



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

AUGUST 2024

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Phone 403-527-6933
Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish ~ YouTube: Medicine Hat Holy Family Church

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

CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid &
Deacon Robert Risling

RECONCILIATION...

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

MASS TIMES... MONDAY to FRIDAY at 9:00AM

FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH at 8:00AM, SATURDAY at 5:00PM
SUNDAY at 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM

THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

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

Knights of Columbus – Greg Martin

Catholic Women's League – Cathy Koch

Parish Pastoral Council Chair - Gary Heinbecker

Parish Finance Council Chair - Cheryl Pocsik

**We acknowledge that Treaty 7
Territory, on which we stand, is the
ancestral land of the Indigenous
Peoples and is common home to
everyone in Virtue of God, our
Creator's Gracious Gift.**

thekidsbulletin.com

August we Celebrate!

Aug 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Aug 10 – Feast of St. Lawrence

*Aug 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Aug 24 – Feast of St. Bartholomew

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 4, 2024

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15. Psalm 78:3-4, 23-24,
25, 54. Ephesians 4:17, 20-24. John 6:24-35.

More Than Manna, More Than Bread and Fish.
During the Exodus, the Lord rained down
bread (manna) each day to feed those in
flight. Last Sunday, after being filled with
bread and fish, the crowd pursued Jesus for
more food. Rightly exasperated, Jesus
patiently shifts the conversation from bread
from heaven to true bread. He ends by
saying: "I Am the bread of life." What looks
like bread is more than bread. More than we
can imagine!

† What do I believe Communion to be?

† Why do I believe this?

† Why do I come in procession each Sunday
to eat this bread, this Communion, this
Christ?

AUGUST 2024

OPERATING FINANCES

JUNE 1-30, 2024

Operating Budget 2024	\$ 60,990
General Envelope Collection	\$ 48,327
Loose Collections	\$ 3,890
Future Development	\$ 3,169
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 2,908
\$ 58,294 - Budget Vs Actual	-\$ 2,696

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 4,206
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,537
World Mission	\$ 65
Clergy Retirement	\$ 160
Mission Mexico	\$ 165
CARO	\$ 70
Seminary Fund	\$ 90
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 80

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

Average Weekly Attendance	842
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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 11, 2024

1 Kings 19:4-8. Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

Ephesians 4:30-5:2. John 6:41-51.

"Stop Murmuring." Elijah is running for his life from King Ahab and Jezebel because he told the truth. He was fed by an angel of the Lord for his forty-day flight. This story is context for the third Sunday-in-a-row conversation between Jesus and the crowd on bread of life. Perhaps, with a sigh, Jesus says: "Stop murmuring." Though what I say may be hard to believe, it is true, it is real. I Am living bread. Eat me and live forever.

- † What do I believe concerning what looks like bread is more than bread?
- † How does eating this living bread affect my life?
- † After sharing in Communion, how can I affect the lives of others?

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 2024

Proverbs 9:1-6. Psalm 34.

Ephesians 5:15-20. John 6:51-58.

What can be pointed out is that the Flesh of Christ as our food reminds us of Jesus telling his disciples that his food was to do the will of the Father (John 4:34). Now, two chapters later, he tells us that our food is his body and blood, and that this gives us life just like the Father gives him life. It follows, therefore, that our participation in the Eucharist is geared toward our doing the will of Christ. "Try to understand what is the will of the Lord," Paul therefore urges in the Second Reading, giving us some concrete examples. Our defense of life is one major aspect of union with the will of God.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2024

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b.

Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21.

Ephesians 5:21-32. John 6:60-69.

One Last Bread of Life Story.

The gospel today is filled with doubt, murmuring, shock, and disbelief. So much so, that many stopped following Jesus, returning to their former lives. Jesus, thus, asked the Twelve: "What about you?" Peter answers for them: "To whom shall we go? We are convinced you are the Holy One of God."

- † Why do I still follow Jesus?
- † Of what am I convinced about him?
- † Bread of life. Communion. What do I believe?

