



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YR. B SUNDAY, SEPT 29, 2024

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Phone 403-527-6933

Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish ~ YouTube: Medicine Hat Holy Family Church

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

## CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid & Deacon Robert Risling

## RECONCILIATION...

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

## MASS TIMES - MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY 9:00AM

WEDNESDAY 7:00AM

SATURDAY 5:00PM - SUNDAY 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM

MONTHLY - 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY 6:00PM & 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY 8:00AM

## THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm

ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 - 10:30am

Knights of Columbus – Greg Martin

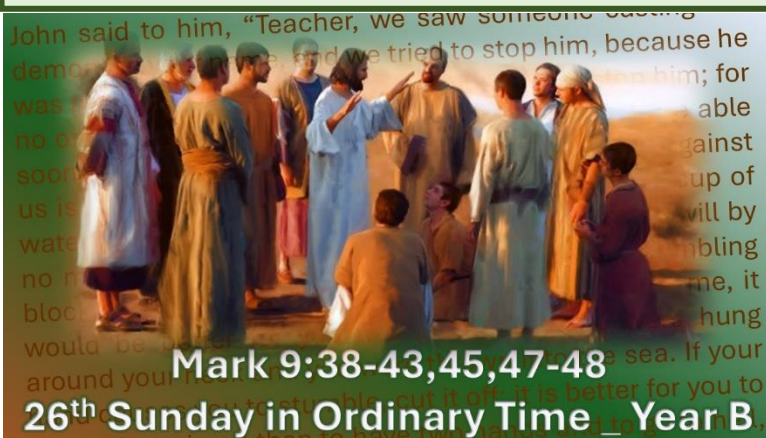
Catholic Women's League – Cathy Koch

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.**

**Gospel - Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48**  
**Jesus teaches that whoever is not against  
him is for him.**



Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time \_ Year B

## † Masses & Mass Intentions †



Saturday, September 28

5:00pm – Victor Scharff †

Sunday, September 29

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Simonne Flynn †

6:00pm – Andrew Walmsley †

Monday, September 30

9:00am – Mike & Shirley Bachmier Family

Tuesday, October 1

9:30am – Mr. Thomas

6:00pm – Scott Krooshoop

Wednesday, October 2

7:00am – Steven Monk †

Thursday, October 3

9:00am – John & Veronica Bosch †

4:00pm – 40 Hour Adoration Begins

Friday, October 4

9:00am – Valentine & Pauline Eresman

Saturday, October 5

8:00am – Rick Gregus †

5:00pm – Irene Koch †

## OPERATING FINANCES

AUGUST 1-30, 2024

Operating Budget 2024	\$ 60,990
General Envelope Collection	\$ 44,302
Loose Collections	\$ 4,279
Future Development	\$ 2,628
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 2,724
<b>\$ 53,933 - Budget Vs Actual</b>	<b>-\$ 7,057</b>

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,847
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,261
World Mission	\$ 25
Clergy Retirement	\$ 250
Mission Mexico	\$ 160
CARO	\$ 25
Seminary Fund	\$ 200

*Thank You  
for your Generous Contributions*

Average Weekly Attendance	876
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# VOCATIONS

Sept 29, 2024  
26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

Today's readings speak of the gifts of prophecy and of casting out demons. If you feel that God is calling you with the gift of a Church vocation, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500

or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

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

**YOU  
ARE  
called**  
YOU MATTER.  
YOU BELONG.

**YTD: \$40,626**

**57% of total  
needed!**

**ONLY 3  
MONTHS LEFT**

## Together in Action

The amount needed before  
the end of 2024 is \$70,938.

We have 2700 families; however,  
only a portion donate to our  
church. If you can give more than  
the \$30 this year, we would  
greatly appreciate it.

May God Bless Your Generously!!!



Special Collections  
October 2024

Future Development  
Fund

Together in Action

October 20, 2024  
World Mission Sunday

Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith.



Feast of  
St. Francis  
of  
Assisi

October 4

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29.

Psalms 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14.

James 5:1-6.

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48.

The More the Merrier.

Who cares if other Christians are also doing the good things that Catholics do? Or other believers? Or even non-believers? The kingdom of heaven is not an exclusive club. By God's design, everyone belongs. Jesus says: "Whoever is not against us is for us."

✦ What good can I affirm that someone else is doing this week?

✦ How can I foster others to do good work?

✦ How can I help others to care for "little ones"?





**4th Degree  
Knights of  
Columbus  
Members  
Meeting**  
**Sept. 29, 2024**  
**1:45 PM**  
**St. Patrick's  
Church  
Meeting Room**





# HEALING MASS

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY  
AND BURDENED..."

**1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY EACH MONTH AT 6:00PM**      **OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**Knights of Columbus  
Officer's Meeting**  
**Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**  
**HFP Faith Room**





**Catholic Women's League (CWL)  
Executive Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm**  
**Hope Room**



**THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF  
THE MONTH THE LEGION OF  
MARY HOSTS THE MOTHER  
OF PERPETUAL HELP  
NOVENA  
FOLLOWING 7:00AM MASS  
OCTOBER 2, 2024**

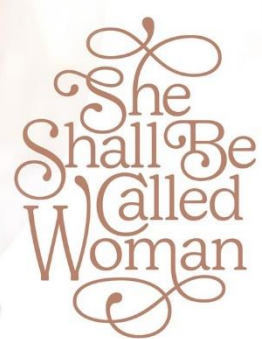
**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**



**OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> TOPIC**  
**YOUR PRAYER LIFE**  
**&**  
**CATHOLIC PRAYERS &  
PRACTICES**

Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

**WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE FAITH ROOM**  
**IF INTERESTED CALL PAT AT 403-527-1097**




Is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. Each season features speakers from diverse stages of life who will offer participants deeper insight into scriptural teachings, theological truths, and practical wisdom.

