



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – YR. B SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Phone **403-527-6933**
Facebook: [Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish](https://www.facebook.com/MedicineHatHolyFamilyParish) ~ YouTube: [Medicine Hat Holy Family Church](https://www.youtube.com/MedicineHatHolyFamilyChurch)

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...

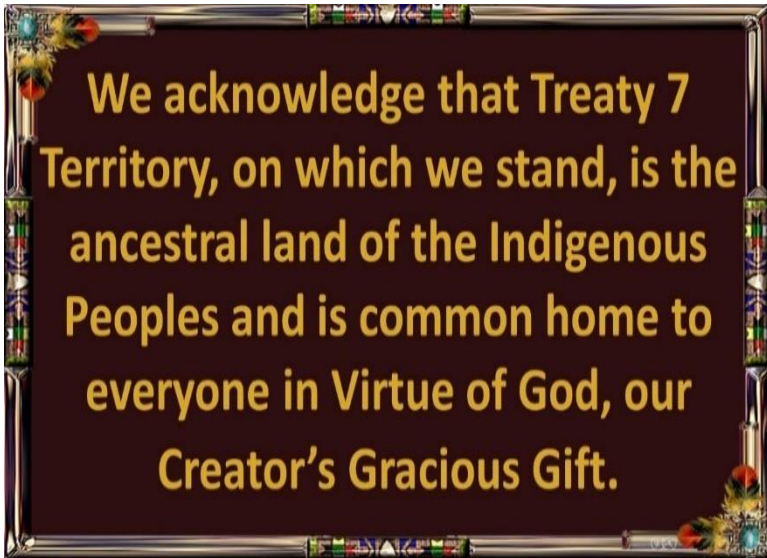
Friday 9:30am–10:30am.
& Saturday 3:30–4:45pm.

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, April 6*
- 8:00am - Cy & Grace Foley †
 - 5:00pm - Delores Hellman †
- Sunday, April 7*
- 8:30am - Florentino Ramos †
 - 10:30am - Dwight Luscombe †
 - 6:00pm - Holy Family Parish
- Monday, April 8*
- 9:00am - Jean Paul & Cora Blanchette
- Tuesday, April 9*
- 9:00am - Emilie Zentner †
 - 6:00pm - Irene Koch
- Wednesday, April 10*
- 9:00am - Mike & Jackie Moser
- Thursday, April 11*
- 9:00am - Delaine Lux †
- Friday, April 12*
- 9:00am - Frances & Jacob Denis †



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – YR. B SUNDAY APRIL 7, 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
\$ 60,918 - Budget Vs Actual	-\$ 72
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
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	
Average Weekly Attendance	920

THIS WEEK IN HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Friday, April 5

9:30am – 9:30pm – Adoration – Chapel
9:30-10:30am & 8:00-9:30pm – Reconciliation

Saturday, April 6

8:00am - 1st Saturday Mass
10:00am – Benedictine Meeting – Hope Room
10:00am – Faith & Family – Faith Room

Sunday, April 7

9:30am & 11:30am – Parish Breakfast – HFP Hall

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

7:00pm – CWL General Meeting – HFP Hall

Wednesday, April 10

9:30am – Bible Study - Faith Room
7:00pm – RCIA – Faith Room

Saturday, April 13

7:30am – That Man is You – Faith Room
10:00am – 1st Communion Retreat – HFP Hall & Sanctuary
10:00am – Benedictine Meeting – Hope Room
10:00am – Faith & Family – Faith Room

TOGETHER
in ACTION | 2024

2024 Goal - \$70,938

**Donations to date -
\$15,612.30**

**We are 22% of the
way there!**



*So Many Catch Phrases Today. The doors were locked.”
“Peace be with you.” “There was no needy person among
them.” “His mercy endures forever.” “His commandments
are not burdensome.” Locked doors cannot keep Jesus
away. He speaks peace to us, even in these COVID-19
days. Because he is peace among us ~ no one has need.
Because he is full and overflowing with mercy ~ nothing is
a burden.*

- ✝ How will I manifest peace, be peace this Easter week?
- ✝ How will I show mercy, be mercy this week?
- ✝ Whose burden will I ease?



**Special Collection Days
April 2024**

**Future Development Fund
Together in Action**

**April 21
Education of Seminarians**

VOCATIONS

April 7, 2024
Divine Mercy
Sunday

Easter! Resurrection and new life; a new life shared from an earthen tomb. This has been the meaning of life for Christian people for two thousand years. There is nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. Come and share the thrill of proclaiming this truth through your life as a priest, religious or deacon. please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette...

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

12 Hour Adoration

Friday, April 5, 2024
9:30am - 9:30pm
Reconciliation
9:30 - 10:30am
& 8:00 - 9:30pm



"He remains with us until the end of the world, Go to Adoration as one would go to Heaven, to the divine banquet."

Please help by signing up for a half hour time slot if you're able.

All parishioners welcome and encouraged to attend



The Catholic Women's League

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

FUNDRAISING



Thank you for your support!

Parish Breakfast ~ April 7th After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses

OMELETS, SAUSAGES,
PANCAKES

\$10. - ADULTS
\$5. - UNDER 12
FREE - UNDER 6

& THE BEST FELLOWSHIP EVER!



Knights of Columbus
General Meeting
April 8 at 7:00pm
Faith Room



Catholic Women's League (CWL)
General Meeting
April 9 at 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall

The Legion of Mary at St. Patrick's Church
Divine Mercy Prayer Service
Sunday, April 7 @ 3:00pm

Liturgy of the Word, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Veneration of The Divine Mercy Image, Your Personal Intentions and will close with Benediction. Reconciliation will be offered. Followed by a potluck supper. Everyone is welcome.

