



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. B SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Phone 403-527-6933  
Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish ~ YouTube: Medicine Hat Holy Family Church

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

## CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid &  
Deacon Robert Risling

## RECONCILIATION...

Friday 9:30am–10:30am.  
& Saturday 3:30–4:45pm.

## 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

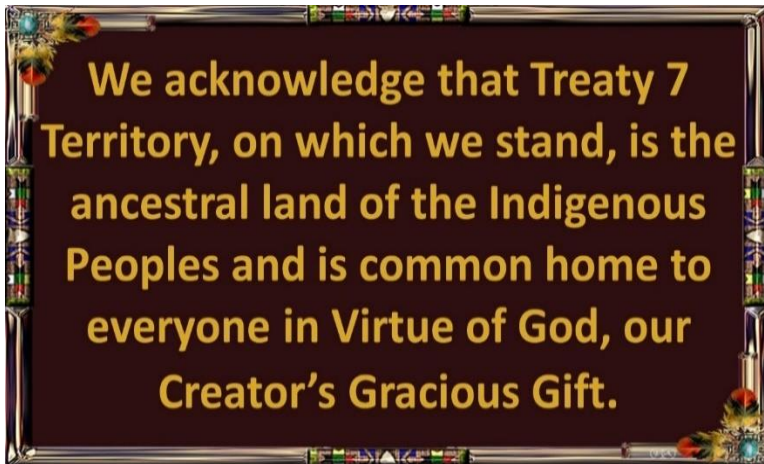
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm  
ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am

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, March 16

8:00am ~ Margaret Marthaler †

5:00pm ~ Ken Bachmeier †

Sunday, March 17



8:30am ~ Leo Lewans

10:30am ~ Holy Family Parish

6:00pm ~ Joyce Risling †

Monday, March 18

9:00am ~ Gabriel Zavala †

Tuesday, March 19

9:00am ~ Lambert Risling †

Wednesday, March 20

9:30am ~ Catherine Aitken †

Thursday, March 21

9:00am ~ Crecensia Mercado †

Friday, March 22

9:00am ~ Billy Miller

# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. B      SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

## OPERATING FINANCES

### FEBRUARY 1-29, 2024

Operating Budget 2022	\$ 60,990
General Envelope Collection	\$ 41,721
Loose Collections	\$ 3,729
Future Development	\$ 3,424
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 12,044
<b>\$ 60,918 - Budget Vs Actual</b>	<b>-\$ 72</b>

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,443
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,395
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 170
Mission Mexico	\$ 140
CARO	\$ 65
Seminary Fund	\$ 40
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$ 10
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 40

*Thank You for your Generous Contributions*

**Average Weekly Attendance      920**

## THIS WEEK IN HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Friday, March 15

9:30am-10:30am—Adoration & Reconciliation—HFP Chapel

6:00pm – Stations of the Cross – followed by meatless soup & buns – Presented by the CWL

Saturday, March 16

7:30am - TMIY – HFP Hall

8:00am – Lenten Mass

10:00am – Benedictine Group – Hope Room

3:30 - 4:45pm – Reconciliation – Chapel

Sunday, March 17



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 20

9:30am – Mass with Ecole St. John Paul II School

9:30am – Bible Study – Faith Room

7:00pm – RCIA – Faith Room

Friday, March 22

6:00pm – Stations of the Cross – followed by meatless soup & buns – Presented by the Filipino Community

Saturday, March 23

7:30am - TMIY – Faith Room

8:00am – Lenten Mass

9:00am - CWL Regional Meeting – HFP Hall

10:00am – Benedictine Group – Hope Room

3:30 - 4:45pm – Reconciliation – Chapel

Monday, March 25

6:00pm – Stations of the Cross – St. Louis School

Tuesday, March 26

6:00pm – Stations of the Cross – St. Patrick's

TOGETHER  
in ACTION | 2024

**2024 Goal - \$70,938**

**Donations to date -**

**\$11,211.00**

**We are 16% of the way there!**

**YOU ARE**



## Special Collection Days in March

March - Future Development Fund

March - Together in Action

March 17 – Easter Flowers

March 28 – Holy Thursday

Needs for the local Poor

March 29 - Church in the Holy Land

March 30 – Easter Offering



J O U R N E Y



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34. Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15. Hebrews 5:7-9. John 12:20-33.

## Outsiders Seeking Jesus.

Today, visitors from Greece (outsiders to the Jews) want to see Jesus who is in the holy city Jerusalem for Passover. This reminds us that everyone, really, looks for God, wants to be good, hopes for salvation. This is the impact of the new covenant of which Jeremiah speaks today.

† How can I be like Philip and Andrew, and bring others to Jesus?

† How will I serve Jesus and follow him today?

† What of my life am I willing to lose for the benefit of eternal life?



**Solemnity of  
St. Joseph  
Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary**



**March 19**



**VOCATIONS**

March 17, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of Lent

Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we die to our selfish ways, we cannot expect to be people who will "lay down their lives for their friends". If you think God is calling you to lay down your life as a priest, religious or deacon for His Church, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette...

[vocations@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:vocations@calgarydiocese.ca) [www.catholicyc.ca/vocations.html](http://www.catholicyc.ca/vocations.html)

**40 LOONIES FOR LENT**  
**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**& HOLY FAMILY PARISH**

**RAISED TO DATE \$4,482.60**

**FUNDS GO TO SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL,  
THE ROOT CELLAR, THE MUSTARD SEED,  
AND THE 5TH AVENUE & ST. BARNABAS  
MEAL PROGRAMS**

**Faith & Family St. Patrick's  
Day Celebration**

**Sunday, March 17 at 2:00pm HFP Hall**

Crafts, snacks, activities, games!