**Beginning Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**


- 6:15 pm Refreshments and Fellowship
- 6:45 pm Presentation
- 7:15 pm Small group discussion
- 7:45 pm Conclusion

**Session 1 - His**

**St Joseph Pilgrim Icon Service & 40 Hours of Adoration**  
On Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 4:00pm at Holy Family Parish we will have a prayer service in honor of St. Joseph, followed by a 40 Hour Eucharistic Adoration concluded with the Holy Mass on Saturday Morning, October 5th at 8am.



Bishop William McGrattan; "In the spirit of our Diocesan Renewal, I wish to promote the 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations in the Diocese of Calgary."



**First Saturday Mass**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of  
each month  
at 8:00am*

**October 5, 2024**




**e-transfer**  
ONLINE GIVING

**DONATE TODAY...**  
**accounting@holymfamilymh.ca**



**The Parish Office is closed Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

Saturday, October 5, 2024  
8:00am – Morning Mass  
8:30am - Presentation  
Theme: The Glory of God  
Presenter: Mark Hartnell

**TMIY**  
THAT MAN IS YOU!  
BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART



**Ministry Fair**  
October  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
after  
Mass



**Sacramental Preparation 2024-25**  
**Confirmation**

Thursday Sept. 26 at St. Patrick's Church Hall  
6:00pm to 7:30pm

**1st Reconciliation**

Saturday Sept. 28 at St. Patrick's Church Hall  
10:00am to 11:30am OR Saturday Sept. 28 at  
Holy Family Faith Room 1:30pm to 3:00pm



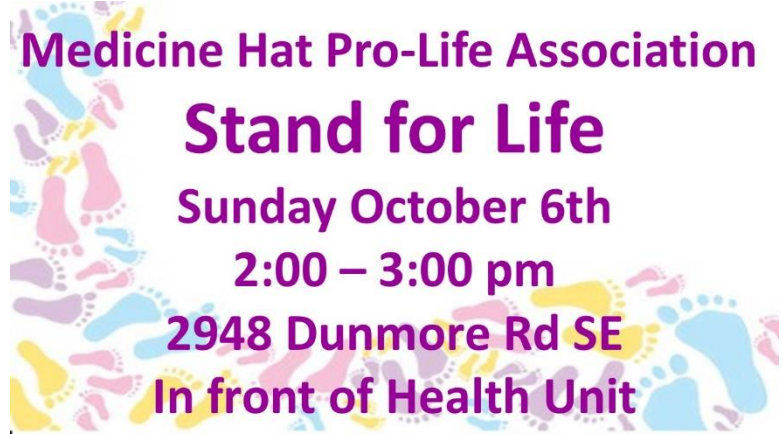
**Medicine Hat Pro-Life Association**

**Stand for Life**

Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>

2:00 – 3:00 pm

2948 Dunmore Rd SE  
In front of Health Unit



 **CANADA NEEDS  
OUR LADY**  
A special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization



**Rosary Rally**  
October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon  
Veteran's Memorial Park  
by the Band Shell



**The St. Patrick's Parish Fall Supper**  
Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 5:00pm

Menu: Chicken breasts, meat balls, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert.

Tickets - before and after all weekend masses until  
October 13 and at St. Pat's Church Office.

Seating is limited to 160 people.

Children 6 & under – Free      7 to 15 - \$10  
16 & over - \$20      Cash only please!



**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**

**STEAK NIGHT** *at Ralph's*

**SILENT AUCTION**  
5:00-7:30 PM

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS  
SCAN QR CODE OR  
CALL MACKENZIE AT 403-502-8351**

**\$30.00  
PER  
PLATE  
OCTOBER 22  
5:00-8:00 PM**



**Vincentian Corner**

Through the words of Mother Teresa, we learn that serving God and others is not about doing great things but doing small things with great love. We can serve God and others daily by being kind to our neighbors, volunteering our time to help others, and giving to those in need.

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul needs volunteers. Many people are struggling, and we work to help in whatever capacity we can. Imagine the joyful feeling assisting a single mother with three small children with some rent to keep their home. This is an important and fulfilling ministry.

Please consider coming to one of our monthly meetings to see if this is a calling you might consider. We meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm, September at St. Patrick's Church Hall and October at Holy Family Parish.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.





## Learning from Seniors - A New Ministry

As St. James says, "if any of you are lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you" (1:5).

This is the new ministry our Parish is hoping to start. Once a week seniors will be coming together to share their fellowship by having coffee and playing games and sharing their lives with one another (this is just a brief description of the ministry). If you are interested in coordinating this ministry, please contact Fr. Iqbal.

Hoping to start in October.



Building Up Our Domestic Church Booklets are available in front of church entrance. Supplied by your Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus. Please stop and have a browse. The display stand has just been replenished and the new edition books are a must for your spiritual library. Vivat Jesus

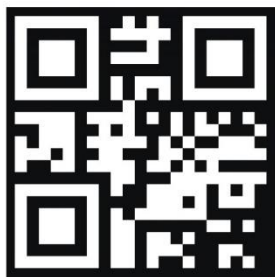


[catholicyyyc.ca/Faithfully](http://catholicyyyc.ca/Faithfully) keeps you updated with what's happening in and around our Diocese!

*Faithfully*  
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

*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



USE WITH



Scan code with camera or visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org)

Enter "Medicine Hat" click on "Holy Family"

**FORMED**  
FAITH AT HOME

**REMINDER:**  
Be suspicious of emails that ask you to buy cards and/or send money. This can't be a normal way of operating in the Catholic Church. Be suspicious!

Ignore these emails and mark them as spam/junk.

IT'S A SCAM!

Bishops, priests, deacons, and religious do not ask for gift cards or cash. If you receive an email or text asking for these, ignore it.

It's a scam

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of Calgary

## Are you looking for Sacramental Marriage?

Were you married by J&P, in another Denomination or living in a Common Law relationship? We can help you to marry in the Church by completing your marriage paperwork or filing for annulment (in case you were previously married).

