
Sunday, January 21 at 10:15am in Faith Room



Holy Family
Parish Hall
Breakfast 7:30am
Presentation
8:30 – 9:30 am
January 20, 2024
Theme
The Wine Press of
the Gospel
Presenter
Michael Gormley

Parish Breakfast ~ January 21st
After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses

BREAKFAST SANDWICHES

(Bacon, Sausage or Ham)

\$5.00/SANDWICH

WITH

HASHBROWNS & FRUIT

THE BEST FELLOWSHIP EVER!



CHILDREN'S LITURGY
RESUMES

JANUARY 14th

10:30am Mass

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

Loonies for Lent is Coming Soon



Ash Wednesday
Masses

February 14

9:00am & 6:30pm



Holy Family Parish
Lenten Mission 2024

Fr. Jerome Lavigne
February 19, 20 & 21

Mass @ 6:00pm

followed by the

Mission Talk



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2024

**"You shall love the Lord your God
...and your neighbor as yourself"**

(Luke 10:27)



Unity Octave (January 18-25)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity traces its history back to 1908 when there was the first observance of the "Church Unity Octave" initiated by the Rev. Paul Wattson. Commemorated worldwide from 18 to 25 January each year, between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul, the octave brings together Christians of various traditions to pray for visible Christian unity, united by our love for God in Christ and the experience of knowing God's love for us. It is Jesus who prayed ardently to God the Father: *that they all may be one* ([John 17:21](#)). It is therefore also a heartfelt appeal to each and every Christian to respond to this cause.

The theme chosen for 2024 is: *You Shall Love the Lord Your God...and Your Neighbour As Yourself* ([Luke 10:27](#)).

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.

Bible Study



Wednesday Mornings after the 9:00 Mass

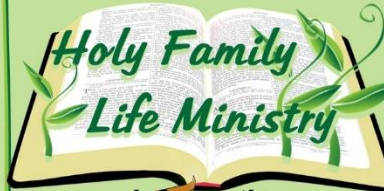
HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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

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.

reflection on the daily scripture readings.

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

Pamphlets available at the Greeting Desk

REAL MEN PRAY

Vincentian Corner

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the parishioners at Holy Family and St. Patrick's Churches. Your commitment to generously donate to Society of St. Vincent de Paul allows us to continue our mission of helping our neighbours in need. With the cost of living so high and wages not keeping up, so many are struggling to sustain a place to call home as well as to buy enough food to feed their family. We are very blessed to be able to assist those who are in dire situations. The stories we hear are heartbreaking, but we are often able to make a difference. That brings us great peace and joy.

God bless you all for your prayers and your generosity. We wish you a healthy and happy New Year in 2024.

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!



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

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!**

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*





**Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education**

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!



École St. John Paul II School

At École St. John Paul II School, we offer quality programming in Early Learning Program (ELP), Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school was opened 5 years ago and is the newest school in the district. Likewise, we are the only dual-track elementary school in the whole city, and proudly part of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. We offer faith-based programming in both English and French immersion streams. Our Mission is to live in partnership with family, Church, and community, while providing Catholic Education of the highest quality to our students. We firmly believe that Catholic Education is a ministry that is at the heart of the Church. Our school prides itself on the relationships we build with our students and parents. It is our common desire that all who enter our school will experience a year of exemplary academic, personal, and spiritual growth. At École St. John Paul II School, we are all committed to working to promote the Gospel values through the quality of our relationships – evident in our everyday interactions. Christ is truly the reason for this school. Therefore– acceptance, faith, respect, responsibility, caring, trust, and family are the basis upon which our classroom lessons and activities are taught, embedded in the teachings of the Gospel. École St. John Paul II School is so blessed to have such talented students and supportive parents. Our teachers and support staff seek to work hand-in-hand with all our valued stakeholders. We desire nothing less than to continue to serve a top-tier school community that has a strong Catholic school culture with an instructional focus that emphasizes the fundamental core values. At École St. John Paul II School, you are part of the *family*.

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED - Are you interested in hosting an international student? Do you have the 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 join 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



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

January 14, 2024

WHAT DO WE SEE IN JESUS?

We just completed our Christmas season by reflecting and meditating on the Infancy narratives of our Saviour. Now we have a few weeks in Ordinary Times before we begin our new liturgical season: Lent.