Join us and learn a wee bit about St. Patrick  
in this fun-filled family event.

Kids, teens, parents, grandparents welcome!

**Holy Family Parish**  
**Blessing of the  
Easter Food Baskets**

**Saturday, March 30 at 11:00am**

**Stations of the Cross 2024**

Friday, February 16 – Parish Pastoral Council ☪

Friday, February 23 – Knights of Columbus ☪

Friday, March 1 – Finance Council ☪

Friday, March 8 – R.C.I.A. ☪

Friday, March 15 – Catholic Women's League ☪

Friday, March 22 – Filipino Community ☪

Monday, March 25 – St. Louis School

Tuesday, March 26 – St. Pat's School – Shadow Play

☪-Groups providing Meatless Soup & Buns after.

**Penitential Service**

**St. Patrick's Parish**

**Wednesday, March 20**

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Mass at 7:00pm

**Holy Family Parish**

**Thursday, March 21**

6:00pm – 8:00pm

**Walk the Stations of the Cross**

**Good Friday beginning at 10 am**

**Covenant Health St. Joseph's Home**

**156 3rd St. NE. Entrance at Rear**

**If the weather is poor, the Stations will be  
held indoors at St. Patrick's Church.**

**Followed by the Divine Mercy Novena at St.  
Patrick's and then the 12:00 Noon Service.**

**All are Welcome... Dress for the Weather**

**J O U R N E Y**





## Sacramental Preparation 2024

**1st Communion Parents Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30pm in Faith Room**

**Confirmation Class**

**Thursday, April 18 at 6:00pm in Faith Room**

**1st Communion Class**

**Sunday, April 21 at 10:15am in Faith Room**



**This Lent, please  
give generously...**

This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Reaping our Rights campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity.

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world.

"Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!" — Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia

Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give). Thank you for your solidarity!

**HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>**

**MORNING PRAYER, 8:30 AM**

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7:00 PM FOLLOWED BY ADORATION**

**UNTIL MIDNIGHT IN THE FAITH ROOM, & RECONCILIATION**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES, 12:00 NOON & 3:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>**

**MORNING PRAYER, 8:30 AM**

**BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD, 11:00 AM**

**EASTER VIGIL, 8:00 PM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>**

**EASTER SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> — NO MASS**

**Holy Week  
2024**



**The Catholic Women's League**

Holy Family Parking Lot  
Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Before & After Mass  
Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Before & After Masses

**FUNDRAISING**

Thank you for your support!



Check out the Online Bulletin to see why we cover the Crucifix and Statues, why people get their House Blessed during Easter Season, and you can read Fr. Iqbal's Reflection.

[WWW.HOLYFAMILYMH.CA](http://WWW.HOLYFAMILYMH.CA)

**Parish Breakfast ~ April 7<sup>th</sup>  
After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses**

**OMELETS, SAUSAGES,  
PANCAKES**

**\$10. — ADULTS**

**\$5. — UNDER 12**

**FREE — UNDER 6**

**& THE BEST FELLOWSHIP EVER!**





MEDICINE HAT  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# 50/50 RAFFLE

Draw: April 9, 2024!

- 1 entry for \$10
- 4 entries for \$20
- 20 entries for \$50
- 100 entries for \$100
- Draw ends: April 5th @ 11:59pm

SCAN QR CODE  
TO PURCHASE  
YOUR TICKETS!



**rafflebox.ca/raffle/MHCSEF**

License #676131



## 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.koc5050.com](http://www.koc5050.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 April 27, 2024. 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.

*Spending time with Jesus*

The Chapel is Open

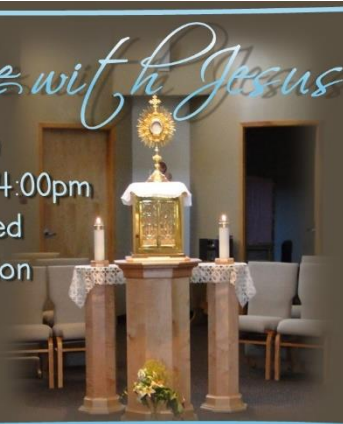
Monday – Friday 9:30am – 4:00pm

Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament & Reconciliation

Friday 9:30-10:30am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-4:30pm



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**10:30am Mass**

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

*Faithfully*  
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

[catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully](http://catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully) keeps you updated  
with what's happening in and around our Diocese!

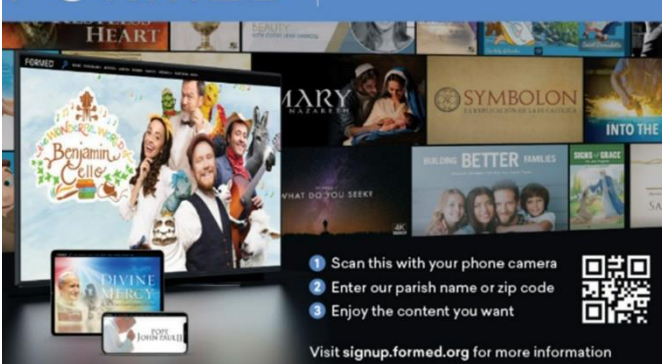
*E-transfer*  
ONLINE GIVING



**accounting@holyfamilymh.ca**

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**DO NOT RESPOND** to it,  
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Listen to Mass on your phone...  
Download the "Audio Fetch" app.  
Our Network is: HFP\_LIVE  
The Password is: Liv3HFP\*