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!
WORTHY OF THE CALL



Holy Family
Faith Room
Breakfast 7:30am
Presentation
8:30 - 9:30 am
April 13, 2024
Theme
Holy Grit
Presenter
Paul George

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

SPRING TEA & BAKE SALE

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HALL
HOSTED BY THE CWL

April 20th 2:00 - 4:00

Adults - \$5.00 ~ Under 12 are Free

Door Prizes, Raffle, Good Food
& Good Fellowship



Thank You to all the Volunteers that made Holy Week & Easter so wonderful.




40 LOONIES FOR LENT
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
& HOLY FAMILY PARISH
RAISED TO DATE \$11,487.00
FUNDS GO TO SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL,
THE ROOT CELLAR, THE MUSTARD SEED,
AND THE 5TH AVENUE & ST. BARNABAS
MEAL PROGRAMS

Celebrating
100
Years


ATTENTION - Holy Family CWL
 St. Patrick's CWL is celebrating their
 100th Anniversary
 Saturday, April 27 @ 1:00pm
 Mass with Bishop McGrattan
 followed by
 Reception & Roast Beef Supper.
 Any member of Holy Family CWL
 who would like to purchase a ticket,
 please call Anne at 403-502-6237.
 \$20.00 [supper included]



MEDICINE HAT
 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'
 EDUCATION FOUNDATION
50/50 RAFFLE
 Draw: April 9, 2024!



SCAN QR CODE
 TO PURCHASE
 YOUR TICKETS!



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

rafflebox.ca/raffle/MHCSEF
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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. 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.

E-transfer
 ONLINE GIVING



accounting@holyfamilymh.ca


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



**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!

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



If you would like to get the Bulletin sent to your email every week,
 please send an email to contact@holyfamilymh.ca
 There is so much more in the digital bulletin that you are missing!

Faithfully
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with what's happening in and around our
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Vincentian Corner

We are grateful to our loyal parishioners whose donations allow Vincentians to help those requiring assistance in our community. God bless you.

Recently, as we meet with our neighbours in need, we have been offering the gift of a “Miraculous Medal” to those who have a fervent desire to receive one. We explain that Mary is the Mother of Jesus, but also our heavenly Mother. She cares deeply for all her earthly children and she is always there for us when we turn to her for protection, guidance and love. We include a small pamphlet that further explains the significance of this precious medal.

Thanks to a donation from the Legion of Mary we have a small collection of these blessed medals, to place in the hands of those who are interested in having one. If you or someone you know has a Miraculous Medal (or even several) that they are not using and would like to donate toward our worthy cause, we promise that we will gift them to those who are looking for spiritual comfort during a difficult time in their lives. Please bring them to the church or leave a message at the church office and we will contact you. Thank you for your support.





**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. Louis School



St. Louis School is proud to be a vital part of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. Historically, St. Louis was the first Catholic School in Medicine Hat, named after the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis. Our school building, formally Montreal Street School, is the oldest school building in the city! We currently have a school population of just over 100 students with 21 staff. Located in the heart of the city, we are the neighbourhood school for the NW and NE Hill neighbourhoods and the North and South Flats neighborhoods. This year, our school has adapted the theme of the Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy based on the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25. Through acts of service and prayer we have raised money for digging wells for drinking water in Kenya, made sandwiches for the Mustard Seed, bought pajamas for children at Christmas time and supported Mission Mexico. We will continue this year to support Mary's Meals in Malawi, visit those in hospitals, connect with those imprisoned and through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, help in providing shelter for the homeless. We are also excited this coming April to hold a school wide retreat with the Sisters and Brothers of the Seeds of the Word Community from Calgary and host our school sponsored Mass with St. Francis Xavier School on April 20th at the 5:00 PM service at St. Patrick's Church. As with all our schools within the MHCBE, St. Louis School welcomes students of all faiths and denominations for those who wish their children to receive a Catholic Education. For more information about the "Hidden Gem" of Medicine Hat Catholic, please contact Mr. Blackmer, the proud principal of St. Louis School.



**Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education**



2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Year B

April 7, 2024

JOY OF BELIEVING

An elephant and a dog became pregnant at the same time. Three months down the line the dog gave birth to six puppies. Six months later the dog was pregnant again, and nine months later, it gave birth to another dozen puppies. The pattern continued.

In the eighteenth month, the dog approached the elephant questioning, "Are you sure that you are pregnant? We became pregnant on the same date, I have given birth three times to a dozen puppies, and they are now grown to become big dogs, yet you are still pregnant. What's going on?"

The elephant replied, "There is something I want you to understand. What I am carrying is not a puppy but an elephant. I only give birth to one in two years. When my baby hits the ground, the earth feels it. When my baby crosses the road, human beings stop and watch in admiration, what I carry draws attention. So, what I'm carrying is mighty and great."

Wow, what a wonderful story to feel that the love and mercy of God is the greatest on earth; more than anything else. God's love and mercy is above the world because St. John says: "it is not we who have loved him, but it is he who has loved us and has given his only Begotten Son so that we may not perish but have eternal life". The season of Easter is a season of rejoicing in the Lord and that we believe in him. The sacrament of Baptism is one way of understanding his love and mercy as we read in Jerusalem's Catechesis: "You were led down to the font of holy baptism just as Christ was taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb which is before your eyes. Each of you was asked, "Do you believe in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?" You made the profession of faith that brings salvation, you were plunged into the water, and after three times, you rose again. This symbolized the three days Christ spent in the tomb. As our Savior spent three days and three nights in the depths of the earth, so your first rising from the water represented the first day and your first immersion the first night. At night a man cannot see, but in the day he walks in the light. So when you were immersed in the water it was like night for you and you could not see, but when you rose again it was like coming into broad daylight. In the same instant you died and were born again; the saving water was both your tomb and your mother. Solomon's phrase in another context is very apposite here. He spoke of a time to give birth, and a time to die. For you, however, it was the reverse: a time to die, and a time to be born, although in fact both events took place at the same time and your birth was simultaneous with your death".