As we begin our season of Ordinary Times, we are invited to reflect on our calling or vocation. Is it easy to follow the Lord? The Lord's call makes us bearers of a promise and, at the same time, asks of us the courage to take a risk, with him and for him. In the Synoptic Gospels we read the one the requirements of the Lord are "anyone who wants to follow me, let him deny himself and carry his cross and follow me". The desire to follow Jesus, sometimes makes us to battle with temptations and waves of distractions. Each of us tries to realize his or her deepest desires; we engage in activities that we hope will prove enriching, and we put out on a "sea" of possibilities in the hope of steering the right course, one that will satisfy our thirst for happiness.

Throughout the Sacred Scriptures we read stories of one's calling to carry out the mission of God. Not everyone was well equipped or qualified but once they accepted the call of God, they became qualified to carry the mission and work of God. (Please read 2 Corinthians 4:1-15).

Once upon a time there a mentally challenged individual that works at a local supermarket. There was a time when the store presented an "Employee of the Month" award to its staff. Every month whoever will be the recipient of that honour, would brag about it and show off the plaque to the store's customers for a weeks after however that said individual never got the honour.

However, one day a lady met him in the grocery store and asked the young man to help her load some bags into her car. In the conversation that ensued, she asked if he had received a recognition plaque this year. He said, no, and went on to explain that the store had intention to consider him giving one. He became clearly emotional and distraught discussing it. It seemed that it made him feel so sad that his work, which clearly helps him

to define himself, will never award him this appreciation. Seeing how much this person cared about this honor, she decided to take it upon herself to do something about it.

So, every year at Christmastime, for the last several years, she gets a recognition plaque made--complete with this man's name and picture--and awards it to him in the parking lot when he helps her with her groceries. Sometimes, in fact, he is so overcome that someone has taken the time to recognize his work that he often breaks down and cries when she gives him the award.

Holy Father Pope Francis reflecting on the World Day of Vocation says "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking.

God in fact desires that our lives not become banal and predictable, imprisoned by daily routine, or unresponsive before decisions that could give it meaning. The Lord does not want us to live from day to day, thinking that nothing is worth fighting for, slowly losing our desire to set out on new and exciting paths. He wants us to discover that each of us is called – in a variety of ways – to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart. Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us.

What do we need to understand and realize our call? I believe our eyes and hearts must be focused on the Lord otherwise we will be like these monks: Four monks decided to meditate silently without speaking for two weeks. By nightfall on the first day, the candle began to flicker and then went out. The first monk said, "Oh, no! The candle is out." The second monk said, "Aren't we not suppose to talk?" The third monk said, "Why must you two break the silence?" The fourth monk laughed and said, "Ha! I'm the only one who didn't speak." Each monk broke the silence for a different reason, each of which is a common stumbling block to meditation. The first monk became distracted by one element of the world (the candle) and so lost sight of the rest. The second monk was more worried about rules than the meditation itself. The third monk let his anger rule over him. And the final monk was lost in his ego."

In the First Reading we have a very interesting story of a young boy Samuel who is in the temple to serve the Lord. His life teaches three very important lessons. First, we inherit faith from our parents and learn from them how to be obedient. Isn't it wonderful to see children growing in the likeness of their parents and becoming stronger in their faith after their parents' example of faith? Secondly, he was very obedient and always ready to serve Eli the priest "Here I am". Even Jesus as baby remained under his parents and became obedient even to point of death on the Cross as St. Paul writes in the letter to the Philippians. Samuel was all focused on his responsibilities and never let his ego or pride take best of him. Thirdly, he was a listening soul. He was called thrice, and he went running to Eli without bothering about darkness or obstacles on his way to Eli. How do we listen to the Lord without losing our focus? Responding to the Lord's call involves putting ourselves on the line and facing a great challenge. We are called to be bold and decisive

in seeking God's plan for our lives. Gazing out at the vast "ocean" of vocation, we must trust instead in the Lord's promise.

Today's Gospel on the other hand, shares an interesting story about the first disciples of Jesus. What made these disciples follow Jesus? "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" could be one of the reasons for them to follow. They must have become curious to understand why their teacher is calling Jesus "Lamb of God" whereas they were aware of the sacrificial Lamb in the Law of Moses. Every time during the Holy Mass we repeat these words "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" reminds us that Jesus came to give his life for us sinner to have eternal life. What is our interest to see in Jesus?