# Why do we cover statues during Lent?



I don't know how many of us know about covering or veiling of statues during lent. Every year this is tradition is being carried out in our universal Catholic Church. We may have seen but most of the time we don't pay attention. It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year Catholics cover everything that is beautiful in their churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the

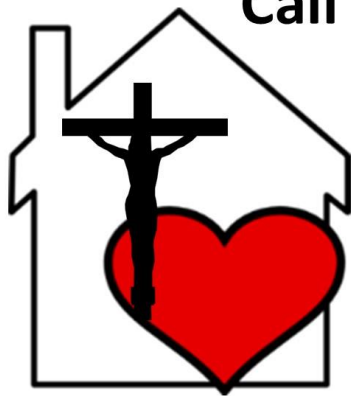
painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday? We read in the Book of Judith "And all the Israelite men, women, and children living at Jerusalem prostrated themselves before the temple and put ashes on their heads and spread out their sackcloth before the Lord. They even draped the altar with sackcloth and cried out in unison, praying fervently to the God of Israel not to allow their infants to be carried off and their wives to be taken as booty, and the towns they had inherited to be destroyed, and the sanctuary to be profaned and desecrated to the malicious joy of the Gentiles" (4:11-12).

It is a tradition which prepares us for the solemn celebration of the Passion of Christ and reflect deeply on his suffering and death. In the *Roman Missal* we find the instruction, "In the Dioceses of Canada, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed.

Why cover up something beautiful? First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready. Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene. Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday.

Covering crosses, statues and images or "veiling" with unadorned violet opaque cloths begins on the Saturday before the 5th Sunday of Lent. It is an older custom of the Church that remains an option even to this day. The exact era it began no one is sure, but the origins seem to come from a medieval tradition of the "hunger cloth" which was a huge violet cloth hung in front of the altar to keep the congregation from viewing the altar. Originally Lent was a time that public sinners were "banished" from the church and had to do a public display of penance.





**Call the Office to book  
your Private  
House Blessing  
during this  
Easter Season.  
403-527-6933 ext. 101**

Tradition of House Blessing dates back to early Christianity. We read in the Gospel of St. Matthew "'On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed

down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." It means we open the doors to Jesus to come in and stay with us. As it is written in the Book of Revelation 3:20 *"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me"*

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church "Among the sacramentals blessings occupy an important place. They include both praise of God for his works and gifts, and the Church's intercession for men that they may be able to use God's gifts according to the spirit of the Gospel.

at the Easter Vigil, all is restored: The fonts are filled again and the baptismal water is blessed. In this blessing, we hear how God has given water the "power to sanctify" throughout salvation history — the great flood cleansed the earth of sin, the Israelites passed through the Red Sea to freedom, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. For the remainder of the Easter season, the congregation is sprinkled liberally with this holy water in place of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass. We are reminded of our baptism and our baptismal vow. During Easter time, when houses are blessed with the water blessed at Easter Vigil, reminds us about the life-giving water which flowed from the side of Jesus when his heart of pierced. During the blessing, we remember the words of the Psalmist, "**Blessed** art thou, and it shall be well with thee".



## St. Patrick's School

This year has been an amazing school year with so many new initiatives from students, staff, and our school community. Similar to every year, we review provincial data collected from students, teachers, and parents and collaborate as a community to create our school education plan. As a school community we take time to meet with all stakeholders to celebrate successes, focus on challenges, and implement new opportunities that continue to promote our Catholic identity and a culture of serving one another.

As a growing school community, we continue to increase in enrollment from year to year because of the incredible support and compassion from students, staff, parents, and grandparents. Each year we strive to involve new opportunities with our community to be part of our classrooms that help to promote serving others

and the building of relationships that contribute to the learning and success for our students, such as: school wide community classrooms with Science in Motion, picnic days with family and friends, design, and installation of a natural outdoor classroom, and so many more community events and opportunities.

Recently, our students raised almost \$9000.00 for our annual Kinsmen skate-a-thon in support of free community skating and swimming for all families within our city. Also, our parent council is currently applying for government grants and organizing community fundraisers to help raise money (approximately \$100 000.00) in support of creating a safe and natural outdoor classroom. This initiative is intended to foster the love of learning through play and nature which support many areas of wellness for all students and staff (mentally, physically, and spiritually). If you wish to learn more or donate to our natural outdoor classroom, please contact our school office, or parent council for more information.

As we continue in the month of March, we prepare our students for the season of Lent and reflect on the blessings that God has given us. The Lenten season is a great time for all of us to reflect and forgive, to pray with God, and to live according to the teachings of Jesus, whose life and teachings are the center of our faith. We invite and encourage all of you, our community parishioners, to join us in any future Monday morning school assembly (9:15 - 9:45 am) where we meet as a school community to celebrate our faith and recognize the wonderful moments and people of St. Patrick school. We hope to see you soon!

Dwayne Unreiner, Principal of St. Patrick School



**Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education**





# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Council 9502 is  
sponsoring the 40  
Loonies for Lent  
program.

This year's program theme is, ***Love the Lord, Love your neighbour***. As it is written in the book of Sirach, chapter 35, verses 6 to 8, "The just man's sacrifice is most pleasing, nor will it ever be forgotten. In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance."

Your donations stay here in Medicine Hat going to the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul Society, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.

It should be noted that Holy Family Parish volunteers serve every Thursday at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Holy Family also serves every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday at St. Barnabas Meal Program. I would personally like to thank the many volunteers who sacrifice their time to assist the people who may be struggling.