✠ Masses & Mass Intentions ✠



✠ Masses & Mass Intentions ✠

Saturday, August 3

8:00am – Bill Dietrich ✠

5:00pm – Louie Walz ✠

Sunday, August 4

8:30am – Josephine Grehan ✠

10:30am – Holy Family Parish

6:00pm – Mary Lou Lydsman ✠

Monday, August 5

NO MASS TODAY – LABOUR DAY

Tuesday, August 6

8:30am – Peter Braat ✠

6:00pm – Christian Doll ✠

Wednesday, August 7

8:30am – Johanna Van Ham ✠

Thursday, August 8

8:30am – Alfred Wagner ✠

Friday, August 9

8:30am – Dylan Unser ✠

Saturday, August 10

5:00pm – Ray Wirachowsky ✠

Sunday, August 11

8:30am – Lydia Thome ✠

10:30am – Lambert Streifel ✠

6:00pm – Holy Family Parish

Monday, August 12

9:00am – Ella Schafer ✠

Tuesday, August 13

9:00am – Darren Sehn Family

Wednesday, August 14

9:00am – George & Rose Steinkey ✠

Thursday, August 15

9:00am – Amelia & Joel Mackie

Friday, August 16

9:00am – Alleen Eirich

Saturday, August 17

5:00pm – Nick & Rosina Mucciarone ✠

Sunday, August 18

8:30am – Rose Wolfe ✠

10:30am – Randy Drescher ✠

6:00pm – Holy Family Parish

Monday, August 19

9:00am – Herb Stichel ✠

Tuesday, August 20

9:00am – Con Miller ✠

Wednesday, August 21

9:00am – Weisgerber Family

Thursday, August 22

9:00am – Phil Klotz ✠

Friday, August 23

9:00am – Pat Denis

Saturday, August 24

5:00pm – Melisa Blanchette

Sunday, August 25

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – John Kopp ✠

6:00pm – Delores Hellman ✠

Monday, August 26

9:00am – Thanksgiving

Tuesday, August 27

9:00am – Robert Walker McMeekin

Wednesday, August 28

9:00am – Christina Miller ✠

Thursday, August 29

9:00am – Lena Schafer

Friday, August 30

9:00am – John Brink ✠

VOCATIONS

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 4, 2024

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Today's readings remind us that the priest is ordained by the Holy Spirit to be the means by which Jesus' words are fulfilled. If you feel God could be calling you to a Church vocation, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 11, 2024

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven." Each of us must be a living sign and symbol of God's presence within us. If you are willing to witness Christ with your life as a priest, religious or deacon, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 18, 2024

Today's Gospel asks for us "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Through the mystery of Eucharistic consecration, we partake of the "living bread". In faith we can also respond to God's invitation to be his priest, religious or deacon. If you can, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 25, 2024

Jesus has given us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink so as to nourish us on our journey towards the Kingdom. May we be faithful to Him on our journey as married, single, ordained or consecrated persons. If God is calling you to a Church vocation, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette...

Email: vocations@calgarydiocese.ca

www.catholicyc.ca/vocations.html



**WE WILL BE
STARTING UP
AGAIN IN THE
FALL AND
WOULD LOVE
TO JOURNEY
WITH YOU!**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ARE YOU UNBAPTIZED, BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER FAITH, BEEN ATTENDING THE CHURCH WITH YOUR CATHOLIC SPOUSE, OR A BAPTIZED CATHOLIC THAT WANTS FULL COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH, OR A CATHOLIC THAT WANTS TO DEEPEN AND LEARN MORE? MAYBE YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO HEAR HOW TO JOIN THIS CHURCH. THESE ARE ALL REALLY GOOD REASONS TO DISCERN ABOUT THE RCIA PROCESS THIS SUMMER.

IF INTERESTED CALL PAT AT 403-527-1097



accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

Nondenominational Church 30-minute Walk & Pray

August 9 – Hillcrest Church – 3785 13th Ave SE
August 11 – Rivervalley Church – 1101 Queen St SE
August 16 – Med Hat Family Church – 534 18 St SW
August 18 – Bridge Church – 350 1st Ave NE
August 23 – St. Patrick's Church – 238 2nd Ave NE
August 25 – Holy Family Parish – 1451 Strachan Rd SE
Info: Shelley – 403-504-7612 – scbs38@gmail.com
Sundays – 2:00pm & Fridays – 6:30pm

**Lethbridge People of Praise Live-In Group
is hosting a FellowShip BBQ!**

Date: August 25th from 11:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Kinsmen Picnic shelter in Coaldale