Secondly, they want to see Jesus where he is living "where are you staying?" This is the desire we need to have to see where Jesus lives as Psalmist exclaims "As deer long for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?" "It is so important to keep this desire alive, this longing to behold the Lord and to experience him, to experience his love, to experience his mercy! If one ceases to thirst for the living God, faith is in danger of becoming a habit, it risks being extinguished, like a fire that is not fed. It risks becoming "rancid", meaningless" as Pope Francis explains.

What good does it do to meditate on this scene? It reminds us that God did not create us to be alone, closed in on ourselves, but to be able to encounter him and to open ourselves to encounter others. God first comes to each one of us; and this is marvellous! He comes to meet us! In the Bible God always appears as the one who takes the initiative in the encounter with man: it is he who seeks man, and usually he seeks him precisely while man is in the bitter and tragic moment of betraying God and fleeing from him. God does not wait in seeking him: he seeks him out immediately. He is a patient seeker, our Father! He goes before us, and he waits for us always. He never tires of waiting for us, he is never far from us, but he has the patience to wait for the best moment to meet each one of us. And when the encounter happens, it is never rushed, because God wants to remain at length with us to sustain us, to console us, to give us his joy. God hastens to meet us, but he never rushes to leave us. He stays with us. As we long for him and desire him, so he too desires to be with us, that we may belong to him, we are his "belonging", we are his creatures. He, too, we can say, thirsts for us, to meet us. Our God is thirsty for us. And this is God's heart. It is so beautiful to hear this. Just remember to the story of Zacchaeus a chief tax collector who was short in stature, physically or maybe morally he was considered by others, had great desire to see Jesus and when Jesus looked up to see him, he was transformed, and a great conversion of heart took place. What kind of conversion or transformation we desire?

Lastly the answer of Jesus in today's Gospel is 'words written on the gold tablet' "Come and See" which is a special call that the Lord addresses to each one of us. The Psalmist says, "it is better to live one day in your house than thousands of years somewhere else". The response of Jesus opens up to a personal encounter which requires sufficient time to welcome, to know and to acknowledge the other.

St. Jerome once speaking about vocation said, "The Master of the Christian race offers the reward, invites candidates to the course, holds in His hand the prize of virginity, points to the fountain of purity, and cries aloud "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." "He that is able to receive it, let him receive it." Let no one think that by this saying "not all man can receive it etc." either fate or fortune is introduced, for those are virgins to whom it is given by God, or that chance has led to this, but it is given to those who have asked for it, who have desired it, who have worked that they might receive it. For it will be given to the one who asks, the seeker will find, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ... It is in our power, whether we want to be perfect. But whoever wants to be perfect, should sell all that he has...and when he has sold, give everything to the poor. St. Bernard invites everyone to understand their calling as a promise "The rule of St. Benedict is proposed to every man, imposed on none. It is profitable if devoutly chosen and maintained, but if it is not chosen there is no sin. But what lies in the will of the one who undertakes it, not in the power of him who proposes it, I call voluntary, not necessary. But this which I call voluntary, if someone has once received it of his own will and promised to maintain it thereupon, he himself changes it into a necessity, nor is he free to give up what before he was free not to undertake. And so, what he undertook of his will, he will maintain of necessity, since it is wholly necessary for him to render the vows his lips made, and now by condemned or justified by his mouth. But as one of the saints said, "Happy is the necessity which compels to better things."

The invitation to those two disciples opens a stream of wisdom to understand that this is not we who have chosen him, but it is he who has chosen us to be with him. St. Francis de Sales says "A true vocation is nothing other than the firm and constant will possessed by the person called, to want to serve God in the manner and in the place where the Divine Majesty calls her. This is the best mark one could have to know when a vocation is true."

Let me end my reflection with story to examine ourselves and ask ourselves a question "What is my response to Jesus' response "Come and See"? Is it out of fear or commitment to be with the Lord?

Once a very long time ago there lived a monk, he preferred to spend his time well away from the trappings of society and instead sought seclusion within nature to deepen his meditation practice. He would still visit the local village early each morning to collect his alms food and this had been the way he lived for many years.

One fine afternoon, after he had received his alms food, he found his usual meditation cushion and began to be aware of his breathing and started to practice meditation. His concentration became so great as he sat for a very long time and did not notice the large snake coming closer and closer. He was absorbed with his one-pointed concentration that he had become as still as a tree.