Contact St. Patricks' or Holy Family Parishes for assistance.

According to Canon Law "The matrimonial covenant, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized. §2. For this reason, a valid matrimonial contract cannot exist between the baptized without it being by that fact a sacrament (1055: 1&2).

And according to Catechism of the Catholic Church "Sacred Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of "the wedding-feast of the Lamb (1602).





## St Joseph Pilgrim Icon Service & 40 Hours of Adoration

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Knights of Columbus since 1979 has held more than 174 800 Pilgrim Icon Program services in local council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants. Now it is Medicine Hat's turn. The icon service features a picture of St. Joseph standing with his eyes cast humbly down, but with determined strength in his face. In his

covered arm he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world.

On Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 4:00pm at Holy Family Parish we will have a prayer service in honour of St. Joseph. All parishioners are encouraged to attend prayer service. Our 40 Hour Eucharistic Adoration to follow and will be concluded with the Holy Mass on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

### **Why 40 hours of Adoration?**

In the words of Bishop William McGrattan; "In the spirit of our Diocesan Renewal, I wish to promote the 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations in the Diocese of Calgary. This Devotion is a longstanding tradition of forty hours of continuous prayer before the solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a succession of churches for special intentions. In the Diocese of Calgary, the special intention will be for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life".



# She Shall Be Called Woman

This is a program for all women! Regardless of your state of life, *She Shall Be Called Woman* is a place to both give and receive!

KATIE HARTFIEL  
Content Coordinator  
*She Shall Be Called Woman*

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY  
PARADISUS DEI

SEASON ONE

## MASTERPIECE of CREATION

To truly understand the way the Lord views femininity is to live as one who is fully alive. In a world that often speaks in clichés and labels, God desires to reveal who He is through a greater understanding of who we are. This season will not only unpack the wealth of celebration of what Saint John Paul II called "*The Feminine Genius*" but will also give real advice on how to combat the mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges we, as women, face every day.



SARAH SWAFFORD  
Speaker & Founder  
Emotional Virtue Ministries



ALICIA HERNON  
Co-founder  
Messy Family Project



MARI PABLO  
Catholic Speaker  
& Evangelist



KATIE HARTFIEL  
Content Coordinator  
*She Shall Be Called Woman*



JORDAN LANGDON  
CEO  
Families of Character



SR. ALEXIA ZALDIVAR  
Servant of the Pierced Hearts  
of Jesus and Mary



LISA COTTER  
Catholic Speaker  
& Author

## NINE ENGAGING SESSIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 HIS<br>KATIE HARTFIEL   | 6 CROWN JEWEL of CREATION<br>SR. ALEXIA ZALDIVAR |
| 2 PUTTING on the MIND of CHRIST<br>JORDAN LANGDON               | 7 DIVINE DESIGN<br>MARI PABLO                    |
| 3 HE SEES YOU, HE KNOWS YOU,<br>HE LOVES YOU<br>SARAH SWAFFORD  | 8 FIGHT LIKE a GIRL<br>KATIE HARTFIEL            |
| 4 UNVEILING the FEMININE HEART<br>LISA COTTER                   | 9 THE PARADISE of GOD<br>MARK HARTFIEL           |
| 5 FINDING the EXTRAORDINARY<br>in the ORDINARY<br>ALICIA HERNON |  |

### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

THURSDAY EVENINGS  
Beginning Oct. 3rd  
IN THE HALL  
ACCESS FROM THE OFFICE Doors

### SCHEDULE:

6:15 pm Social time/gathering  
6:45 pm Video Presentation  
7:15 pm Discussion Groups  
7:45 pm Conclusion

### REGISTRATION:

For more information reach out to Maria Sehn at 403 526 6104 and leave a message.



SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY  
PARADISUS DEI





SEPTEMBER 2024



[www.mhcbe.ab.ca](http://www.mhcbe.ab.ca)

**NEXT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 2:45 pm ([agenda](#))

[Click here to access the YouTube live stream.](#)

[Last Month's Board Meeting Highlights](#)

# MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD BULLETIN

## FAITH FORMATION DAY & WELCOMING NEW STAFF!

August 30 was a day full of big smiles, warm hugs, snacks, and an inspiring message to kick off the 2024-25 school year.

Special guest speaker, David Wells, joined us to start the day with his inspiring message of gratitude, grace and discipleship.

Following lunch, his Excellency Bishop McGrattan led us in our first mass of the school year and new staff members were welcomed into our division family.

[View the highlight reel video here!](#)



## USE OF CELLPHONES AND DEVICES IN SCHOOLS - AP 352

Effective September 1, 2024, the use of personal digital devices will be limited in schools across Alberta.

Staff and families are to familiarize themselves with our school division's newest administrative procedure (AP) regarding the limitation of digital devices in our schools during instructional time.

Each school will share specific information within their school communities regarding expectations for digital device storage and the consequences of use.

[Link to AP 352 here.](#)



## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Our Division Indigenous Wellness Facilitator, Josh Cross, spent the first month of the school year educating staff and students on the subjects of Indigenous culture and the history of residential schools.



From drum circles to blanket exercises, Mr. Josh uses cultural teachings, personal experiences and community connections to develop compelling lessons and activities for all age groups.

Mr. Josh plays a key role in our school division. His stories and lessons create opportunities for reflection and work toward ending stigmas and stereotypes for future generations.

Staff and families are encouraged to wear an **orange shirt on September 30** as we recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- a day of reflection, education, hope, and support for a more inclusive future.



Each of our Catholic schools will be recognizing NDTR in their own unique ways with school-based activities.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

This year, Catholic Education Week will take place from October 19-26. We are excited to celebrate the gift of Catholic education with this year's theme "Testify! Share the reason for your hope".



## HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY DESIGN OPEN HOUSE

FWBA Architects and the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education are inviting stakeholders to join us for the first public look at Medicine Hat's newest Catholic school. Attendees will have a chance to see the design, layout and take a virtual tour of the school building!



**St. Francis Xavier School (318 8 St NE)**  
**Wednesday, October 16 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm**  
Come and go | No registration required

All community members, families, and division staff are invited to participate in this immersive open house!

**Please note: All underlined text/headlines in the Board Bulletin are linked to websites where more information on the subject can be found.**



## Chalice Child Sponsorship

We are a **Canadian, Catholic** international child sponsorship charity focused on child, family, and community development. Since 1992, we have collaborated closely with lay people, religious missionaries, and local communities to care for those children and families caught in the dehumanizing grip of poverty.

Sponsorship gives children the support needed to overcome obstacles so they can attend and **stay in school**, and allows families to provide **nutritious food** and better care for their children. Children are selected for sponsorship based on need and family circumstances, regardless of race, age, ability, gender, or religion.

Each of the **53 sponsor sites** we support is under local direction. By working closely with those who live and experience the difficulties of poverty, we gain knowledge and insight into how to best respond to challenges.

We recognize that the **parents and guardians of the children know best what their child needs to thrive**. We send sponsorship funds directly to them via bank accounts they have set up with local staff support. Equipped with financial literacy training, the guardians make budgets, account for their spending, create savings, and even **launch small businesses**. With empowerment and knowledge, families can transition from sponsorship to self-sufficiency.

**Almost 50,000 sponsored children in 14 countries**

India	Ghana	Bolivia
Philippines	Kenya	Peru
Bangladesh	Tanzania	Paraguay
Haiti	Zambia	Chile
	Ukraine	Guatemala

**Chalice commits 90.5% of its spending in support of programs.**

**Prayer is at the root of every action Chalice undertakes.**

Our Canadian staff gathers each morning to pray for the children and families in our sites around the world, as well as for the intentions of our supporters. This special ministry nourishes our staff and offers all of our works to Christ.



Chalice is constituted as a **Private Association of the Faithful** by Archbishop Brian Dunn of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth



### Mission

To reveal God's love in action by serving the poor, with the Global Catholic Community.

### Purpose

Christ to the Poor and the Poor to Christ

**CHALICE.CA**







**Knights of Columbus®**  
Alberta/NWT State Council



**Early Bird  
Draws x2**

**\$1000<sup>ea</sup>**

Draw Dates at 2 PM:  
September 30  
October 28

*In support of:*

Educational Institutions, Community Charities, Churches,  
Youth and Seniors Activities across Alberta



Support the Alberta Knights of Columbus and WIN CASH this fall!

PLUS — get tickets before September 30th and qualify for **BOTH**  
**\$1,000 EARLY BIRD DRAWS:**

**GET 50/50 TICKETS**

**Sales end November 23, 2024 @ 6 pm.**

Present in over 17 countries, the Knights of Columbus put faith into action by serving the community and supporting charitable programs such as Habitat for Humanity, the Global Wheelchair Mission, and Coats for Kids.

**Thanks for supporting the Alberta Knights of Columbus.**

**GOOD LUCK!**

Licence #: AGLC-697375

**You must select 09502 Joe McKenna, Medicine Hat**  
**Proceeds go to Project Rachel and Elizabeth House**



# **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**



**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:**

- LUNCHESES
- 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](http://WWW.CONNAISSANCETRAVEL.COM)

TICO ONT. REG: #2976741





26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

### ARE WE WITH JESUS?

The last we learnt from the Lord about humility and service as we not only welcome other people but through him, God the Father is being welcomed in our lives. In our present times maybe we're afraid to share our faith because we don't know what to say. Or maybe we're sharing the Gospel, but nothing is happening; people aren't committing their lives to Christ. St. Paul appreciates the faith of Philemon by saying "When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother". Are we doing something wrong about sharing Jesus with other?

A popular speaker started off a seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. A crowd of 200 had gathered to hear him speak. He asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

200 hands went up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He crumpled the bill up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?"

All 200 hands were still raised.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" Then he dropped the bill on the ground and stomped on it with his shoes.

He picked it up and showed it to the crowd. The bill was all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?"

All the hands still went up.

"My friends, I have just showed you a very important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times, in our lives, life crumples us and grinds us into the dirt. We make bad decisions or deal with poor circumstances. We feel worthless. But no matter



what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. You are special – Don't ever forget it!

We can't open someone's heart to the truth of the Gospel—but God can, by His Spirit. The Apostle Paul wasn't eloquent, but God used him because he depended on the Holy Spirit to guide him (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). God guided many others in the Bible as well—like Moses, who at first asked God to get someone else to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land, or Jonah, who didn't think the wicked Ninevites deserved God's mercy and tried to run the other way.

Remember that God does not call the equipped; He equips the called or he does not call the qualified but qualifies the called—and as Christians, we are all called to share what Christ has done. Christ's last words on earth were, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Sharing our faith isn't just a suggestion, it's a command. And God is with us when we obey Him.

One day, a man walked into his doctor's office complaining..." Doctor, I have this awful headache that won't go away. Please, could you give me a prescription for it?"

"I will," murmured the doctor, pondering what had set off his usually calm patient.

"But first, I want to check out a few things and ask you a few questions... Tell me, do you drink a lot of alcohol?" "Alcohol?" the man shouted back indignantly. "I never touch that filthy stuff. Nor do I go near people who drink it. All filthy!"

"How about smoking?" the doctor calmly inquired. "I think smoking is disgusting. I've never touched tobacco in my life." "Okay," the doctor continued, "I'm a bit embarrassed to even ask this, but... Do you run around at night seeking dangerous pleasures?" "Of course not! What do you take me for? I'm a highly spiritual and disciplined man, and I'm in bed by 10 o'clock every night." The man spat back.