This is something amazing and unheard of! It was not we who actually died, were buried and rose again. We only did these things symbolically, but we have been saved in actual fact. It is Christ who was

crucified, who was buried and who rose again, and all this has been attributed to us. We share in his sufferings symbolically and gain salvation in reality. What boundless love for men! Christ's undefiled hands were pierced by the nails; he suffered the pain. I experience no pain, no anguish, yet by the share that I have in his sufferings he freely grants me salvation. Let no one imagine that baptism consists only in the forgiveness of sins and in the grace of adoption. Our baptism is not like the baptism of John, which conferred only the forgiveness of sins. We know perfectly well that baptism, besides washing away our sins and bringing us the gift of the Holy Spirit, is a symbol of the sufferings of Christ. This is why Paul exclaims: Do you not know that when we were baptized into Christ Jesus we were, by that very action, sharing in his death? By baptism we went with him into the tomb.

"Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" is the core of this Sunday's Liturgy as we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy from which everything gushes out to fill us with love and we are able to proclaim "Indeed he is risen from the dead, Alleluia, Alleluia." Throughout the Lenten Observances we had been reflecting on the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord so that our faith may be renewed in the Lord. On Easter Vigil we witnessed the blessing of the fire and lighting up the Paschal Candle and then we all heard about the history of Salvation through the Sacred Scriptures. These celebrations always encourage us to believe that we are a new creation and the old humanity has died. Soon after Easter Sunday we are invited to celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday to reflect that His Mercy is beyond comparison and his blood and water gushing out of his side while he is upon Cross, helps us to rejoice in him who died for us on the Cross.

Let me share a story with you to help you to understand that Jesus is full of compassion and mercy. He leaves ninety-nine righteous and goes after one sinner because "there is no greater love to lay down one's life for his friends". He is our Good Shepherd who leads us to green pastures and talks to us every day. What does this mean to you?

The man whispered, "God, speak to me" and a meadowlark sang.

But the man did not hear. So, the man yelled, "God, speak to me" And the thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "God let me see you." And a star shined brightly. But the man did not see. And, the man shouted, "God show me a miracle" and, a life was born. But the man did not notice. So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here." Whereupon God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on. I found this to be a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple things that we take for granted even in our electronic age, so I would like to add one more: The man cried, "God, I need your help!" And an e-mail arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement. But the man deleted it and continued crying...

God speaks to us everyday through events happening around us and through people we interact with on a daily basis. One of the ancient authors has shared his reflection by saying "Saint Paul rejoices in the knowledge that spiritual health has been restored to the human race. Death entered the world through Adam, he explains, but life has been given back to the world through Christ. Again, he says: The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven and is heavenly. As we have borne the image of the earthly man, the image of human nature grown old in sin, so let us bear the image of the heavenly man: human nature raised up, redeemed, restored and purified in Christ. We must hold fast to the salvation we have received. Christ was the first fruits, says the Apostle; he is the source of resurrection and life. Those who belong to Christ will follow him. Modeling their lives on his purity, they will be secure in the hope of his resurrection and of enjoying with him the glory promised in heaven. Our Lord himself said so in the gospel: Whoever follows me will not perish but will pass from death to life. Thus, the passion of our Savior is the salvation of mankind. The reason why he desired to die for us was that he wanted us who believe in him to live for ever. In the fullness of time it was his will to become what we are, so that we might inherit the eternity he promised and live with him for ever. Here, then, is the grace conferred by these heavenly mysteries, the gift which

Easter brings, the most longed for feast of the year; here are the beginnings of creatures newly formed: children born from the life-giving font of holy Church, born anew with the simplicity of little ones, and crying out with the evidence of a clean conscience. Chaste fathers and inviolate mothers accompany this new family, countless in number, born to new life through faith. As they emerge from the grace-giving womb of the font, a blaze of candles burns brightly beneath the tree of faith.

The Easter festival brings the grace of holiness from heaven to men. Through the repeated celebration of the sacred mysteries, they receive the spiritual nourishment of the sacraments. Fostered at the very heart of holy Church, the fellowship of one community worships the one God, adoring the triple name of his essential holiness, and together with the prophet sings the psalm which belongs to this yearly festival: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. And what is this day? It is the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the author of light, who brings the sunrise and the beginning of life, saying of himself: I am the light of day; whoever walks in daylight does not stumble. That is to say, whoever follows Christ in all things will come by this path to the throne of eternal light. Such was the prayer Christ made to the Father while he was still on earth: Father, I desire that where I am they also may be, those who have come to believe in me; and that as you are in me and I in you, so they may abide in us”.

