



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YR. B SUNDAY, OCT. 6, 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 TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY 9:00AM

WEDNESDAY 7:00AM

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

MONTHLY - 1ST TUESDAY 6:00PM & 1ST 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 10:2-16

**Jesus teaches against divorce and
welcomes the children.**

And he took
them up in his
arms, laid his
hands on them,
and blessed
them.

Mark 10:16

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

† Masses & Mass Intentions †



Saturday, October 5

8:00am – Rick Gregus †

5:00pm – Irene Koch †

Sunday, October 6

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Theresa Streifel †

6:00pm – Mr. Sebastian †

Monday, October 7

9:00am – Cheryl Andrews

Tuesday, October 8

9:00am – NO MASS TODAY

Wednesday, October 9

7:00am – NO MASS TODAY

Thursday, October 10

9:00am – NO MASS TODAY

Friday, October 11

9:00am – Frank Schafer †

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
\$ 53,933 - Budget Vs Actual	-\$ 7,057

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



Special Collections
October 2024

Future Development
Fund

Together in Action

October 20, 2024
World Mission Sunday

"Lord, help me, Jesus, I've wasted it so help me, Jesus I know what I am, But now that I know that I've needed you so help me, Jesus, my soul's in your hand"

Kris Kristofferson



VOCATIONS

Oct 6, 2024
27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Matrimony - a beautiful vocation so misused today. Celibacy - a beautiful gift so misunderstood today. Whether we do God's work in pairs or as a single person in ministry or in a community, we do God's work because He calls us. If you feel God is calling you to a Church vocation, please contact the Office of Vocations at 403-218-5500 or email Fr. Cristino Bouvette

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



YTD: \$42,075

**59% of total
needed!**

**LESS THAN 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!!!

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24. Psalm 128

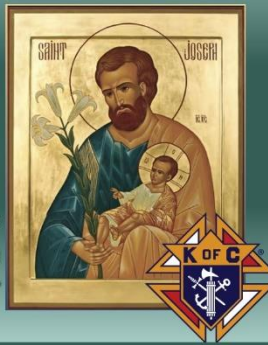
Hebrews 2:9-11. Mark 10:2-16.

Making, Testing, and Deciding. There are at least three take-aways from the readings today. In the making of man and woman in this second creation story, God builds them up from the same stuff. In the first creation story, read during the Easter Vigil, they are made into God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27). Made as equals. In the testing of Jesus, the Pharisees try to trip him up with legal loopholes. Jesus does not play that game. In deciding who belongs to the Kingdom of God, it is Jesus and not his handlers who choose. Children are important. So is everyone else.

- † How will I foster the equality of both women and men?
- † How will I avoid loopholes and, instead, tell the truth?
- † Just like Jesus, how will I treat everyone the same as equal members of God's Kingdom?

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.



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



Catholic Women's League (CWL)
General Meeting
Tuesday, October 8th at 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

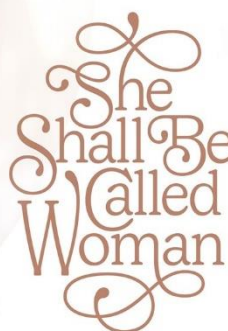
OCTOBER 9TH TOPIC

**THE BIBLE
&**

DIVINE REVELATIONS

WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE FAITH ROOM

IF INTERESTED CALL PAT AT 403-527-1097



October 10, 2024
Holy Family Parish Hall
6:15pm Gathering
6:45 pm Presentation
7:15 pm Group Discussion
7:45 pm Dismissal
Theme: Putting on the
Mind of Christ
Presenter: Jordan Langdon

October 12, 2024 ~ Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30 am

Presentation 8:30 am

Theme: The Resurrection

Presenter: Mark Hartfiel



Sacramental Preparation 2024-25

Confirmation

Thursday Oct 10th at St. Patrick's Church Hall
6:00pm to 7:30pm

1st Reconciliation

Saturday Oct 26th at St. Patrick's Church Hall
10:00am to 11:30am OR Saturday Oct 26th at
Holy Family Faith Room 1:30pm to 3:00pm



ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE

Tuesday, October 15th

7:00pm

Holy Family Parish Sanctuary

This practice is for all current
altar servers & any children or
adults who wish to become
altar servers.