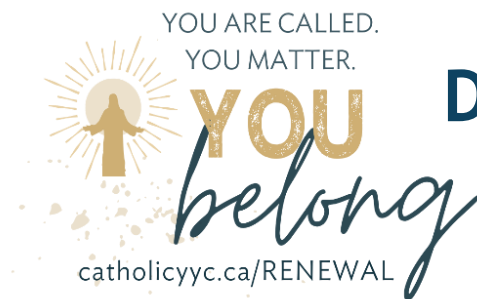
The large snake did not even notice the silent and still monk who was meditating as still as a tree, all he noticed was a nice warm sleeping spot in those monk's robes all draped around his crossed legs, and in the sunshine, the snake snuggled into the monk's lap and fell fast asleep.

An hour or so passed like this with the monk in deep meditative concentration and the snake fast asleep on his lap, until slowly the Monk returned his concentration to his surroundings and began to become aware of an unusual weight in his lap. Fear grasped the monk who instantly closed his eyes and started meditating again. He calmed himself and remembered his training, all things are impermanent and forever changing, and knew without a doubt the snake would move on again, and so he stayed in Meditation.

Finally, the snake found himself hungry and uncurled himself from monk's lap, stretched his biggest stretch and he went off in search of food. The monk also slowly came out of meditation, but something had changed deep within, he had sat for many days in complete absorption of his mind and saw as clear as a mountain lake the processes within himself to understand his calling to follow God. He had attained enlightenment.

We too get enlightenment when we walk with Jesus and see Him because he calls us to see his presence in our lives. This question is for us today to examine our discipleship: What do we see in Jesus?





DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

2024 is the Year of Prayer

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year '**Pilgrims of Hope**,' 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer. The Holy Father encourages us to highlight the importance of both communal prayer and individual prayer this year. To learn about the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope" - visit: catholiccycc.ca/blog/yearofprayer

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Jan 18-25

You are invited to observe the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with the theme "*You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself*". (Luke 10:27). Resources for families, individuals, and parishes are available at weekofprayer.ca **Prayer for Christian Unity Events** in the Diocese:

- **Wed, Jan 24 at Noon** - Prayer Service at the University of Calgary Chapel
- **Thu, Jan 25 at Noon** - Prayer Service at SAIT Chapel

Sunday of the Word of God - Jan 21 - Third Sunday OT

Pope Francis has declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God, which falls on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, **Jan 21**. **Make Scripture a part of everyday life this year**. For more info, visit catholiccycc.ca/blog

The Stories We Tell

Join researchers and church leaders to interact with recent research findings from four congregational case studies across Canada. When: **Saturday, Jan 13 at 8 am MT (10 am ET)**. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/ambstorieswetell24>

Ablaze Youth Ministry

Join Father Troy Nguyen as he launches the ABLAZE Youth Ministry at St. Bonaventure, Calgary, which is also open to youth in the Diocese. Please share this information with parents, teachers, and guardians with youth in their care! Friday evenings: **Jan 19 (All ages)** at 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm - Family Adoration and Board Game at St. Bonaventure's, and **Jan 26 (Gr. 7-12) at 7 to 9 pm** - Impact Night with Tony Melendez and Access52 - at St. Michael's, Calgary.

Gift of Hope: Retreat for Unemployed Persons

Loss of employment can be trying to our souls. Gift of Hope is a complimentary retreat providing a supportive environment for attendees to share experiences and focus on deep listening and hope, blessings, and to recognize that they're not alone. When: Weekend of Jan 26-27, at FCJ, Calgary - This is a complimentary retreat. To register, call 403.228.4215 or email info@fcjcentre.ca

Apply to St. Mary's University

Applications are now open for Fall 2024 in all BA/BSc programs and the helpful admissions team at St. Mary's is ready to guide you through the process. Get a head start on building the foundation of your future by applying to St. Mary's University today at stmu.ca.