"Then, tell me..." said the doctor, "This pain in your head, is it a sharp, shooting kind of pain?" "Yes, yes!" The man eagerly replied, his eyes lighting up... "It is... a sharp, shooting kind of pain." "Well, that's simple, my dear fellow!" the doctor replied with a smile on his face. "The trouble is that you have your halo on too tight. All we need to do for you is loosen it up a bit; loosen you up a bit! Avoid the bad habits I mentioned earlier and enjoy some innocent pleasures in life – Create some balance. Let go of the rigidity. Live and share yourself with other and you will enjoy your life and there will be no headache at all."

We get sick of people; we get headaches from thinking too much negative about other and sometimes we lose sleep because we are too concerned about the well being of others, rather than looking deep into our lives. What should we do then? One of the best ways to share our faith is to live a godly life. Non-Christians often look at Christians as hypocritical because we say one thing but do another. Show those close to you that you care—spend time with them, help meet their needs and offer to listen when they have problems. As St. Paul says in the Letter to Philipians "Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel". We might not be able to answer all of their questions, but they can't deny the reality



of what Christ has done in our life. If we find this is hard to do, perhaps God is speaking to us about our own need to walk more closely with Him every day.

Another important part of sharing our faith is to pray for those we interact with. If we can't think of anyone who isn't a Christian, pray for God to place someone in our life who needs Him. Also make a habit of reading the Bible, praying, and going to church. These things shouldn't be done for attention or for the sake of doing them, but to help us grow in our own faith. Being passionate about Christ will help others see that there's something different about us, and they will want to know what it is. We can also reflect Christ through kind words, patience, a gentle temperament, choosing to love even difficult people, carefully monitoring what we watch or listen to, and treating others with respect.

In the First Reading we read that Spirit is being shared with seventy elders to prophesy. God gives us his spirit not only to live but proclaim his presence among the nations. Jesus before his passion, promised his disciples that they will be an Advocate or helper who will teach them what to say and do. In his epistles St. Paul speaks about the Holy Spirit who not only prays or intercedes for us but also helps us to call God "Abba" Father. We must always pray with King David "Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me" so that we may always learn to witness him.

In the Second Reading St. James is encouraging all of us to share what God has given us with other people. God has blessed us not only with worldly blessings but also with a lot of gifts and talents to share with other people. But sometimes we act in a non-Christian way like in the following story:

Once upon a time, there was a painter who had just completed his course. He took three days and painted beautiful scenery. He wanted people's opinion about his caliber and his painting skills. He displayed his creation at a busy street crossing. Next to it was a caption, which read – "I have painted this piece. Since I'm new to this profession I might have committed some mistakes in my strokes. Please put a cross wherever you see a mistake."

When he came back in the evening to collect his painting, he was completely shattered to see that the whole canvass was filled with Xs (crosses). Some people had even written their comments on the painting! Disheartened and completely broken, he ran to his master's place and burst into tears. The young artist was breathing heavily, and master heard him saying, "I'm useless. And if this is what I have learnt to paint, I'm not worth becoming a painter. People have rejected me completely. I feel like dying," The Master smiled and suggested, "My Son, I will prove that you are a great artist and have learnt flawless painting. Do as I say without questioning it. It WILL work." The young artist reluctantly agreed. Two days later, early morning he presented a replica of his earlier painting to his master. The Master took it gracefully and smiled. "Come with me," the Master said. They reached the same street square and displayed the same painting exactly at the same place. Now the Master took out another board, which read –

"Gentlemen, I have painted this piece. Since I'm new to this profession I might have committed some mistakes in my strokes etc. I have put a box with colors and brushes



just below. Please do me a favor. If you see a mistake, kindly pick up the brush and correct it.”

The Master and disciple walked back home. Both returned in the evening. The young painter was surprised to see that there was not a single correction made so far. Again, the next day they came back and found the painting untouched. The painting was kept there for a month. No correction came in!

This Sunday's Gospel presents us with one of those characteristics that are very instructive about Jesus' life with his disciples. They had seen a man who did not belong to the group of Jesus' followers casting out demons in Jesus' name, and thus they wanted to forbid him to do so. With the zealous enthusiasm typical of young people, John refers the matter to the Teacher, seeking his support. However, quite to the contrary, Jesus replies: “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us”. Don't we act sometimes like John to stop people to do good?

John and the other disciples display a 'closed' attitude when faced with a circumstance that does not fit with their programme, in this case the action, although good of a person 'outside' the circle of followers. Jesus on the other hand, appears very free, fully open to the freedom of the Spirit of God, whose actions are not limited by any confines nor boundaries. Jesus wants to educate his disciples and us today on this inner freedom.

It is good for us to reflect on this episode and to perform a small examination of conscience. The disciples' attitude is very human, very common, and we can observe this in Christian communities throughout history, probably in ourselves as well. In good faith, indeed with zeal, one would like to protect the authenticity of a certain experience, safeguarding the founder or leader from false impersonators. But at the same time, there is a sort of fear of 'competition' — and this is bad: the fear of competition, that someone may steal new followers, and we are thus unable to appreciate the good that others do: it is not good because he is 'not one of us', they say. And the Church, Pope Benedict used to say “does not grow through proselytism; it grows by attraction, that is, it grows by bearing witness to others with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

God's great freedom in giving himself to us represents a challenge and an exhortation to modify our behaviours and our relationships. It is the invitation which Jesus addresses to us today. He calls us not to think according to the categories of 'friend/enemy', 'us/them', 'those who are in/those who are out', 'mine/yours', but rather to go beyond, to open our heart to be able to recognize God's presence and action, even in unusual and unpredictable environments that are not part of our circle. It is a matter of being more attentive to the authenticity of the good, the beautiful and the true that is done, rather than to the name and the origin of the one who does it. And as the remaining part of the Gospel suggests to us today instead of judging others, we must examine ourselves and 'sever', without compromise, all that can scandalize those persons who are weakest in faith.