Meal Time: 3:00 pm

Burgers and Hotdogs provided

Please bring a Salad or Dessert

to register please email or call Katie Lindsay
katie.lindsay51@gmail.com (403)382-1235

PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO ITALY, MONACO, AND FRANCE

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF 2025

UNDER SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF FR. IOBAL KHURSHID

**MAY 12- 25, 2025 - 14 DAYS – \$ 5950 INCLUDING
TAXES AND TIPS (CALGARY DEPARTURE)**

**VISITING: ROME, VATICAN, PISA, MONTE CARLO,
NICE, AVIGNON, CLERMONT-FERRAND, TOURS,
MOUNT SAINT-MICHEL, NORMANDIE, ROUEN, PARIS**

**Are you interest to join in a pilgrimage
to Italy, France and Monaco?
Our Tour Guide Agnes will be here
August 20th at 6pm in Faith Room?**

INCLUDED:

- AIR & LAND TRANSPORTATION
- HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FIRST CLASS BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
- 2 MEALS BREAKFAST AND DINNER DAILY
- ALL SIGHTSEEING AS PER ITINERARY WITH ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE
- AIRPORT TAXES
- TIPS TO BUS DRIVER AND GUIDES

NOT INCLUDED:

- LUNCHES
- TRAVEL INSURANCE



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY CONNAISSANCE TRAVEL & TOURS
3852 FINCH AVENUE EAST, #306 TORONTO, ON M1T 3T9
AGNES TEL. 416.418.3599 OR MARIA TEL. 905.334.0559
WWW.CONNAISSANCETRAVEL.COM

TICO ONT. REG: #2976741



REFLECTION FOR ALL SUNDAYS YEAR B - AUGUST 2024

18th Sunday (A desire to be with Him) (August 4)

Today we reflect "why do we have a desire to be with him"? A story by an unknown author is a direct hit to our consciousness to see why we follow Jesus! Do we think being a Christian is more than enough to follow Jesus or do we need to do something more to follow him? One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Saviour!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?"

With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!"

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray in earnest?"

I had no answers ... only tears.

The Lord continued. "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why, in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all. Do you truly love me?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child."

The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are My creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do You love me?"

The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

Do we desire to be with him?

19th Sunday (Faith & Relationship) (August 11)

This Sunday, we continue the Reading of Chapter Six of the Gospel according to John, in which Jesus, after performing the great miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, explains to the people the meaning of that "sign" (Jn 6:41-51). As he had done earlier with the Samaritan woman, starting from the experience of thirst and the sign of water, here Jesus begins from the experience of hunger and the sign of bread, to reveal himself and to offer an invitation to believe in him. The people seek him, the people listen to him, because they are still enthusiastic about the miracle; they want to make him king! However, when Jesus affirms that he is the true bread given by God, many are shocked, they do not understand, and begin murmuring among themselves, saying: "Do we not know his father and mother? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" And they begin to murmur. Then Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him", and he adds: "he who believes has eternal life". This word of the Lord astonishes us and makes us think. It introduces the dynamic of faith, which is a relationship: the relationship between the human person — all of us — and the Person of Jesus, where the Father plays a decisive role, and, of course, the Holy Spirit does too, which is implied here. To believe in Him, it is not enough to meet Jesus. Faith, which is like a seed deep in the heart, blossoms when we let the Father draw us to Jesus, and we "go to Him" with an open heart, without prejudices; then we recognize in his face the Face of God, and in his words the Word of God, because the Holy Spirit has made us enter into the relationship of love and of life between Jesus and God the Father. And there we receive a gift, the gift of faith.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you must do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Does our Faith help us to have strong relationship with him?