Medicine Hat Pro-Life Association

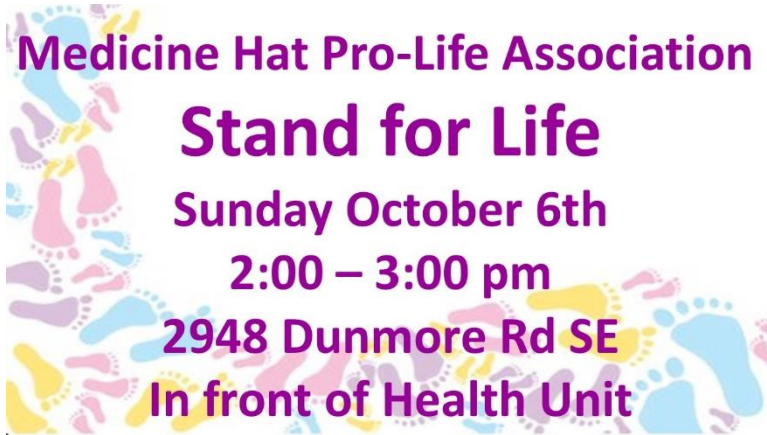
Stand for Life

Sunday October 6th

2:00 – 3:00 pm

2948 Dunmore Rd SE

In front of Health Unit



e-transfer
ONLINE GIVING



DONATE TODAY...

accounting@holyfamilymh.ca

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



Rosary Rally
October 12th 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

OCTOBER 22, 2024

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

SCAN QR CODE OR

CALL MACKENZIE AT 403-502-8351

\$30.00

PER

PLATE

OCTOBER 22

5:00-8:00 PM



Mass of the
Angels



Please join us for

All Souls Day
Mass

Friday, November 1, 2023

Lighting Candles and Laying Flowers 6:00pm

Mass at 6:30pm

Flowers provided by  **PATTISON**
FUNERAL HOME

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Mass 6:00pm

Flowers provided by  **PATTISON**
FUNERAL HOME

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

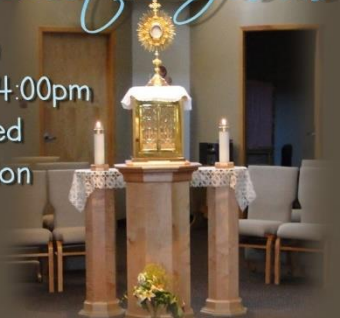


catholicyyyc.ca/Faithfully keeps you updated with what's happening in and around our Diocese!

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

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 3rd to October 5th

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

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





Dear Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society Supporter,

We are excited to share that as part of the annual Parade of Homes, Coulee Ridge is hosting a 50/50 Raffle to support our Capital Campaign to renovate and modernize our emergency shelter, and will be matching up to \$2,000 of funds raised for us - meaning your support will go even further!

Ticket Prices:

10 for \$20,

3 for \$10 and

1 for \$5

The winner will be drawn on October 16th.

Have questions? Connect with us by calling 403-527-8223 or emailing info@mhswss.ca.





Knights of Columbus®
Alberta/NWT State Council



**Early Bird
Draws x2**

\$1000^{ea}

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

TICO ONT. REG: #2976741



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

OCTOBER 6, 2024

LOVE STRENGTHENS MARRIAGE

As we enter the month of October dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary, we learn to be grateful for all the blessings God has given us. There were so many beautiful hymns and psalms in the Bible that could be used for our spiritual enrichment and strength. Three of them are significantly important to remember and read. First the song of Moses, second song of Blessed Virgin Mary and third the song of Zachariah. Out of many blessings, the Sacrament of Marriage has its own importance to cherish as people are joined together in a perfect and mutual love and union to start their own family. Marriage is all about thinking about and looking after each other. I found this little description on the internet, and I felt I should share as it very important in this DNA age when world is becoming selfish and we have gone to “me world” culture, to look at each other:

A message every adult should read, because children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say...

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favourite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all must help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we must take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.'

Each of us (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher or friend) influence the life of a child. How will you touch the life of someone today?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) "Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation (or Chrismation), the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing, and mission to the Christian's life of faith. There is a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life.". Furthermore, the CCC continues to explore the real meaning of the marriage for the faithful in this way: "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament. 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." Scripture speaks throughout of marriage and its "mystery," its institution and the meaning God has given it, its origin and its end, its various realizations throughout the history of salvation, the difficulties arising from sin and its renewal "in the Lord" in the New Covenant of Christ and the Church.

"The intimate community of life and love which constitutes the married state has been established by the Creator and endowed by him with its own proper laws.... God himself is the author of marriage." The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage

is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes. These differences should not cause us to forget its common and permanent characteristics. Although the dignity of this institution is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures. "The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life." "God who created man out of love also calls him to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. Since God created him, man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: "And God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it'".

"Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," i.e., his counterpart, his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. "Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and joins to his wife, and they become one flesh." The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh."