In our Christian faith we have hundreds of thousands of saints who in their lives and faith have helped us to rejoice in the Lord and never forget the mercies of the Lord. Sister St. Faustina is one of them who always taught us “Jesus I Trust in you”. Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, known today the world over as the “Apostle of the Divine Mercy,” is numbered by theologians among the outstanding mystics of the Church. She was the third of ten children born into a poor and pious peasant family in Glogowiec, a village in the heart of Poland. At her baptism in the nearby Parish Church of Swinice Warckie she was given the name “Helena.” From childhood she distinguished herself by her piety, love of prayer, industriousness, and obedience as well as by her great sensitivity to human misery. She had hardly three years of schooling, and at the age of fourteen she left the family hearth to help her parents and to earn her own livelihood serving as a domestic in the nearby cities of Aleksandrow and Lodz. She struggled to join the convent but was finally accepted by the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. There she shared her joy by saying “It seemed to me that I had stepped into the life of Paradise. A single prayer was bursting forth from my heart, one of thanksgiving”. However, life did not go according to her plan, and she was tempted to transfer herself into a different congregation in which there will be more time for prayer. It was then that the Lord Jesus, manifesting to her His wounded and tortured face, said: “it is you who will cause Me this pain if you leave this convent. It is to this place that I called you and nowhere else, and it is here I have prepared many graces for you” (Diary 19).

I believe the disciples were facing the same situation after the crucifixion of the Lord. They must have been very afraid of suffering and death. However, Jesus changed their fear into joy by appearing to them and greeting them with peace. Three times the Lord has said in the Gospel “Peace be with you” which means His Mercy works all the time. St. Faustina was privileged to receive apparitions from Jesus emphasizing his mercy, and especially his mercy for today. Jesus, for the sake of us, died on the cross to save us and show his great love and mercy. Why the image of Jesus with two rays: Red and White is important on this feast day! St. Sister Faustina explains the mystery behind the image of Jesus with white and red rays. “Its pattern was revealed in the vision St. Faustina had on February 22, 1931, in her convent cell at Plock. “In the evening, when I was in my cell,” she recorded in the Diary, “I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand “was” raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside from the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. ... After a while, Jesus said to me, “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You” (Diary, 47). “I want this image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy” (Diary, 49). For this reason, the content of this image is closely related to the

liturgy of that Sunday. On this day, the Church reads the Gospel according to St. John about the risen Christ appearing in the Upper Room and about the institution of the Sacrament of Penance (Jn 20:19-29). Consequently, this image represents the Savior risen from the dead who brings peace to people by means of the forgiveness of sins at the price of His passion and death on the cross. The rays of blood and water that flow from the Heart that was pierced by a spear (not visible on the image) and the scars caused by the wounds of crucifixion call to mind the events of Good Friday (Jn 19:17-18; 33-37). The Image of the Merciful Savior, therefore, combines the two Gospel events that best bespeak the fullness of God's love for mankind. The two rays are a distinctive feature of this image of Christ. The Lord Jesus, when asked about their meaning, explained: "The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. ... Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter" (Diary, 299). The Sacraments of Baptism and Penance purify the soul, and the Eucharist most abundantly nourishes it. Thus, the two rays signify the Holy Sacraments and all the graces of the Holy Spirit, whose biblical symbol is water, as well as the New Covenant of God with men in the Blood of Christ."

He doesn't leave people alone in their pain and suffering but shows compassion "he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without the shepherd". He keeps inviting people to himself "Come to me all that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest". Through St. Faustina, Jesus is inviting us to experience his love and mercy through the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus said to St. Faustina: My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary 699). Furthermore, he added: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy." (Diary 1109). He continued to say, "Ask of my faithful servant "a priest" that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary 300).

St. Sister Faustina shares her experiences of being a nun and how the Lord filled her heart with joy and mercy. "Once, when I was praying, Jesus pervaded all my soul, darkness melted away, and I heard these words within me: You are My joy; you are My heart's delight. From that moment I felt the Most Holy Trinity in my heart; that is to say, within myself. I felt that I was inundated with Divine light. Since then, my soul has been in intimate communion with God, like a child with its beloved Father". She continues to share her experiences "On one occasion I was reflecting on the Holy Trinity, on the essence of God. I absolutely wanted to know and fathom who God is. In an instant my spirit was caught up into what seemed to be the next world. I saw an inaccessible light, and in this light, what appeared like three sources of light which I could not understand. And out of that light came words in the form of lightning which encircled heaven and earth. Not understanding anything, I was very sad. Suddenly, from this sea of inaccessible light came our dearly beloved Savior, unutterably beautiful with His shining Wounds. And from this light came a voice which said, Who God is in His Essence, no one will fathom, neither the mind of Angels nor or man. Jesus said to me, get to know God by contemplating His attributes. A moment later, He traced the sign of the cross with his hand and vanished".

There are lots of stories to share on the joy of St. Faustina and disciples, but I would like to end my reflection with the following passage from her diary to simply remind ourselves that once we trust in Jesus, there is joy and that leads to eternity where there is joy and happiness because God has set his tent among us.

“My daughter, if I demand through you that people revere My mercy, you should be the first to distinguish yourself by this confidence in My mercy. I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant great graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of my mercy because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works”. (Diary 742).

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to come and play around it everyday. He climbed to the treetop, ate the apples, and took a nap under the shadow. He loved the tree and the tree loved to play with him. Time went by. The little boy had grown up and he no longer played around the tree every day.

One day the boy came back to the tree, and he looked sad. 'Come and play with me', the tree asked the boy. "I am no longer a kid. I do not play around trees anymore," the boy replied. "I want toys. I need money to buy them." 'Sorry... but I do not have money, but you can pick all my apples and sell them. So, you will have money.' The boy was so excited. He grabbed all the apples on the tree and left happily. The boy never came back after he picked the apples.