Through the generous support of Holy Family Parish parishioners, you helped raise **twelve thousand dollars in 2023. Our goal this year is to raise ten thousand dollars.**

There are a few ways to make donations. Simply write "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and the dollar amount on your weekly parish donation envelope. You may donate your full Lenten gift of \$40.00 one time or contribute an amount of \$7.00 or more each week. If sacrificial giving means you can give more, please do so. For those who are not using weekly envelopes you may make your cheque payable to Holy Family Parish or donate cash in a separate envelope marked with your name, address and "40 LOONIES FOR LENT" and place it in the weekly collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office. Alternatively, you may authorize the parish to process your donation on your credit card and most recently Holy Family Parish has added e-transfer but if using e-transfer please note it is to go to: **40 Loonies for Lent.**

Look for updates on funds collected in the parish bulletin.

We thank you in advance for your generosity, **"what ever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me."**

Thank you and may the Lord bless you and keep you.





5th Sunday of Lent Year B

March 17, 2024

### A DESIRE TO SEE JESUS

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer, and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face, and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Our Lenten Journey is helping us to grow deeper into our relationship with the Lord. Everyday and every week when we attend the Holy Mass, we are introduced to various Sacred Scripture Readings to make us aware why our Lord died for us. However sometimes we fail to understand as in the First Reading people of Israel did. God throughout the Salvation chose a nation for himself and covenant with them starting from Abraham but very especially with Moses.

We might think of God as our friend, our teacher, and our master. And this is all true, but there is another facet of our relationship with God that doesn't get quite as much attention, and that is God as our partner. In the very beginning of the Bible, this is the relationship we see. God creates man as



a partner to help him spread more goodness throughout the world. Unfortunately, we, as human beings, didn't live up to our end of the deal. It is this broken partnership with God that is the reason we are stuck with the fallen and corrupted world in which we live. The first step God takes in repairing this partnership is to select a small group of people and make a new partnership with them called a "covenant." In this covenant, God makes promises to these people and asks them to fulfill certain commitments.

In total, there are four Old Testament covenants—one with Noah, one with Abraham, one with the Israelites, and one with King David. All these covenants serve the purpose of creating a new partnership into which God can eventually invite all humankind. Unfortunately, Israel eventually breaks these covenants with God.

Nevertheless, throughout the Old Testament, prophets talked about a day when God would once again create a new covenant, one that would completely restore all the broken covenants that came before it. Prophet Jeremiah talks about the same new covenant which God is going to make with his people however most of the times our understanding is like the man in the following story.

A man had a little daughter—an only and much-beloved child. He lived for her - she was his life. So, when she became ill and her illness resisted the efforts of the best obtainable physicians, he became like a man possessed, moving heaven and earth to bring about her restoration to health. His best efforts proved unavailing, and the child died. The father was totally irreconcilable. He became a bitter recluse, shutting himself away from his many friends and refusing every activity that might restore his poise and bring him back to his normal self. But one night he had a dream. He was in Heaven and was witnessing a grand pageant of all the little child angels. They were marching in an apparently endless line past the Great White Throne. Every white-robed angelic tot carried a candle. He noticed that one child's candle was not lighted. Then he saw that the child with the dark candle was his own little girl. Rushing to her, while the pageant faltered, he seized her in his arms, caressed her tenderly, and then asked: "How is it, darling that your candle alone is unlighted?" "Father, they often relight it, but your tears always put it out." Just then he awoke from his dream. The lesson was crystal clear, and its effects were immediate. From that hour on he was not a recluse but mingled freely and cheerfully with his former friends and associates. No longer would his little darling's candle be extinguished by his useless tears.

If we read Bible carefully, we could see there is more efforts by God to continue his relationship with us than we struggle. "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their fathers when I took them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord". Can we see the pain of God in these words?

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead - an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.



Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

Through His death and resurrection Jesus established a new covenant in his blood as we heard in the first reading. From an old covenant of Judgement to a new covenant of Forgiveness of Sin.

The Gospel teaches us that new life and eternal life are possible only by the death of the self through suffering and service. Our covenant with God can never be complete if we are not ready to toe His path of suffering and dying for others. By his cross, He showed us an example we should follow. A TRUE CHRISTIAN DOES NOT SEEK HIS OR HER OWN COMFORT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. Salt gives its taste by dissolving in water. A candle gives light by burning its wick and melting its wax. We gain eternal life only through self suffering and death for others. "We make a living through what we get but we make a life by what we give".

It may sound absurd and unimaginable to some, each time God reminds us of losing our lives if we love it, but this is the absolute truth about our Christian life and calling. This is what defines the Christian life and experience, without which the Christian life is vague and empty. If there is anything that distinguishes a worldly person and a Christian, it is the ability to offer oneself, taking the risk with one's life at stake to save another, to deny and deprive oneself of one's comfort and pleasure to make the life of others better.

Holy Father Pope Francis reflects on the Gospel this way "some "Greeks", of the Jewish religion, who have come to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, turn to Philip and say to him: "We wish to see Jesus". There are many people in the holy city, where Jesus has come for the last time, there are many people. There are the little ones and the simple ones, who have warmly welcomed the Prophet of Nazareth, recognizing Him as the Messenger of the Lord. There are the High Priests and the leaders of the people, who want to eliminate Him because they consider him a heretic and dangerous. There are also people, like those "Greeks", who are curious to see Him and to know more about his person and about the works He has performed, the last of which — the resurrection of Lazarus — has caused quite a stir.

"We wish to see Jesus": these words, like so many others in the Gospels, go beyond this episode and express something universal; they reveal a desire that passes through the ages and cultures, a desire present in the heart of so many people who have heard of Christ, but have not yet encountered him. "I wish to see Jesus", thus He feels the heart of these people".