Jesus stresses on the act of charity that we must be open to share and regard people who share their blessings with us. And, on the other hand, warns us to be careful



from becoming stumbling block for other. The lives of saints in our catholic faith are examples of sharing Jesus with other without putting other people down. The instructions of Jesus in the Gospel come with hard applications to learn that God has called us to share his love with other to attain eternal life. Jesus visits us everyday in different way but do we recognize 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 the 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 in 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.

Are we with Jesus or against him?

Are we with  
*Jesus*  
or against him?

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year B  
September 29, 2024



# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

September 29, 2024



## Mass on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Join the Mass on **Mon, Sep 30, at 5 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral** (219 18 Ave SW, Calgary). All are welcome!

## Need the Anointing of the Sick while in a Calgary Hospital?

If you have been admitted to any of Calgary's hospitals and would like the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, you can contact your parish priest or call the Diocese of Calgary Call Centre at **403-231-9505**. This service is available for Alberta Children's Hospital, Foothills Hospital, Peter Lougheed Hospital, Rockyview General Hospital, and South Health Campus.

## 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

Pray with us as for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our Diocese. The next devotions:

- [Our Lady of Peace, Tsuut'ina Nation](#), Wed, Oct 2 at noon (Mass) to 10 pm
- [Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat](#) - Thu, Oct 3 at 4 pm to Sat, Oct 5 at 8 am (Mass)

- [All Saints, Lethbridge](#) - Fri, Oct 4 after the 9 am Mass to Sun, Oct 6 at 8:45 am, followed by 9 am Mass

## Back to School: Empower moms; transform 2 generations

Thanks to an anonymous donor, donations to the **Elizabeth House Education Fund** in September will be matched up to \$15,000! Your support helps moms achieve their dreams by funding tuition, school supplies, transportation, and childcare as they pursue GEDs, trades, and degrees. Empower these women and their children's futures—donate today and double your impact! Give now:

[catholicycyc.ca/eh\\_backtoschool](https://catholicycyc.ca/eh_backtoschool) or call 403-218-5500 to make a donation.

## Unplugged Series: The Book of Revelation

Join Cardinal Thomas Collins for a thought-provoking lecture on the *Book of Revelation* as part of the Inspiration Unplugged series at St. Mary's University. When: **Thu, Oct 3, from 7 pm to 9 pm in McGivney**



**Hall, St. Mary's University.** Light refreshments will be provided.

## Journeying Together: Hope and Healing through Surrender

A workshop offering support for those grieving a miscarriage or infant loss. Connect with others who understand your pain and hear from speakers Eunice Peterson and Fr. Adrian Martens. There will be prayers, inspirational talks, food, refreshments, and daycare! When: **Oct 25-26, 2024 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.** Contact 403-218-5521 or email [mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca)

## Memorial Liturgy for those grieving an infant loss

When: **Tue, Nov 12 at 7 pm** at **St. Mary's Cathedral**, with Bishop McGrattan presiding. Contact 403-218-5521 or email [mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca)

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## Transitions

Transitions is a 15-week, peer-led, God-centered support group designed to foster healing for individuals navigating the pain of separation and divorce. Every **Tuesday from 7 pm to 9 pm, starting Oct 1** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. There is no fee to register. Registration: 403-218-5521 or [catholiccy.ca/transitions](http://catholiccy.ca/transitions)

**\* Calling all past participants of the Transitions Program!** Join us for refreshments and reconnect on **Fri, Oct 18, 7-9 pm** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 17 Ave SW).

## Wanted - Volunteers for Prison Ministry in North Calgary

We urgently need new volunteers to serve in our prison team at the Calgary Youth Offender Centre (CYOC). The commitment is to serve **once a month on Saturday, from 1:30-3:30 pm.** Contact 403-218-5500 or email [receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca)

## Annual Blessing of Pet

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre invites all pets and their owners to the Annual Blessing of Pets on **Sun, Oct 6, 2024.** Visit the grounds from 2:30 pm to 4 pm, with the blessing ritual at 3 pm. Pets must be leashed or in a crate.

## Pro-Life in the 11th Hour

Join the Alberta Life Issues Educational Society (ALIES) on **Fri, Oct 11 at 7 pm** at the Cardell Theatre (180 Quarry Park Blvd, Calgary) to learn about their mission and how you can help support abortion-minded men and women in Calgary. For more info, contact 403-452-3590.

## White Mass - Feast of St. Luke

Calling all healthcare professionals! You are invited to the White Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, hosted by the Calgary Catholic Medical Society. When: **Thu, Oct 17, 2024, 7 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral.** Social to follow. [More](#)

## Like A Mighty River Conference

CCCRS invites you to join their annual conference with theme "Navigating the River of faith - Anchored in God's Grace." When: **Sat, Oct 19 from 8:30 am to 9:30 pm, at Ascension Catholic Parish.** Contact [cccsevents@gmail.com](mailto:cccsevents@gmail.com) or 403-836-6873.