20th Sunday (Hunger for the Lord) (August 18)

If we look around, we realize that there are so many offers of food which do not come from the Lord and which appear to be more satisfying. Some nourish themselves with money, others with success and vanity, others with power and pride. But the food that truly nourishes and satiates us is only that which the Lord gives us! The food the Lord offers us is different from other food, and perhaps it doesn't seem as flavourful to us as certain other dishes the world offers us. So we dream of other dishes, like the Hebrews in the desert, who longed for the meat and onions they ate in Egypt, but forgot that they had eaten those meals at the table of slavery. In those moments of temptation, they had a memory, but a sick memory, a selective memory. A slave memory, not a free one. Besides physical hunger, man experiences another hunger, a hunger that cannot be satiated with ordinary food. It's a hunger for life, a hunger for love, a hunger for eternity. And the sign of manna — like the entire experience of Exodus — also contains in and of itself this dimension: it was the symbol of a food that satisfies this deep human hunger. Jesus gives us this food, rather, He himself is the living bread that gives life to the world (cf. Jn 6:51). His Body is the true food in the form of bread; his Blood is the true drink in the form of wine. It isn't simple nourishment to satisfy the body, like manna; the Body of Christ is the bread of the last times, capable of giving life, eternal life, because this bread is made of love.

The Eucharist communicates the Lord's love for us: a love so great that it nourishes us with Himself; a freely given love, always available to every person who hungers and needs to regenerate his own strength. To live the experience of faith means to allow oneself to be nourished by the Lord and to build one's own existence not with material goods but with the reality that does not perish: the gifts of God, his Word and his Body.

This is by an unknow author to show us the way to see our hunger for him through prayer.

(person)- 'Our Father which art in heaven...'

(God)---Yes?

(person)- Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

(God)---But you called me.

(person)-Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. "Our Father which art in heaven..."

(God)---There you did it again.

(person)-Did what?

(God)---Called me. You said, "Our Father which art in heaven." Here I am... What's on your mind?

(person)-But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done.

(God)---All right. Go on.

(person)-"Hallowed be thy name..."

(God)---Hold it. What do you mean by that?

(person) By what?

(God)---By "hallowed be thy name"?

(person)-It means... it means... Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

(God)---It means honored, holy, wonderful.

(person)-Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what "hallowed" meant before. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

(God)---Do you really mean that?

(person)-Sure, why not?

(God)---What are you doing about it?

(person)-Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

(God)---Have I got control of you?

(person)-Well, I go to church.

(God)---That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money---all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?

(person)-Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at the church.

(God)---Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

(person)-Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

(God)---So could I.

(person)-I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

(God)---Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.

(person)-Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. "Give us this day, our daily bread."

(God)---You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is.

(person)-Hey, wait a minute! What is this, "Criticize me day"? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

(God)---Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying, I'm interested in the next part of your prayer...(pause).

Well, go on.

(person)-I'm scared to.

(God)---Scared? Of what?

(person)-I know what you'll say.

(God)---Try me and see.

(person)-"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

(God)---What about Ann?

(person)-See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

(God)---But your prayer? What about your prayer?

(person)-I didn't mean it.

(God)---Well, at least you're admitting it. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

(person)-No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor. She'll wish she had never moved into this neighborhood.

(God)---You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

(person)-You can? How?

(God)---Forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.

(person)-Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want to revenge Ann, I want to be right with you...(pause)...(sigh). All right. All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be out of it. Someway, somehow, show her the right way.

(God)---There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

(person)-Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest.

(God)---You're not through with your prayer. Go on. (person)-Oh, all right. "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." (God)---Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

(person)-What do you mean by that?

(God)---Don't turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about the time you spend coffee-ing with your friends, if you can't influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should re-think the value of those friendships. Another thing, your neighbors and friends shouldn't be your standard for "keeping up". And please don't use me for an escape hatch.

(person)-I don't understand the last part.

(God)---Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me, "Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?

(person)-Yes, and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

(God)---Which bargain are you remembering?

(person)-Well, there was the night that the children and I were home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, "Oh, God, if you spare us, I'll never skip my devotions again."

(God) --Did you?

(person)-I'm sorry, Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

(God)---Go ahead and finish your prayer.

(person)-"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever." Amen

(God)---Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

(person)-No, but I'd like to know. I want now to please you. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers.

(God)---You just answered the question.

(person)-I did?

(God)---Yes. The thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I see that happening between us. Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together.

(person) - Lord, let's see what we can make of me, OK? Amen!

Do we hunger for His Body & Blood?