Inspiration Unplugged presents: The Saint John's Bible

Please join us for our third instalment of the Inspiration Unplugged Catholic Lecture series! Come learn about and experience The Saint John's Bible! Brad Neary, Director of the Heritage Program, will share the history of the original manuscript as well as details of the full-sized printed version, referred to as the Heritage Edition. The Saint John's Bible is the first-handwritten, illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in 500 years! When: **Wed, Jan. 24, 2024**, McGivney Hall – M100 (St. Mary's University, Calgary) **from 7 to 9 pm**

Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle 2024

The Knights of Columbus in Airdrie invites you to participate in their Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle. Proceeds go back into the community through the Knights of Columbus (Council 8045) in Airdrie. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to airdriedreamvacation.ca

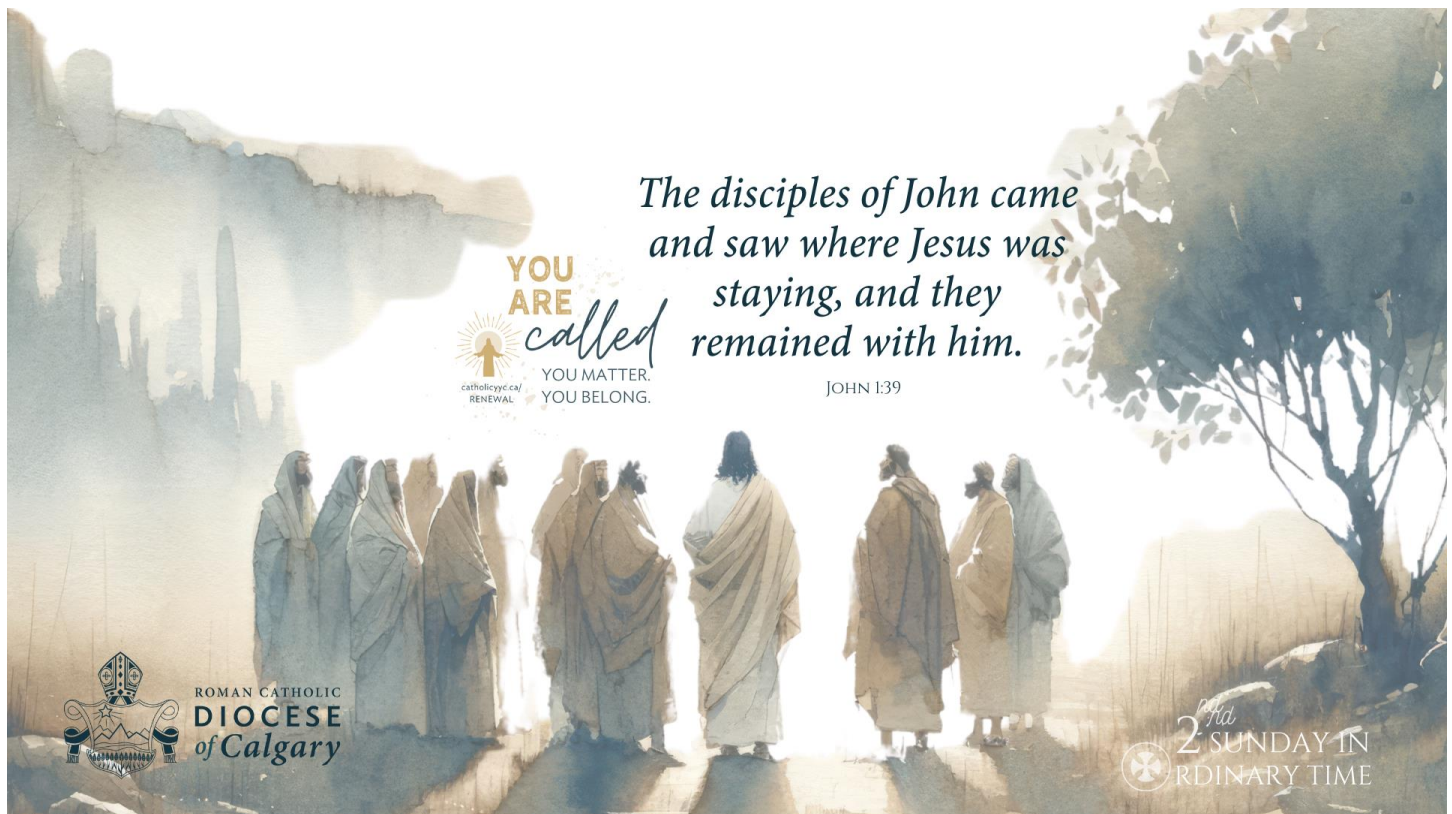
Theology of the Body Conference

Theology of the Body Conference

Join experts Dr. Christopher West, Sister Helena Burns FSP, Fr. Cristino Bouvette, and internationally acclaimed songwriter, Mike Mangione, as they introduce and reflect St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. When/Where: **Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 from 6 pm to 10 pm** at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (10827 24 St SW Calgary). Register online. For any questions, please contact theologyofthebodyconference@gmail.com