St. Therese of the Child Jesus opens our hearts to understand what it means to be with God and to love him; "By chance the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of the first epistle to the Corinthians caught my attention, and in the first section I read that not everyone can be an apostle, prophet or teacher, that the Church is composed of a variety of members, and that the eye cannot be the hand. Even with such an answer revealed before me, I was not satisfied and did not find peace. I persevered in the reading and did not let my mind wander until I found this encouraging theme: Set your desires on the greater gifts. And I will show you the way which surpasses all others. For the Apostle insists that the greater gifts are nothing at all without love and that this same love is surely the best path leading directly to God. At length I had found peace of mind. When I had looked upon the mystical body of the Church, I recognized myself in none of the members which Saint Paul described, and what is more, I desired to distinguish myself more favorably within the whole body. Love appeared to me to be the hinge for my vocation. Indeed, I knew that the Church had a body composed of various members, but in this body the necessary and more noble member was not lacking; I knew that the Church had

a heart and that such a heart appeared to be aflame with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realized that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In one word, that love is everlasting. Then, nearly ecstatic with the supreme joy in my soul, I proclaimed: O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: my call is love. Certainly, I have found my place in the Church, and you gave me that very place, my God. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love, and thus I will be all things, as my desire finds its direction”.

It always surprises me to see the reactions of the grooms and brides on their wedding day that how happy they are and the love they have for each other is beyond expression. I always ask one question whenever I officiate any wedding: “What was the most important aspect of his/her life that you decided to marry him/her? This week I want all the married couples to reflect on this question. And I guarantee you, that you will fall in love again with one another. After reflecting on the question, read the following story to each other. I can assure you that you will never fail in love journey which never ends like the wedding ring you wear.

“When I got home that night as my wife served dinner, I held her hand and said, I’ve got something to tell you. She sat down and ate quietly. Again, I observed the hurt in her eyes.

Suddenly I didn’t know how to open my mouth. But I had to let her know what I was thinking. I want a divorce. I raised the topic calmly.

She didn’t seem to be annoyed by my words, instead she asked me softly, why? I avoided her question. This made her angry. She threw away the chopsticks and shouted at me, you are not a man! That night, we didn’t talk to each other. She was weeping. I knew she wanted to find out what had happened to our marriage. But I could hardly give her a satisfactory answer; she had lost my heart to Jane. I didn’t love her anymore. I just pitied her!

With a deep sense of guilt, I drafted a divorce agreement which stated that she could own our house, our car, and 30% stake of my company.

She glanced at it and then tore it into pieces. The woman who had spent ten years of her life with me had become a stranger. I felt sorry for her wasted time, resources and energy but I could not take back what I had said for I loved Jane so dearly. Finally, she cried loudly in front of me, which was what I had expected to see. To me her cry was a kind of release. The idea of divorce which had obsessed me for several weeks seemed to be firmer and clearer now.

The next day, I came back home very late and found her writing something at the table. I didn’t have supper but went straight to sleep and fell asleep very fast because I was tired after an eventful day with Jane.

When I woke up, she was still there at the table writing. I just did not care so I turned over and was asleep again.

In the morning, she presented her divorce conditions: she didn't want anything from me but needed a month's notice before the divorce. She requested that in that one month we both struggle to live as normal a life as possible. Her reasons were simple: our son had his exams in a month's time, and she didn't want to disrupt him with our broken marriage.

This was agreeable to me. But she had something more, she asked me to recall how I had carried her into our bridal room on our wedding day.

She requested that every day for the month's duration I carry her out of our bedroom to the front door every morning. I thought she was going crazy. Just to make our last days together bearable I accepted her odd request.

I told Jane about my wife's divorce conditions. She laughed loudly and thought it was absurd. No matter what tricks she applies, she must face the divorce, she said scornfully.

My wife and I hadn't had any body contact since my divorce intention was explicitly expressed. So, when I carried her out on the first day, we both appeared clumsy. Our son clapped behind us; daddy is holding mommy in his arms. His words brought me a sense of pain. From the bedroom to the sitting room, then to the door, I walked over ten meters with her in my arms. She closed her eyes and said softly; don't tell our son about the divorce. I nodded, feeling somewhat upset. I put her down outside the door. She went to wait for the bus to work. I drove alone to the office.

On the second day, both of us acted much more easily. She leaned on my chest. I could smell the fragrance of her blouse. I realized that I hadn't looked at this woman carefully for a long time. I realized she was not young anymore. There were fine wrinkles on her face, her hair was graying! Our marriage had taken its toll on her. For a minute I wondered what I had done to her.

On the fourth day, when I lifted her up, I felt a sense of intimacy returning. This was the woman who had given ten years of her life to me.

On the fifth and sixth day, I realized that our sense of intimacy was growing again. I didn't tell Jane about this. It became easier to carry her as the month slipped by. Perhaps the everyday workout made me stronger.

She was choosing what to wear one morning. She tried on quite a few dresses but could not find a suitable one. Then she sighed, all my dresses have grown bigger. I suddenly realized that she had grown so thin, that was the reason why I could carry her more easily.