2 1st Sunday (Confessing & accepting Jesus) (August 25)

Today the Sixth Chapter of the Gospel of John concludes the discourse on the Bread of Life, which Jesus gave the day after the multiplication of the loaves and fish. In reality, they had certainly understood Jesus' discourse so well that they did not want to heed it, because it was a discourse which threw their mind-set into crisis. Jesus' words always throw us into crisis, for example, the worldly spirit, worldliness. But Jesus offers the key for overcoming this difficulty; a key consisting of three elements. First, his divine origin: he came down from heaven and will ascend again to "where he was before". Second: his words can be understood only through the action of the Holy Spirit. The One who "gives life" is precisely the Holy Spirit who enables us to understand Jesus properly. Third: the true cause of incomprehension of his words is the lack of faith: "there are some of you that do not believe", Jesus says. In fact, from that time, the Gospel says, "many of his disciples drew back". In the face of these desertions, Jesus does not compromise and does not mince words, indeed he demands that a precise choice be made: either to stay with him or leave him, and he says to the Twelve: "Will you also go away?"

At this point Peter makes his confession of faith on behalf of the other Apostles: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". He does not say "where shall we go?", but "to whom shall we go?". The underlying problem is not about leaving and abandoning the work undertaken, but to whom to go. From Peter's question we understand that fidelity to God is a question of fidelity to a person, to whom we bind ourselves to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus. All that we have in the world does not satisfy our infinite hunger. We need Jesus, to be with him, to be nourished at his table, on his words of eternal life! Believing in Jesus means making him the centre, the meaning of our life. Christ is not an optional element: he is the "Living Bread", the essential nourishment. Binding oneself to him, in a true relationship of faith and love, does not mean being tied down, but being profoundly free, always on the journey.

A few years ago, a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner.

In their rush, with tickets and briefcases in hand, moving quickly through the airport terminal, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding.

All but one! He paused, took a deep breath, quickly assessed the situation -- and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then, he returned to the terminal where the apples were still all over the terminal floor.

The man was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl running the stand, he discovered, was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, all the while helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the rushing crowd swirled about her, no one stopping and no one caring for her plight.

No one else, that is. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised. These he set aside in another basket.

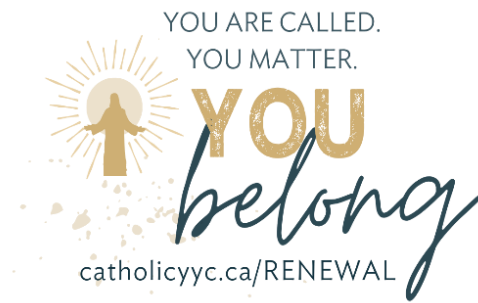
When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly," he said.

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered, stunned by the words. Then slowly, he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Who is Jesus for me?





DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

August 2024

40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

"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 - visit: catholicyc.ca/40hours. The next devotions:

- **St. Thomas More, Calgary - Thu, Aug 8** at 9:30 am to Sat, Aug 10 at 9 am
- **St. Bonaventure's, Calgary, Wed, Aug 21** at 7 am - Thu, Aug 22 at midnight
- **Our Lady of Peace, Tsuut'ina Nation**:, on 4 first Wednesdays: **Wed, Sep 4** from noon to 10 pm (Mass at noon celebrated by Bishop McGrattan); **Wed, Oct 2** from noon to 10 pm (Mass at noon); **Wed, Nov 6** from noon to 10 pm (Mass at noon); **Wed, Dec 4** from noon to 10 pm (Mass at noon).

Mount St. Francis 75th Anniversary

Come and celebrate Mount St. Francis 75th Anniversary on **Saturday, August 10 and Sunday, August 11 - with a Family Festival Day!** There will be entertainment, food trucks, family activities, historical displays and more! For more information, visit <https://mountstfrancis.ca>

Angels on High - Stanley Glacier

St. Gabriel's Angels on High (AOH) invites you to join their Stanley Glacier Hike on **Saturday, Aug. 10**. 100% of all donations and pledges to AOH hikers will go to building St. Gabriel's future church in Chestermere. More info at www.saintgabrielparish.ca

African Thanksgiving Mass with Bishop McGrattan

The African communities in the Diocese of Calgary invite all Christian faithful parishes to their African Thanksgiving Mass with Bishop McGrattan on **Sunday, August 25, at 12:30 pm** at St. Michael's

Church in Calgary. Reception will follow at soccer fields S1WSP05 & S1WSP04 beside West Ridge School (8903 Wentworth Ave SW, Calgary). For more information, contact Joseph at 403-969-6811.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees

In his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (**Sep 29, 2024**), Pope Francis reminds us, "Let us take our most vulnerable brothers and sisters by the hand, recognize in them the face of Jesus, and share a part of the road together. Find resources at humandevlopment.va

ANCOP Walk

Couples for Christ invites you to join their walk on **Sat, Aug 24** in raising awareness and donations for its crucial programs to help the poor. For more information, contact info@ancopcanada.org

Deliverance Retreat

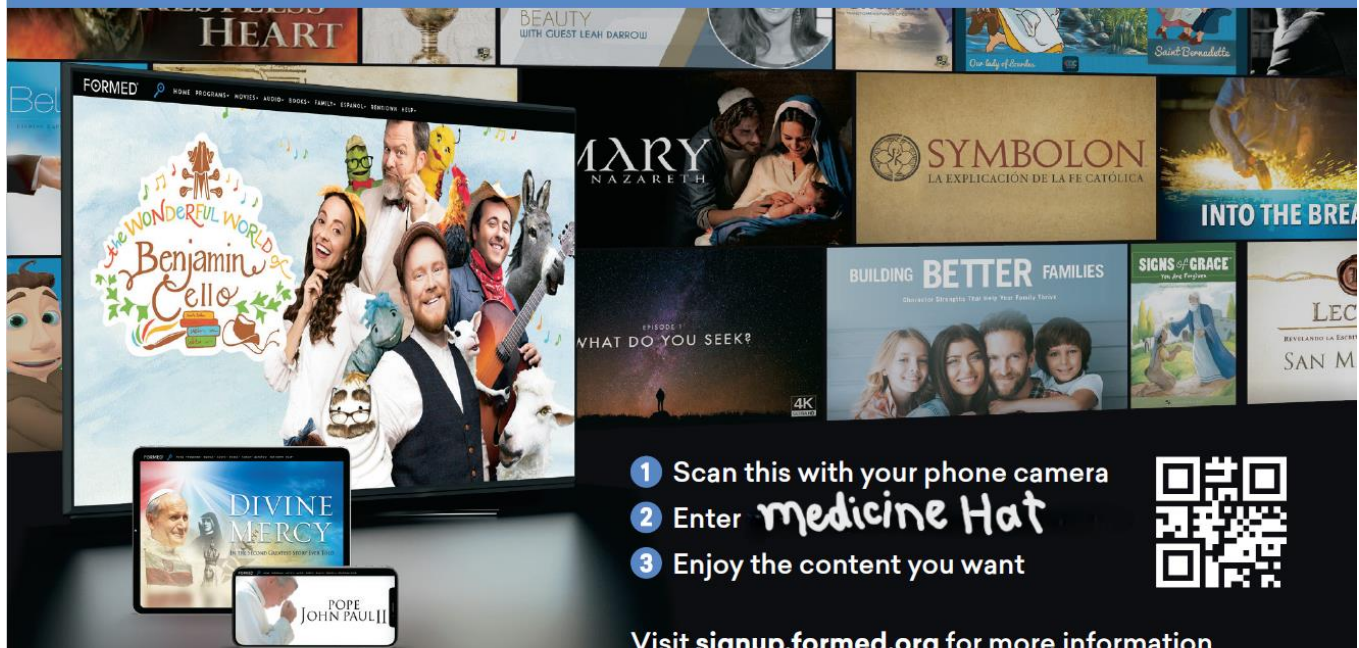
St. Luke's Charismatic Prayer Group invites you to attend a Deliverance Retreat led by Fr. (Dr.) Antony Parankimalil, VC from Divine Retreat Centre in Rwanda. Event begins with a Holy Rosary on **Aug 5, 6, and 7 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm - St. Luke's Calgary**, followed by Mass at 7 pm, Eucharistic Adoration, and spiritual talks. To register, please email slcpgevents@gmail.com or call 587-700-5172. [More info](#)

Truth & Reconciliation Conference "Braiding Together"

Come join RMEC as they engage in critical conversations in response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, exploring our individual and collective journeys as we walk together, fostering authentic and inclusive relationships as we celebrate diversity and work towards healing and wholeness, attentive in heart, mind and soul. When: **Oct 18-19, 2024 at the Banff Centre**. Early bird rate ends June 30, 2024. Register at braidingtogether.ca