## Life Chain

Join this annual ecumenical event where Christians gather at over 325 locations across Canada to pray quietly for one hour for an end to abortion. When: **Oct 6 from 2-3 pm on McLeod Trail.** For more info, call

## Career Opportunities in the Diocese of Calgary

- [Discipleship & Lay Ministry Coordinator - CPC](#)
- [Maintenance Worker - Sacred Heart](#)
- [Sacrament Preparation Coordinator - St. James, Calgary](#)
- [Admin. Assistant - Sacred Heart](#)

For more info, visit [catholiccy.ca/careers](http://catholiccy.ca/careers)

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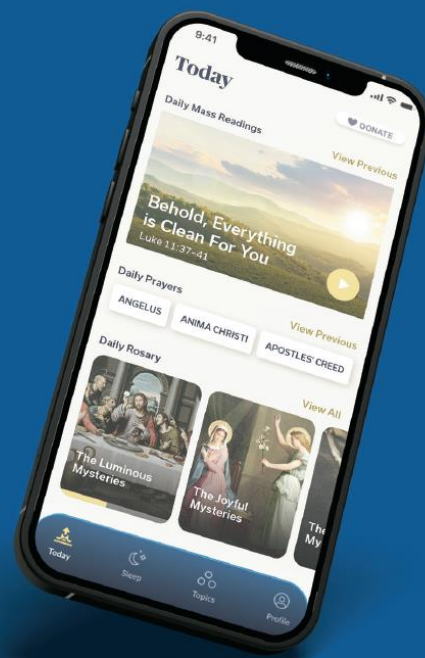
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## **Joe McKinnon Council #9502**

### **Knights of Columbus 2024 2025 Officers**

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

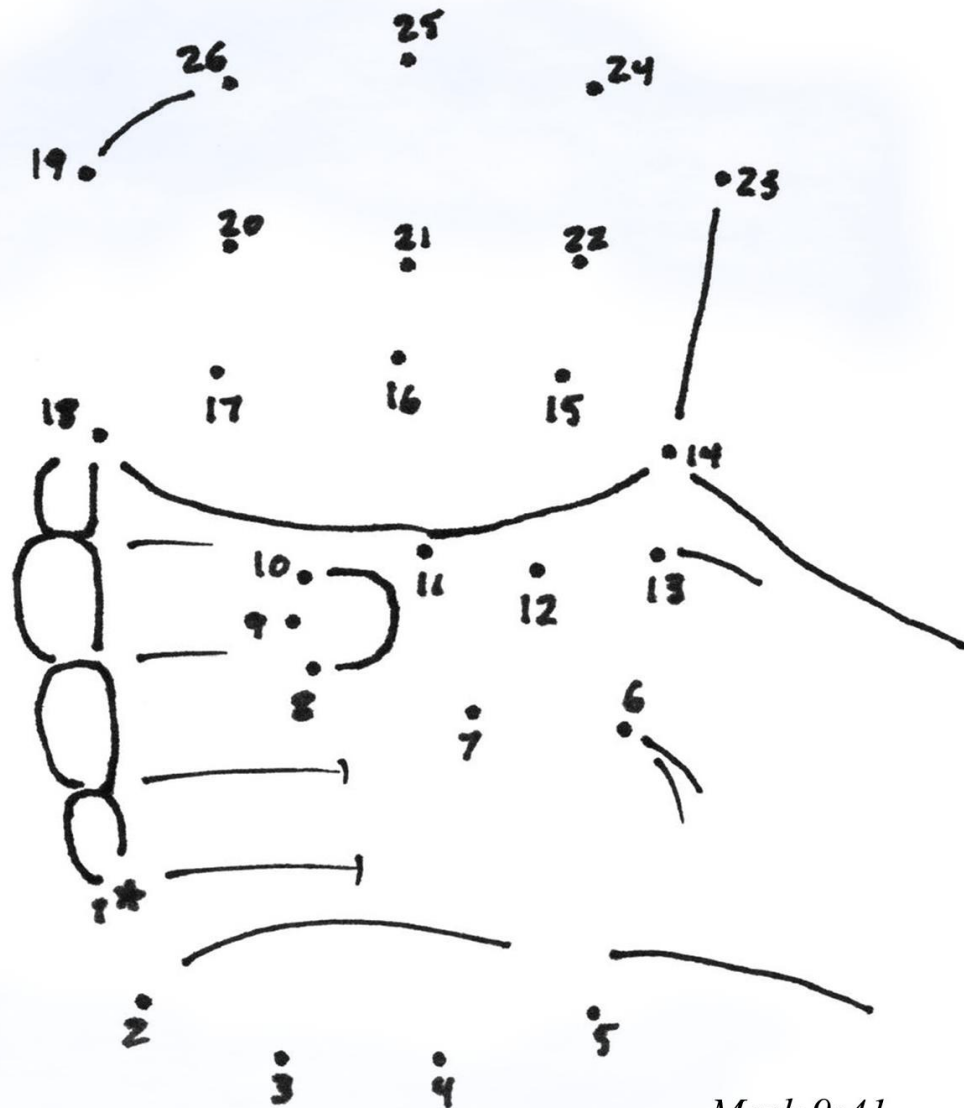
### **2024 2025 Knights Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday, September 8	Corn Roast
Monday, September 16	Officers Instillation
Sunday, September 29	Knights Mass
Sat, Sept 28 Sun., Sept 29	Rosary Program and Recruitment
Thursday, October 3	Pilgrim Icon
Thurs., Oct 3 to Sat., Oct 5	40 Hour Adoration
Sat., Oct 5 to Sun., Oct 6	Ministry Fair
Saturday, Oct. 19	Highway Clean Up
Sat., Oct. 12 at Noon	Canada Needs Our Lady
Sunday, October 20	Breakfast
Sat., Oct. 26 to Sun., Nov. 3	Student Art Show
Fri., Nov. 1	All Souls Mass
Sunday, November 17	Breakfast
Saturday, December 7	Knights Mass
Monday, December 16	Family Supper
Sunday, December 29	Consecration to the Holy Family