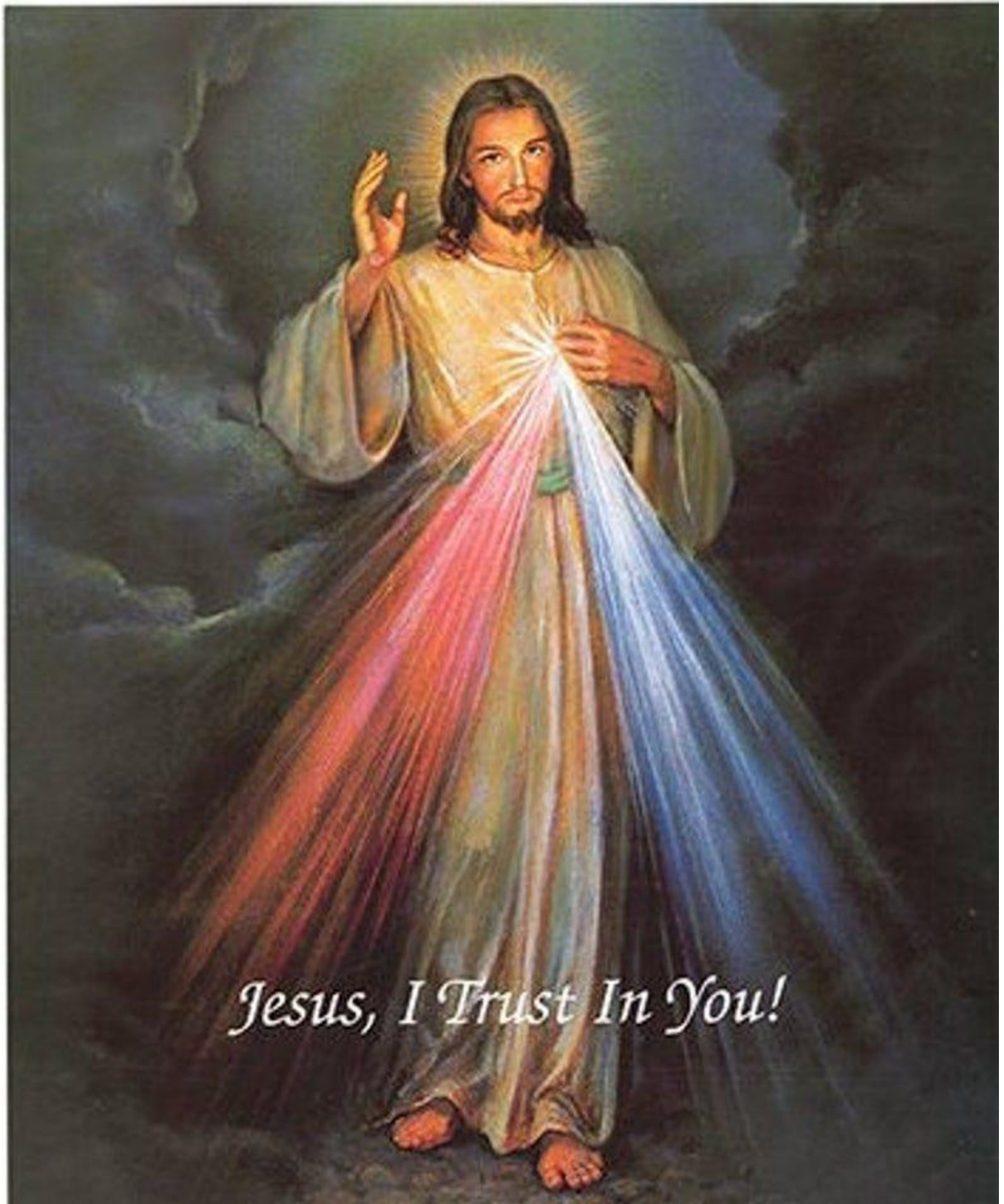
The tree was sad. One day the boy who now turned into a man returned and the tree was excited. 'Come and play with me' the tree said. "I do not have time to play. I have to work for my family. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me?"

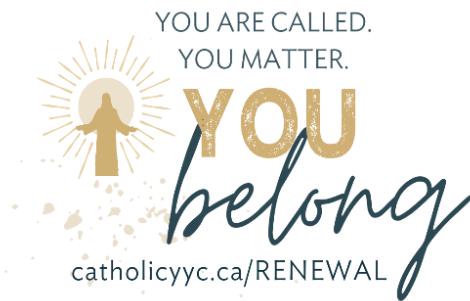
'Sorry... but I do not have any house. But you can chop off my branches to build your house.' 'So, the man cut all the branches off the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy, but the man never came back since then. The tree was again lonely and sad. One hot summer day, the man returned, and the tree was delighted. 'Come and play with me!' the tree said. I am getting old. I want to go sailing to relax myself, can you give me a boat?' said the man. "Use my trunk to build your boat. You can sail far away and be happy." So, the man cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and never showed up for a long time. Finally, the man returned after many years. 'Sorry, my boy. But I do not have anything for you anymore. No more apples for you', the tree said. "No problem, I do not have any teeth to bite" the man replied. 'No more trunk for you to climb on.' 'I am too old for that now.' The man said. "I really cannot give you anything, the only thing left is my dying roots," the tree said with tears. "I do not need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years," the man replied. 'Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest, so come and sit down with me and rest.' The man sat down, and the tree was glad and smiled with tears.

This is a story of everyone. The tree is like the Divine Heart of Jesus who provides us with every blessing we need in our lives (please read Colossians 3:12-17). Even if we go away from the Lord and be lost in our daily chores and attractions of life, his mercy never ends but works in such a mysterious way that we become new creatures in him "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal; but the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if

we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself” (2Timothy 2:8-13).

Do we believe in him and rejoice?





DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

Divine Mercy Sunday | 2nd Sunday of
Easter

Vocations Rally

Our Church is facing a crisis of vocations - for both priesthood and religious life. Together, how can we strengthen the future of the Church? Hear from Dr. Ryan Topping, who will present a report on "Meet Our New Priests," and gain insights from Fr. Cristino Bouvette, Fr. Santiago Torres, the Seeds of the Word community, Cedric and Greta De Souza, and Bishop William McGrattan.