Furthermore, continuing in his prophecy of the imminent Passover, Jesus uses a simple and suggestive image, that of the “‘grain of wheat’ that, once fallen into the earth, dies to bear fruit. In this image we find another aspect of the Cross of Christ: that of fruitfulness. The death of Jesus, in fact, is an inexhaustible source of new life, because it carries within itself the regenerative strength of God’s love. Immersed in this love through Baptism, Christians can become “‘grains of wheat” and bear much fruit if they, like Jesus, “lose their life” out of love for God and brothers and sisters.

Some quotes from the saints to help us to have a desire to see the Lord.

“Those whose hearts are enlarged by confidence in God run swiftly on the path of perfection. They not only run, but they also fly; because, having placed all their hope in the Lord, they are no longer weak as they once were. They become strong with the strength of God, which is given to all who put their trust in Him.” *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

“Father, I am seeking, I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me.” *Saint Augustine*

“Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That is all the doing you have to worry about.” *Saint Jeanne de Chantal*

“Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.” *Saint Francis de Sales*

A story by an unknown author to reminds us to recognize Jesus...

Ruth looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter one more time...

Dear Ruth,

I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon, I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always,

Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer."

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh, my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner."

She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Seven dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least." She threw on her coat and hurried out the door.

A loaf of french bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with a grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt satisfied as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans; she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both dressed in little more than rags.

"Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it."

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman



myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, OK lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley.

As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag.

"Thank you, lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street . . . without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you, lady! Thank you very much!"

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth,

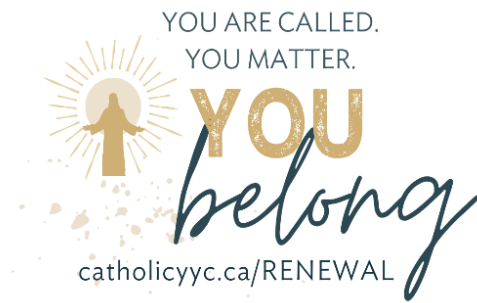
It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always, Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

Do we desire to see Jesus during this season of Lent?





# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### Outdoor Way of the Cross

All are invited to join Bishop McGrattan on the Outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29, 2024 at 9 am. We are introducing a new route this year that begins at St. Mary's University and leads us to the Father Lacombe Centre in SE Calgary. Remember to dress appropriately for the outdoors. For more information, visit

[catholiccyc.ca/wayofthecross](https://catholiccyc.ca/wayofthecross)

### Lenten Penitential Services

In preparing us as the faithful for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and resurrection, Join our parish's penitential service and rejoice in God's Mercy! See schedule at:

[catholiccyc.ca/lent](https://catholiccyc.ca/lent)

### Solidarity Sunday - Mar 17

This Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17, is celebrated throughout most of Canada as Solidarity Sunday, where parishes hold a special collection for Development and Peace - Caritas Canada and pray for greater fellowship and understanding amongst people worldwide. To donate online go to

[www.devp.org](https://www.devp.org)

### Pastoral Care Ministry Training

The Diocese of Calgary invites individuals who feel called to assist their parish in a healing ministry. This Pastoral Care Training is designed for those who wish to support the sick,

elderly, dying, homebound, and bereaved community members. Note: Participants should receive approval from their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coord. Please reach out to your parish for screening requirements. Training dates: Saturdays, Apr. 20 and May 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. To register, visit [catholiccyc.ca/pastoralcare](https://catholiccyc.ca/pastoralcare)

### Solemnity of St. Joseph Mass with Bishop McGrattan

All are welcome to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph's Mass with Bishop McGrattan, and celebrate 400 years of St. Joseph as Patron of Canada.

Refreshments will follow at the Parish Hall. More: Tue, Mar 19 at 7 pm - St. Joseph's Church, Calgary.

### 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

As part of the Diocesan Renewal, the Office of Vocations is excited to launch the 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations in our diocese. This initiative invites us to pray continuously for forty hours before the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with a focus on increasing vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Please read the letter from the Bishop inviting you to this initiative at [catholiccyc.ca/40hours](https://catholiccyc.ca/40hours) March dates for 40 hours devotion:

● Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, Calgary - Tue, Mar 20 at 7 am to Wed, Mar 21 at midnight

● St. Anthony's, Calgary - Fri, Apr 5



at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 7 at 7 am

● Holy Spirit, Calgary - Sat morning,  
Apr 6 to Sun evening, Apr 7

### Youth & Holy Week Missions

Regnum Christi Calgary is inviting young people to a week-long event during Holy Week 2024. This event is designed to help young people develop a deeper relationship with Christ and will include various activities such as Mass, Adoration, Confession, games, food, live Stations of the Cross, and a Marian procession. The event will be held from Mar 24 - 30 at St. James' Parish in Okotoks. Register at [rccalgary.com](http://rccalgary.com)

### St. Joseph's Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service

A blessed copy of the beautiful icon of St Joseph, fashioned after the original icon housed at St Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, will be on display at St Bonaventure church for this special evening service. When: Tue, Mar 19 at 7 pm - St. Bonaventure, Calgary.

### Holy Week & Triduum with Bishop McGrattan

All are welcome! Bishop McGrattan will celebrate the following liturgies at St. Mary's Cathedral:

- Chrism Mass on Mon, Mar 25 at 7 pm
- Holy Thursday, on Mar 28 at 7 pm
- Good Friday, on Mar 29 at 3 pm
- Easter Vigil, on Sat, Mar 30 at 8 pm

### Live-In Retreat in Okotoks, AB

A Live-In is a weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus. Organized by the Calgary Live-In Retreat Society, the upcoming Live-In will be hosted on March 22-24 (Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon) in Okotoks. Please e-mail [calgarylivein@telus.net](mailto:calgarylivein@telus.net) or phone Don at 403-510-1208 for more information.