# The Kids' Bulletin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 29th, 2024



Mark 9:41

*What is it?*

*Connect the dots to find out!*

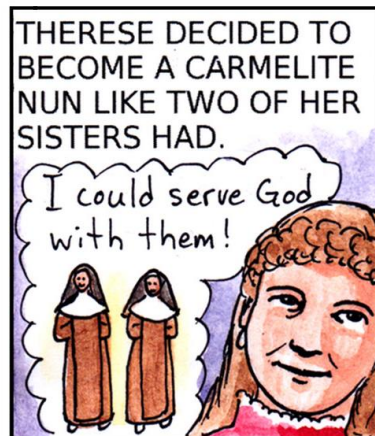
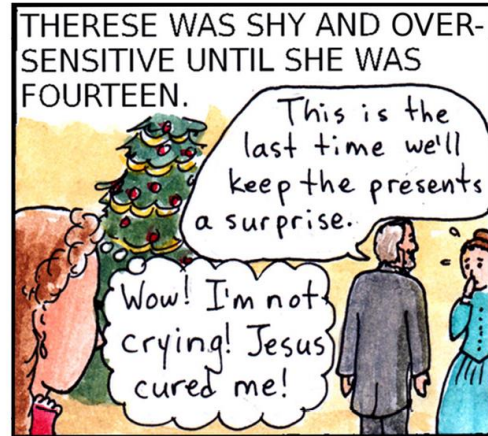
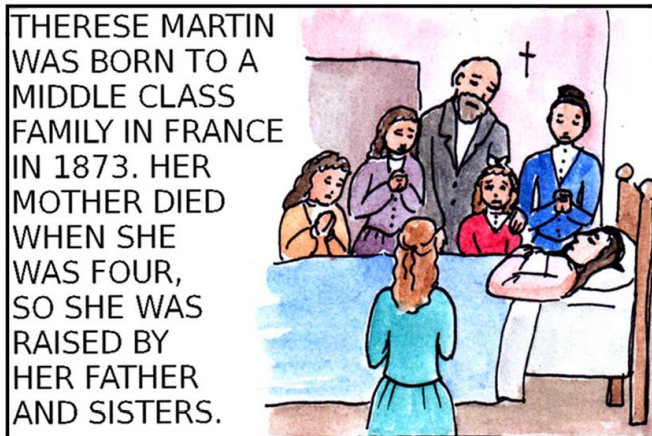
*Jesus says in today's Gospel reading that  
anyone who gives one to someone for His sake  
will receive their just reward.*



# Saint Therese of Lisieux

## "The Little Flower"

### October 1



BECAUSE SHE WAS A CLOISTERED NUN IN A CONVENT, SAINT THERESE KNEW THAT SHE COULD NOT DO ANY GREAT DEEDS FOR GOD. BUT SHE SAW ANOTHER WAY TO BECOME HOLY. BY THINKING OF HERSELF AS A LITTLE CHILD OF GOD AND DOING EVERY LITTLE THING FOR HIM, SHE BECAME A GREAT SAINT!

***"If it causes you to sin"***

## *Word-Find*

*See if you can find all the words from this part of today's Gospel passage that are in CAPITALS.*

*Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.*



*Mark*  
*9:42-48*

...if your HAND causes you to SIN, cut it off; it is BETTER for you to enter life MAIMED than with two hands go INTO hell, to the unquenchable FIRE.

And if your FOOT causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life LAME than with two FEET to be THROWN into HELL.

And if your EYE CAUSES you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to ENTER the KINGDOM of GOD with one eye than with TWO eyes to be thrown into hell, where the WORM does not DIE and the fire is NOT QUENCHED.

*It is better*

\_\_\_\_\_.



# Guardian Angels



On October 2nd we celebrate the feast of the Guardian Angels. Did you know that God has an angel specially looking after you? God gave you a guardian angel to help guard you against temptation and danger.

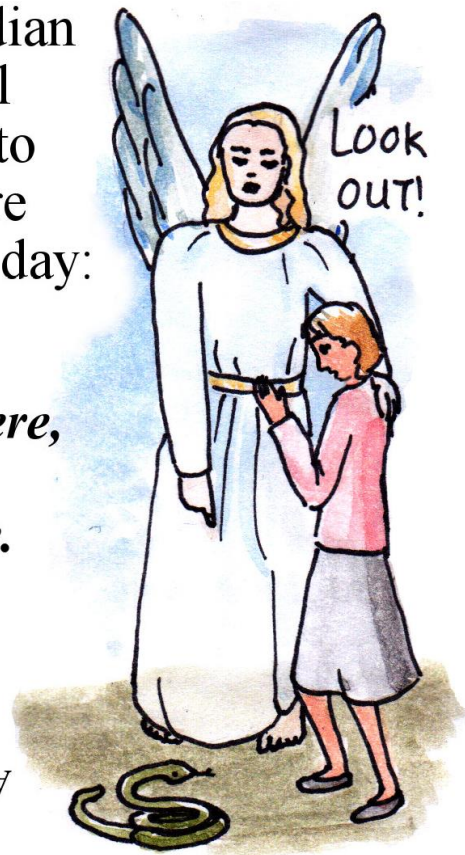
Angels are pure spirits. Even though we draw them like people with wings, they don't have bodies, so they don't take up space. They can see and understand much more than we can, and they know God much better than we do, too. They are very powerful and can help us very much.

We should try to talk to our Guardian Angel every day. Thank your angel for looking after you, and ask him to keep protecting you from evil. Here is a good prayer you can say every day:

*Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
Ever this day be at my side  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide.  
From sinful state O keep me free,  
and at death's hour my helper be.  
Amen.*

Answer to Word-Find: (It is better) to suffer than to sin.

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



# Visit Opportunities at King's for Fall 2024

## CAMPUS VISIT DAY

September 27, 2024 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 19, 2024 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## ADMISSIONS ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

October 23, 2024 | 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## B.ED. VISIT DAY

November 20, 2024 | 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

## ADMISSIONS ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

December 4, 2024 | 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## SHADOW PROGRAM & PERSONALIZED VISIT

Contact [admissions@kingsu.ca](mailto:admissions@kingsu.ca) for more information

[kingsu.ca/visit](https://kingsu.ca/visit)



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Strategic Plan



*Campus  
Residence*



Student  
Refugee Program



**Micah Centre**  
at The King's University

**Micah Centre**





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.







# Scams Alert

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

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

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

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

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

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

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