Enjoy a free lunch, and discuss with a diverse panel of religious sisters and priests from all across the Diocese. Bring as many people from your parish as you can. When: **Sun, April 21, from 11 am to 3:30 pm at St. Michael's, Calgary.** For more info & registration: catholicyyc.ca/vocations

Men's Renewal: Life Compass Workshop

Men: Here is an invitation for you to join the "Life Compass" Workshop Retreat at St. Anthony's, Calgary. Ideal for men seeking a deeper sense of identity, purpose, or those feeling lost about their next step. Experience fellowship, spiritual growth, personal value clarification, and goal setting. Includes a full day of activities, follow-up mastermind, prayer time, sacraments, materials, snacks, coffee, and a hot lunch. **When: Sat, Apr 13 from 8 am to 4 pm. Register at: buildmylifecompass.com/calgary**

Come & See | Mass & Healing Service

CCCRS invites you to the Holy Eucharist and Healing Service on **Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm to 9 pm** - at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Calgary with speakers from the Charismatic Renewal Services of Canada (CRSC): Brian Sullivan and team. All are welcome!

Couples Retreat

Join a transformative couples' retreat hosted by the Seeds of the Word Community. This is a unique opportunity to deepen your bond through prayer - Mass, confession, engaging talks, interactive Q&A

sessions, and more. Don't miss out on this chance to nourish your relationship. When: **Sat, Apr. 13 at St. Luke's Church in Calgary, from 9 am to 4 pm.** Child care available. \$50/couple. To register, call 587-892-9673.

Elizabeth House's Beach Carnival and Dodgeball Tournament

Elizabeth House invites you to a Beach Dodgeball Tournament at The Beach YYC (3030, 2600 Portland St SE Calgary)! You can bring friends and family and come spend an afternoon in the sand, or grab a team of 5 or 10 and join the dodgeball tournament on **Sat, April 27, from 2:30 pm to 5 pm.** Friends vs. friends, class vs. teachers, parents vs. kids, let's have some fun for a good cause! All proceeds will go towards purchasing a new van for the Elizabeth House. Register at elizabethhousecalgary/carnival

ABLAZE - Youth Ministry

This is an invitation for all youth in Gr. 9 to 12 throughout the diocese to join ABLAZE Youth Ministry Formation with Father Troy. When: **Friday, Apr. 12 from 7 pm to 9 pm** at St. Bonaventure Parish, Calgary.

Pastoral 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 catholicyyc.ca/pastoralcare

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 catholicyyca.ca/40hours
Upcoming dates for 40 hours devotion:

- **Holy Spirit, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 5 at 7 am to Sat, Apr 6 at 11pm
- **St. Anthony's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 5 at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 7 at 7 am
- **St. Martha's, Lethbridge** - Fri, Apr 12 at 8 am to Sat, Apr 13 at midnight
- **St. Michael's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 19 at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 21 at 8 am
- **St. Cecilia's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 26 at 6 am to Sat, Apr 27 at 10 pm

A Day with the Sisters

For new Catholics: Join the Sisters of Divine Mercy in a welcome home retreat! Partake in sacraments, time to reflect, and time to share. When: **Sat, Apr. 27 from 10:30 am to 4 pm** at the Divine Mercy Centre (15206 Twp. Rd. 262, Calgary). More info at www.sistersofdivinemercury.org

Women's Conference "Worthy and Made New"

Join Beloved Daughters Ministry for their second annual women's conference entitled: "Worthy and Made New" on **May 3-4, 2024** at St. Michael's, Calgary with speakers Crystalina Evert and Fr. Anthony Sortino, LC. To register, visit www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com

Young Adults: Hope on the Horizon Summer Mission in Downtown Vancouver

Join the "Hope on the Horizon" Summer Mission from **August 6-21, 2024** hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver and Catholic Street Missionaries. This event, for young adults aged 19-30 in downtown Vancouver, offers an immersive experience into street missionary work. Participants will engage in prayer, service, and outreach to the homeless, alongside training and recreational activities. Food and accommodation included. Visit: catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon.

Other Resources & Events

1. **40 Hours Devotion in the Diocese of Calgary**
"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to

send out labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38). Pray with us as for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our Diocese. [Come and pray before the Lord | catholicyyca.ca/40hours](http://catholicyyca.ca/40hours). The next 4 dates:

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- **St. Michael's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 19 at 4:30 pm to Sun, Apr 21 at 8:30 am

2. 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 members of their community. Sessions: **Saturday, April 20th and Saturday, May 4** at Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 17 Ave SW). Deadline to register: April 15, 2024. **Note:** Participants should receive approval from their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coord. Please reach out to your parish for screening requirements. **Register** at catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare or call 403-218-5521. [Download poster](#) | [social media graphic](#)

3. **Pope Francis' Easter Message "He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation and fraternity"** | On Easter Sunday, Pope Francis delivers his Easter message and blessing "On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness... May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved." [Read now](#)
4. **Come & See | Mass & Healing Service**
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Experience fellowship, spiritual growth, personal value clarification, and goal setting. Includes a full day of activities, follow-up mastermind, prayer time, sacraments, materials, snacks, coffee, and a hot lunch. Empower yourself to create a guiding LifeCompass. **When: Sat, Apr 13 from 8 am to 4 pm.** Register at: buildmylifecompass.com/calgary | [Download posters](#)

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recreational activities. Food and accommodation included. For details and registration, visit:

catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon.