Subscribe to *Faithfully*

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the [Diocesan publication Faithfully](http://Diocesan%20publication%20Faithfully) - to keep you updated with what's happening in our Diocese. Faithfully gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people in our Diocese and provides us with opportunities to spread the Good News of Christ beyond the walls of our churches. New release is coming up this Monday! To subscribe, catholiccyyc.ca/faithfully



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



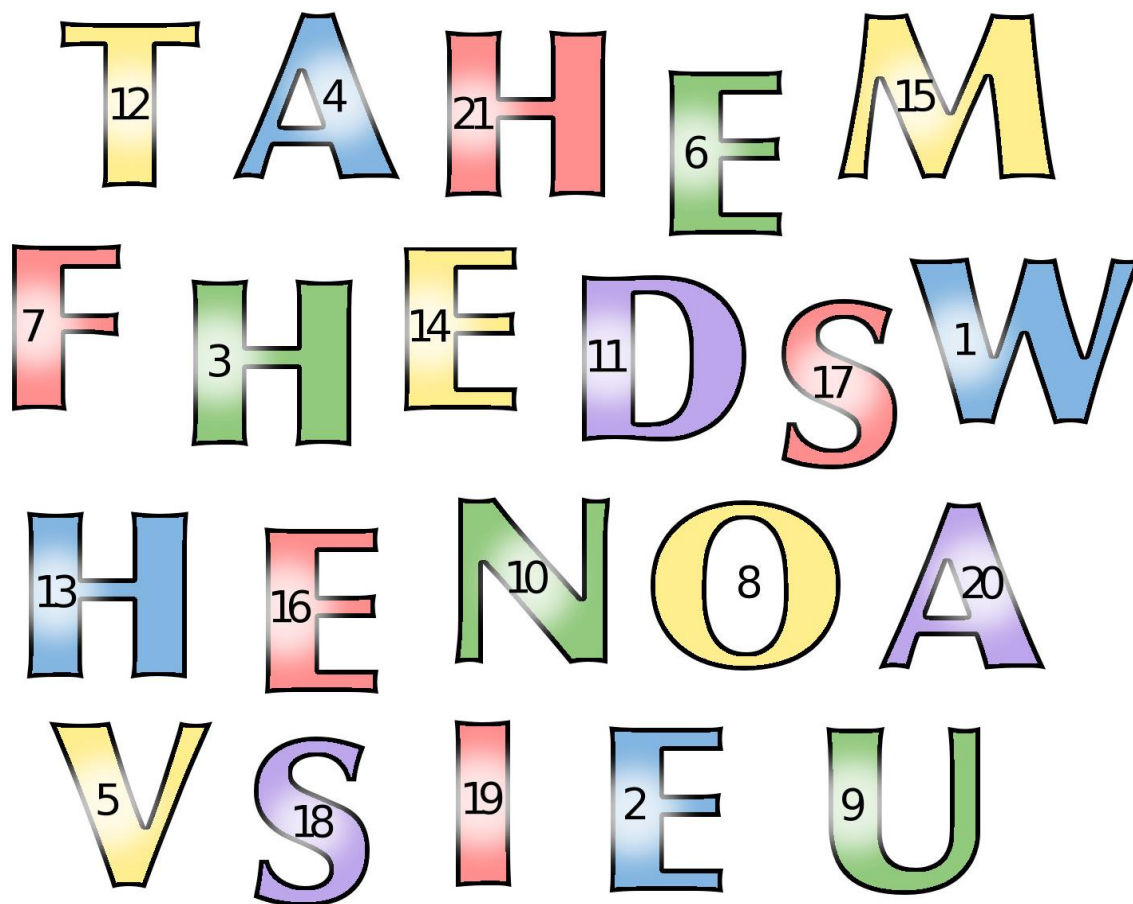
2023-24 Knights Events

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

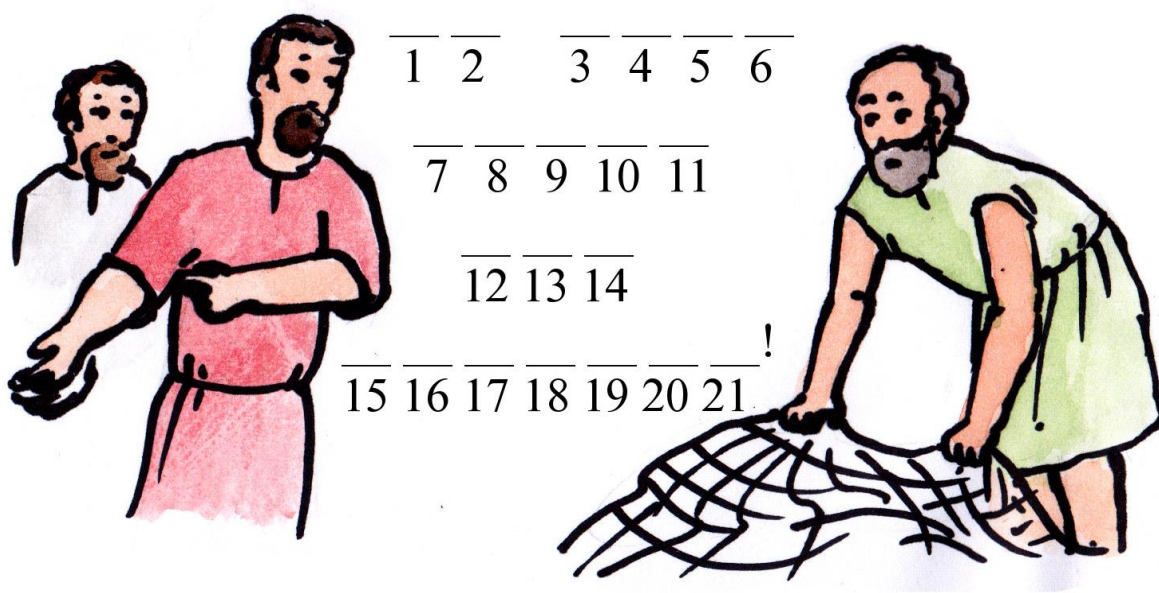