### 27th Annual God Squad Men's Conference

God Squad Canada is hosting its annual Men's Conference called "The Way to the Father" on March 22-23, 2024 at Ascension Catholic Parish in Calgary with keynote speaker: Jon Leonetti (author, speaker, radio host, but most importantly a husband and a father); as well as Brother Simon of the Seeds of the Word Community in Calgary. Get tickets at [godsquad.ca](http://godsquad.ca)

### Into the Deep: Finding Peace through Prayer Retreat

St. Albert the Great invites you to a retreat for anyone wanting to begin or deepen their prayer life with speakers: Elizabeth Sanesh, Michelle and Tom Diment together with the Come As You Are team on the weekend of March 22-23, 2024. What sets authentic Christian prayer apart from the many "spiritual" practices being promoted today? How does one pray? There will be video reflection, small group discussions, Adoration and prayer ministry. For more information, contact the parish office at 403-257-6054.

### Together in Action 2024

Our diocesan goal of \$2 million will make a broad impact through our commitments to service and outreach. It will provide care for our retired priests, support hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care ministries, and aid local healing and reconciliation initiatives for residential school survivors. You can participate by donating at your parish, or online at [catholicyyca.ca/tia](http://catholicyyca.ca/tia) - your contribution will be included as part of your parish contribution for TIA.

# 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

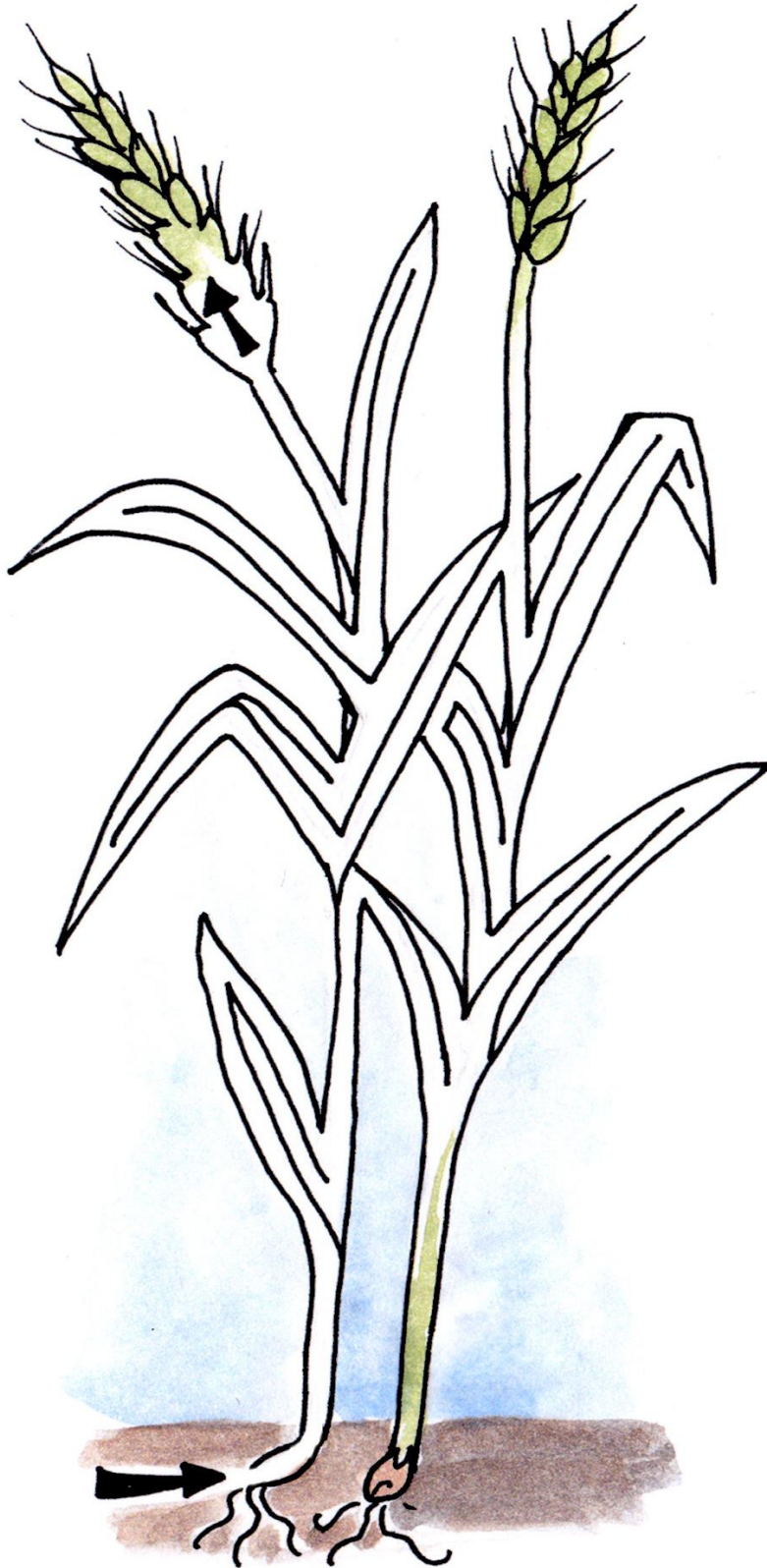
Sunday, May 5  
Breakfast

Sunday, June 23  
Parish Picnic



# The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 17th, 2024



In today's Gospel reading Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Can you find your way from this grain of wheat to the new seeds at the top?