10. **April Calendar Highlights**

- **Apr 5-7** | [40 Hours Devotion for Vocations at St. Anthony's Parish, Calgary](#)
- **Apr 5** | [St. Peter's Young Adult Group](#) - St. Peter's, Calgary
- **Apr 5-6** | [40 Hours Devotion for Vocations at Holy Spirit Parish, Calgary](#)
- **Apr 6** | [CCMA Breakfast with the Bishop](#) - Heritage Park, Calgary
- **Apr 6** | [14th Annual Run for L'Arche, Calgary](#) - St. Patrick's Island
- **Apr 7** | [Divine Mercy Sunday](#) - Ascension Parish, Calgary
- **Apr 7** | [Divine Mercy Sunday](#) - St. Michael's, Calgary
- **Apr 9** | [Calgary Pro-Life AGM](#) - St. Anthony's, Calgary
- **NEW! Apr 12** | [ABLAZE Youth Ministry](#) - St. Bonaventure, Calgary
- **Apr 12-13** | [40 Hours Devotion for Vocation at St. Martha's Parish, Lethbridge](#)
- **Apr 12** | [CRSC Conference "Come and See" Mass & Healing Service](#) - St. Luke's, Calgary
- **NEW! Apr 13** | [Men's Renewal: Life Company Workshop](#) - St. Anthony's, Calgary
- **NEW! Apr 13** | [Couples Retreat](#) - St. Luke's, Calgary
- **NEW! Apr 13** | [Holy Trinity CWL Mini Retreat](#) - Holy Trinity, Calgary
- **Apr 13** | [CRSC Conference "Come and See"](#) - St. Thomas More, Calgary
- **Apr 13-14** | [Sacrament Fair \(Faith Gifts\)](#) - Holy Name, Calgary
- **Apr 14** | [Knights Breakfast Sunday](#) - St. Mary's, Brooks
- **NEW! Apr 19** | [ABLAZE Youth Ministry](#) - St. Michael's, Calgary
- **Apr 20 & May 4** | [Pastoral Care Training](#) - CPC, Calgary
- **Sun, Apr 21** | [Vocations Rally](#) - St. Michael's, Calgary
- **Sat, Apr 27** | [Beach Carnival Dodgeball Tournament for Elizabeth House](#) - The Beach YYC

Joe McKenna Council #9502 Knights of Columbus



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

2023-24 Knights Events
Date & Activity
Sunday, September 10 Corn Roast
Sunday, September 24 Knights Mass
Sunday, October 15 Breakfast
Sunday, November 19 Breakfast
Saturday, December 9 Knights Mass
Sunday, December 17 Christmas Breakfast
Sunday, January 21 Breakfast
Sunday, February 25 Breakfast
Sunday, April 7 Breakfast
Sunday, May 5 Breakfast
Sunday, June 23 Parish Picnic

The Kids' Bulletin



*Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
April 7th, 2024*



*"Put your finger here,
and see my hands;
and put out your hand,
and place it in my side;
do not be faithless,
but believing."*