The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14th, 2024



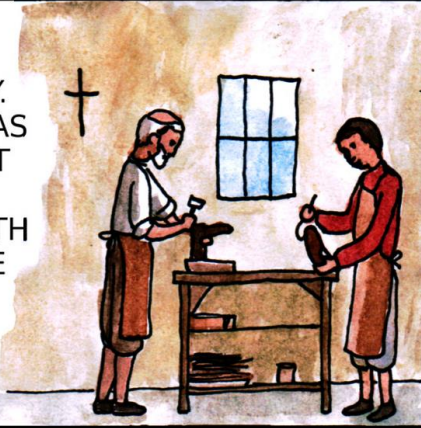
*What did Andrew say to his brother Simon in today's Gospel reading?
Fill the spaces with the letters in the right order to find out!*



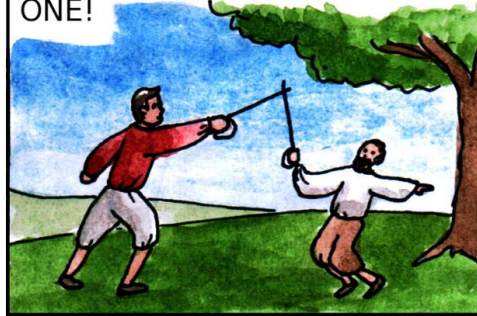
Saint Bernard of Corleone

January 12

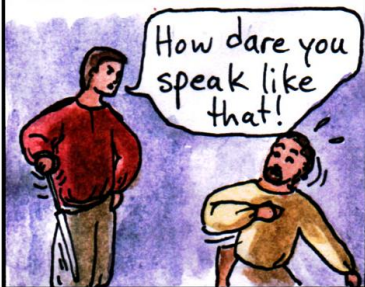
PHILIP LATINI WAS BORN IN 1605 IN SICILY. HIS FAMILY WAS CATHOLIC BUT HE DIDN'T TAKE THE FAITH SERIOUSLY. HE BECAME A SHOEMAKER LIKE HIS FATHER.



WHEN HIS FATHER DIED HE QUIT WORKING AND BECAME A SWORDSMAN- A VERY GOOD ONE!

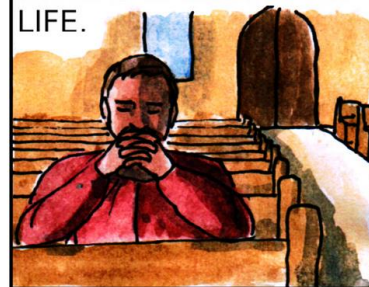


PHILIP GOT INTO MANY QUARRELS, BUT HE DID DEFEND THE ELDERLY AND HELPLESS PEOPLE.