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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press

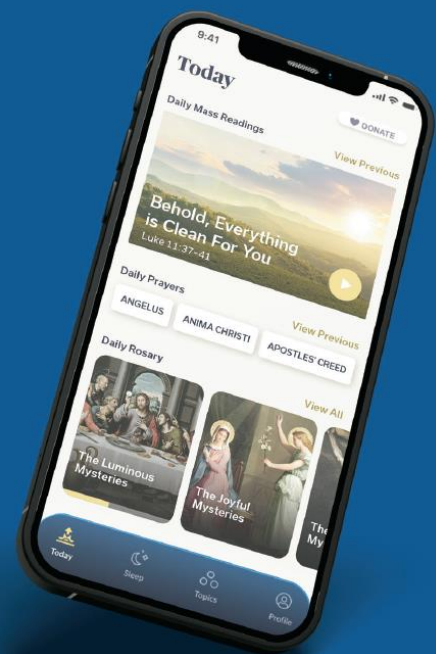
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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Joe McKinnon Council #9502
Knights of Columbus 2024 2025 Officers

Position	Name
Grand Knight	Greg Martin
Deputy Grand Knight	Jimmy Tablan
Financial Secretary	Pat Ries
Treasurer	Ron Pisoni
Chancellor	Jason Iverson
Recorder	Brad Irvine
Advocate	Andy Hamel
Warden	Walter Pratt
Inside Guard	Dale Maddaford
Outside Guard	Michael Camphor
Year 1 Trustee	Gary Heinbecker
Year 2 Trustee	Kent Friedt
Year 3 Trustee	Garry Mastel
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



Who is Jesus? Do I need a church?

Why do I exist?

Teens in your parish are actively looking for answers to these questions. Unfortunately, the world is not providing the proper guidance to point them in the right direction.

But you can help change this. Equip your teens with the tools to help them discover the best answers to these questions with The Search Begins.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THIS TRAILER](#)

The Search Begins is a seven-episode video series adapted from the Augustine Institute's award-winning series The Search. It invites teens in your parish to find meaning in their everyday lives. This program shares the answers to the fundamental questions of life so they can live more for God. A life of purpose!

Guide your teens to real, satisfying answers about their life and the person of Jesus Christ now with The Search Begins.

THE
SEARCH
BEGINS

Order the [Leader's Kit](#) or [Deluxe Leader's Kit](#) on Catholic Market.

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.





Why Support Coldest Night of the Year?

This event is not just a walk; it's a symbol of solidarity and support for those facing difficult circumstances in our community. By participating or contributing, you can directly impact the lives of individuals and families in need.

How Can You Get Involved?

We would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word about Coldest Night of the Year and encouraging participation from your **church**. Stay tuned for more information and details about registration, which will be opening later this year.

Your involvement and support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are incredibly grateful for any assistance you can provide. Thank you for your consideration and support. Together, we can make a positive impact and show compassion to those who need it most.

Warm regards,
Joanna



SCOTIABANK GROUP PRESENTS THE 22ND ANNUAL



Charity Golf Classic

Thursday September 5th, 2024



Registration now open!

We're excited to invite you to join us **Thursday, September 5th, 2024** for the 22nd Annual Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society Charity Golf Classic, presented by Scotiabank Group! This year's tournament will be taking place again at the Medicine Hat Golf & Country Club.

\$175/golfer or \$700/team

(Includes lunch, cart, golf, buffet dinner and more!)

Register by **June 30th** to be entered in a draw for a \$50 gift card for Moxies Restaurant!

Schedule:

Noon - Lunch

1PM - Shotgun Start

6PM - Dinner & Awards

Register Online Today!

Or by calling 403-527-8223 or emailing info@mhws.ca!

For more information about sponsorship opportunities please contact Deidre Giesbrecht at deidreg@mhws.ca or 403-527-8223. Sponsorships are also available through our online registration page.



CONNECT 24/7

Help Line: 403-529-1091

Toll Free: 1-800-661-7949

Text Line: 587-850-5885

Web Chat: www.mhws.ca

Administrative Line: 403-527-8223



Scams Alert

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you get an email or a text, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND to it, you can forward it to contact@holyfamilymh.ca so it can be sent to the diocese.