# Psalm 51 Word-Find

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

*See if you can  
find the words  
from today's  
Psalm that are  
in CAPITALS in  
the puzzle!*

*The leftover  
letters tell  
what the  
author of the  
Psalm was  
asking God for!*

Have MERCY on me, O GOD,  
in your GOODNESS;  
in the GREATNESS of your COMPASSION  
wipe OUT my OFFENCE.  
THOROUGHLY WASH me from MY GUILT  
and of my SIN CLEANSE me.

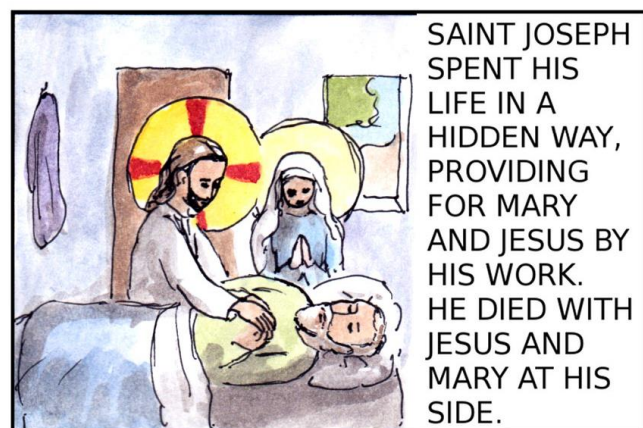
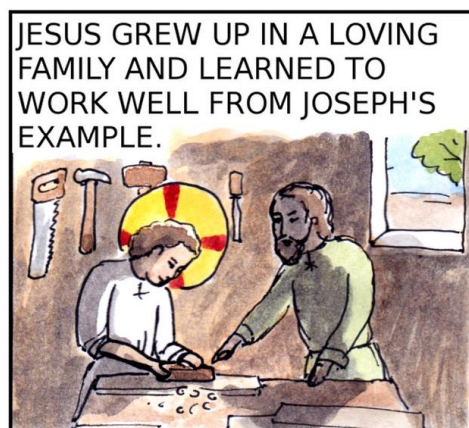
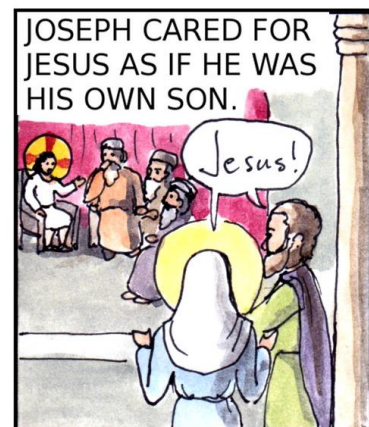
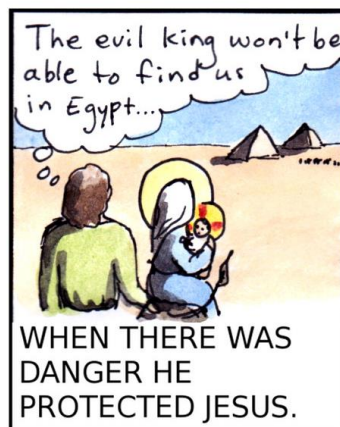
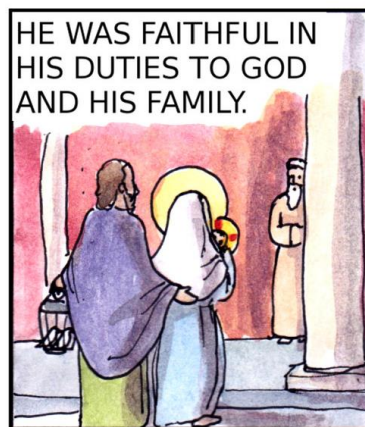
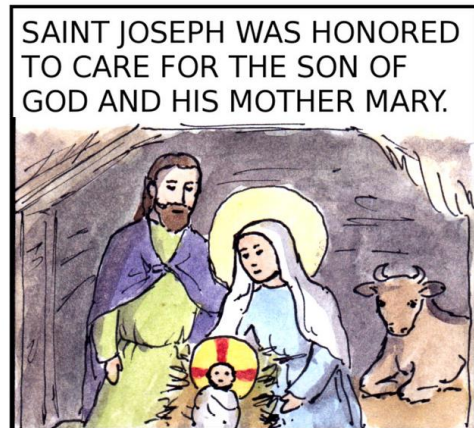
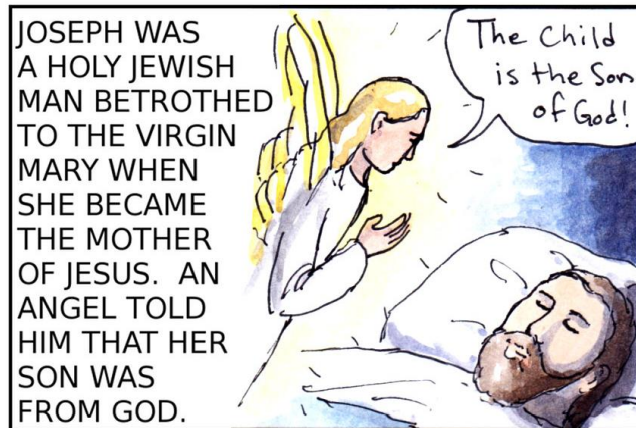
A clean HEART CREATE for me, O God,  
and a STEADFAST spirit RENEW within me.  
CAST me not out from your PRESENCE,  
and your Holy Spirit TAKE not from me.