ONCE HE WOUNDED THE HAND OF A MAN WHO HAD FOUGHT WITH HIM IN A DUEL.

HE WENT TO THE CHURCH, WHERE HE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW HE WAS SPENDING HIS LIFE.



WHEN HE WAS 27 HE BECAME A CAPUCHIN MONK AND TOOK THE NAME BROTHER BERNARD.



BROTHER BERNARD DID MUCH PENANCE AND DID HIS JOBS WITH JOY. HE ALSO HAD GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. HE DIED AT AGE 62.

SAINT BERNARD WAS POSSIBLY THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN SICILY, BUT WHEN HE FELT THAT GOD WANTED HIM TO BECOME A MONK, HE DIDN'T LET HIS FAME STOP HIM FROM SERVING GOD. IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT? DOES IT HELP YOU SERVE GOD OR DOES IT GET IN THE WAY?

Samuel's Call Cross-Word

*See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle.
Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.*

SAMUEL was sleeping in the TEMPLE. He heard a voice calling him, so he RAN to ELI and said, "Here I am. You called me."

"I did not call you, " Eli said. "Go BACK to sleep."

So he went back to sleep. Then the same thing happened again. The voice CALLED Samuel again, for the THIRD time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "HERE I am. You called me."



Then Eli UNDERSTOOD that the Lord was calling the YOUTH. So he said to Samuel, "Go to SLEEP, and if you are called, REPLY, "SPEAK, Lord, for your SERVANT is listening." When Samuel went to sleep, the LORD came and REVEALED his presence, calling out as BEFORE, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel ANSWERED, "Speak, for your servant is LISTENING."

Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

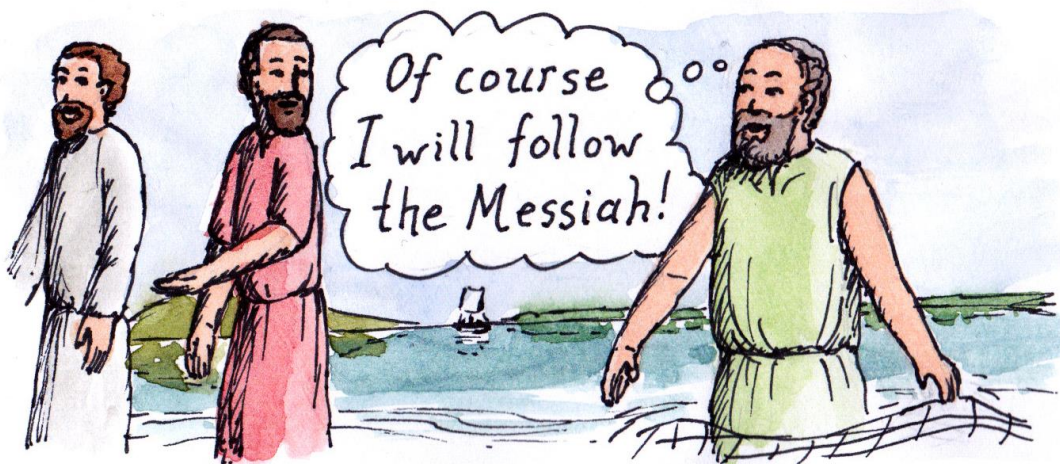
*What's another way of saying
this was Samuel's calling?
It was*

Be Ready to do God's Will

In today's first reading, God called young Samuel in a special way. Samuel's life had been dedicated to God, and because he was willing to follow God's plan, God made Samuel a holy prophet.

In the Gospel reading, Saint John the Baptist tells his followers that Jesus is the Messiah. Two of them decided to follow Jesus, and one of them, Andrew, went and got his brother Simon. When Simon went to follow Him, Jesus told him that his name would now be "Cephas," or "Peter," which means 'rock.' God had a special plan for Simon Peter. He was to become the leader of the Church- the first pope!

God does not call all of us to very important jobs like the prophet Samuel and Saint Peter. But each of us should follow Jesus and be ready to do His will. If we always try to do what God wants, then we will be ready if He does have a special job for us! How can you do God's will today?



Answer to front page: We have found the Messiah!
Answer to Cross-Word: his vocation.

www.thekidsbulletin.com



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

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.



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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.

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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.