" M _ _ _

_____!"

A M B Y C

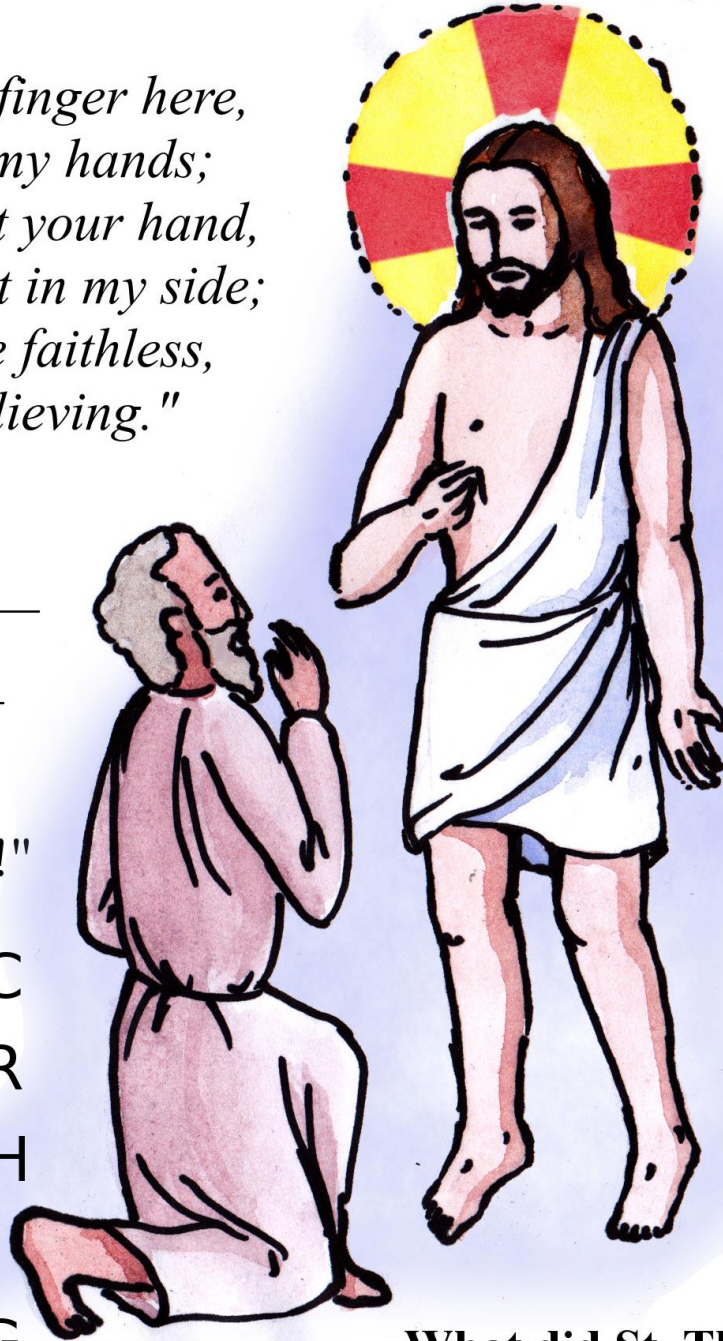
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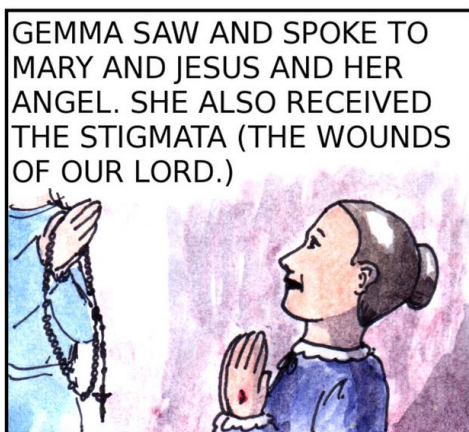
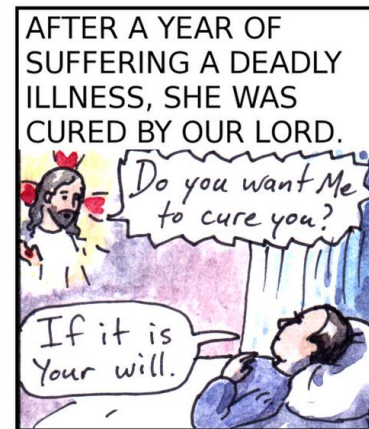
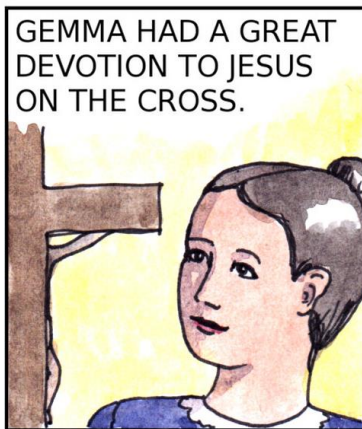
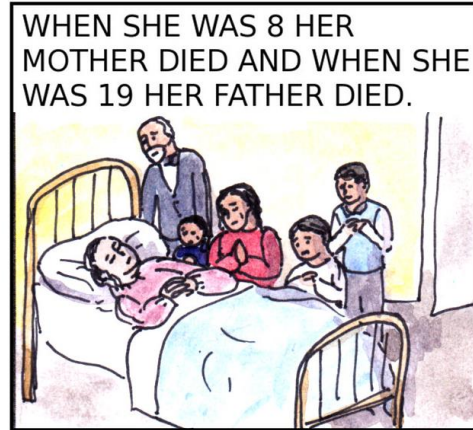
M O N D O



**What did St. Thomas
reply to Jesus? Use every second
letter to fill in the blanks!**

Saint Gemma Galgani

April 11



WE CAN LEARN FROM SAINT GEMMA TO HAVE A GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LORD'S SUFFERINGS FOR US SINNERS. SHE OFFERED EVERY PAIN AND EVERYTHING THAT BOTHERED HER TO JESUS SO THAT SINNERS WOULD TURN BACK TO GOD. WE CAN ALSO OFFER ALL OUR TROUBLES TO JESUS TO SAVE SOULS.

The Annunciation

This year we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation on Monday April 8th. The Annunciation is the day that Jesus became a tiny baby inside Mary.

Finish this story by filling in the blanks with words from the lists and using the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

God _ _ _ an angel to a virgin who was engaged to _ _ _ . Her _ _ _ was Mary.

He told her that the _ _ _ was with her. But Mary was _ _ _ about what the angel said.

So the _ _ _ said to her, "Do _ _ be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with _ _ _"

Then the angel told her that she would have a Baby and that He would be the _ _ _ .

CONFUSED
ANGEL
NAME
GOD



JOSEPH
LORD
SENT
NOT

Divine Mercy Sunday

Today the Church celebrates the feast of Divine Mercy. On this day we thank God for His forgiveness and love. It is the mercy of God that lets all of us come back to Him after we have sinned.

We know how much Jesus loves us because He suffered and died for us. When we have sinned, He wants us to be sorry and come back to Him. No matter how big of a sin you do, if you are sorry for it then God will forgive you. He wants to forgive you because He loves you!

Today we should thank God for His mercy and forgiveness and ask Him to look on us and our friends and the whole world with love and forgiveness! Here is a prayer we can say:

*Eternal Father,
I offer You
the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity
of Your
dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the
whole world.*



Jesus, I trust in You!

Answers to Amunciation Puzzle:
sent, Joseph, name, Lord, confused, angel,
not, God. Son of God

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

*grandmothers to grandmothers
campaign*

Admission: \$2.00

**CASH SALES
ONLY**

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

Quilt: Geometrics by Sharon Koppel

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

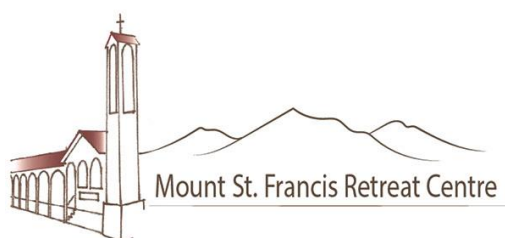
www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com

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 we 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 @holymfamilymh.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@holymfamilymh.ca so it can be sent to the diocese.