— — — — —



# Saint Joseph

## March 19



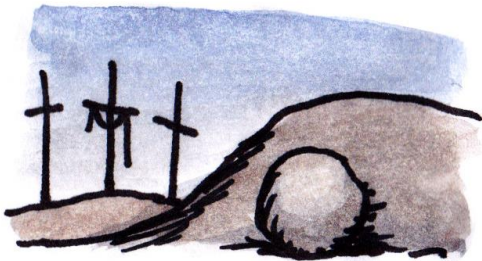
SAINT JOSEPH HAD ONE OF THE BEST JOBS THAT ANYONE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE: TO LOOK AFTER GOD THE SON! STILL, HE LIVED A QUIET AND HUMBLE LIFE, JUST DOING HIS WORK AND BEING A GOOD AND JUST MAN. SAINT JOSEPH IS READY TO CARE FOR US AS WELL- WE JUST NEED TO ASK HIM FOR HELP!

# Unless a grain falls to the ground and dies...



Jesus knew He was going to die soon. It made Him sad, but He knew that He had to do it. He told the apostles, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Because Jesus died, we can be freed from our sins and live!

Have you ever tried planting seeds? The little seeds are hard and dry and seem to be dead. We put them into some damp soil, and cover them up. After a few days you can see little sprouts coming out of the soil, and soon there are little plants growing! Maybe your Mom or Dad can help you plant some seeds this spring.

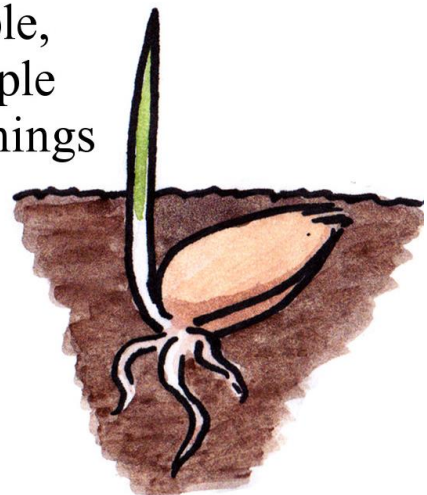


Our Lord was telling His friends that He had to be like a seed. He would die and be buried, and then after a few days, come back to life! And like a plant that grows and produces more seed, the Church would grow from Jesus and bring other holy people, saints, into the world. Saints are people that are ready to give up their good things and even their lives for love of God, just like Jesus.

Are you ready to be a saint?

Answer to Word Find:  
Salvation.

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)





# Hat Grannies for Africa Fabric, Yarn & More Sale

**St. John's Presbyterian Church**  
**504 — 2nd Street SE, Medicine Hat**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**For further information call:**  
**Kathy at 403-928-2135 or**  
**Sheila at 403-580-7715**

**Facebook @ Hat Grannies**

**All proceeds to**

**Admission: \$2.00**

**CASH SALES  
ONLY**

**Half-price sale  
12:00 - 2:00 pm**

*grandmothers to  
grandmothers  
campaign*

Quilt: Geometrics by Sharon Koppel

**[www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)**





**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
HOSTED BY BELOVED DAUGHTERS**

# WORTHY *and* MADE NEW

*Revelation 21:5*

**MAY 3, 2024**

**7 PM - 9:30 PM**

**MAY 4, 2024**

**8:30 AM - 6 PM**

**ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH  
CALGARY, AB**

**CRYSTALINA  
EVERT**



**FR. ANTHONY  
SORTINO, LC**



**SCAN FOR MORE INFO**



**@beloveddaughtersyyc**

**www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com**



# Retreat Centers in Southern Alberta

## AN "OASIS" IN THE HEART OF CALGARY

FCJ Retreat & Conference Centre is seen by many as a spiritual home where God feels very present both in the building and the surrounding landscape, and every year welcomes thousands of visitors to a unique experience of warm hospitality and deep spirituality.

Our hope is that those who come to the FCJ Centre will encounter God, whether in prayer, in the Word, in the silence and the beauty; and that this encounter will touch many other lives too.



Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity

retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often-hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

Our retreats are organized through a group of dedicated volunteer Captains that oversee the registration. Please see our retreats page for more information.

We have strong ties with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; other Christian Churches, schools, and organizations; as well as others not affiliated with any particular faith but who are in accord with our mission of peace, healing and prayer. We value the many loyal friends and benefactors that have supported us in our ministry for over 70 years.

Martha Retreat Centre, situated on the edge of the beautiful Lethbridge coulees, is a ministry of the Martha Retreat Centre Society, which was established in 2018. Originally founded by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia in 1968, the Centre continues to be supported by and aligned with the mission of the Sisters of St. Martha: inspired by God's graciousness, we strive to hear, embrace and respond to the cry for gospel hospitality.





# Scams Alert

There are many scams going around masquerading as your clergy (priests, deacons or lately, the bishop).

Please exercise caution when responding to email messages. If you receive unusual emails, check the sender's email address to see whether it is the person's genuine address. Even if the sender's address looks correct, always verify suspicious emails by phoning the sender. There have been many similar scams reported by several parishes in our diocese and across Canada.

Note that these scams do not stop at emails. Those in social media should stay vigilant when responding to friend requests or to other compelling posts requiring a response. There are many fake Twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts trying to impersonate people you know and our church leaders. Some scammers may take the time to build a relationship with you to gain your trust, before trying to extort money or other things like gift cards.

Please exercise vigilance when you are being charitable. Use the channels you are most familiar with and avoid becoming victims of a scam.

**NOBODY is going to ask you for gift cards, or bit coins from the church! NOBODY!!!**

**All our email addresses only end in @holyfamilymh.ca never a @gmail account.**

**If you get an email or a text, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND to it, you can forward it to [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) so it can be sent to the diocese.**