Suddenly it hit me... she had buried so much pain and bitterness in her heart. Subconsciously I reached out and touched her head.

Our son came in at the moment and said, Dad, it's time to carry mom out. To him, seeing his father carrying his mother out had become an essential part of his life.

My wife gestured to our son to come closer and hugged him tightly. I turned my face away because I was afraid I might change my mind at this last minute. I then held her in my arms, walking from the bedroom, through the sitting room, to the hallway. Her hand surrounded my neck softly and naturally. I held her body tightly; it was just like our wedding day.

But her much lighter weight made me sad. On the last day, when I held her in my arms I could hardly move a step. Our son had gone to school. I held her tightly and said, I hadn't noticed that our life lacked intimacy.

I drove to office... jumped out of the car swiftly without locking the door. I was afraid any delay would make me change my mind... I walked upstairs. Jane opened the door and I said to her, Sorry, Jane, I do not want the divorce anymore.

She looked at me, astonished, and then touched my forehead. Do you have a fever? She said. I moved her hand off my head. Sorry, Jane, I said, I won't divorce. My marriage life was boring probably because she and I didn't value the details of our lives, not because we didn't love each other anymore. Now I realize that since I carried her into my home on our wedding day I am supposed to hold her until death do us apart.

Jane seemed to suddenly wake up. She gave me a loud slap and then slammed the door and burst into tears. I walked downstairs and drove away.

At the floral shop on the way, I ordered a bouquet of flowers for my wife. The salesgirl asked me what to write on the card. I smiled and wrote, I'll carry you out every morning until death do us apart.

That evening I arrived home, flowers in my hands, a smile on my face, I run up stairs, only to find my wife in the bed – dead.

My wife had been fighting CANCER for months and I was so busy with Jane to even notice. She knew that she would die soon, and she wanted to save me from the whatever negative reaction from our son, in case we push thru with the divorce – At least, in the eyes of our son— I'm a loving husband...

The small details of your lives are what really matter in a relationship. It is not the mansion, the car, property, the money in the bank. These create an environment conducive for happiness but cannot give happiness in themselves. So, find time to be your spouse's best friend and do those little things for each other that build intimacy. Do you have a real happy marriage? The Sacred Scriptures do help us to know the secret of the happy marriage.

Today's Sacred Scripture Readings bring us together to reflect on the Sacrament of Marriage where two people join to become husband and wife and later father and mother as they enjoy the company of their children. God has sketched his original plan for the marriage in the First Reading today "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall be one flesh". How

amazing is the sketch where husband and wife are depicted as one? According to the Holy Bible marriage is not a contract or agreement between people but it's a covenant which each couple makes with God. They not only say yes to each other but give themselves to the Lord as well. Prophet Malachi highlights the covenant of marriage in this way "Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?... So, look to yourselves, and do not let anyone be faithless to the wife of his youth. For I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel" (2:10-16).

In the Gospel our Lord reconfirms the sacrament of marriage which was instituted by God who created Adam and Eve and bless them. The words of Jesus "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" "put seal to any division in the marriage". The real marriage is compared with the love of Jesus to Church. The Letters of St. Paul and St. Peter emphasize on the importance of marriage which is the source of bringing nonbeliever spouses to the Lord through Christian way of life. Holy Father Pope Francis once reflecting on the Sacrament of Marriage showed his frustration and sadness "today we experience the paradox of a globalized world filled with luxurious mansions and skyscrapers, but a lessening of the warmth of homes and families; many ambitious plans and projects, but little time to enjoy them; many sophisticated means of entertainment, but a deep and growing interior emptiness; many pleasures, but few loves; many liberties, but little freedom... The number of people who feel lonely keeps growing, as does the number of those who are caught up in selfishness, gloominess, destructive violence and slavery to pleasure and money".

Today we can see that marriages are falling apart for two main reasons: First love is being replaced by lust. For many people marriages have become mere piece of paper, entertainment and party. Secondly couples are failing to understand one another. Everyone wants to go his/her own way without supporting and caring each other. People are less and less serious about building a solid and fruitful relationship of love: in sickness and in health, for better and for worse, in good times and in bad are the promises couple make before the Lord on the day of with wedding. But how many keep these promises?

There so many other aspects of marriage we can discuss or say but let's ask the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary as we begin the month of October to honour her, to help all the married couples to realize the presence of the Lord in their lives so that their love journey help their children to be strong in their lives. St. Paul says, "Love never ends".

Two families lived nearby. One family had constant quarrels, and the other one lived quietly and friendly. One day, feeling jealous of the nice atmosphere flourished in the neighbouring family, wife told her husband:

– Go to the neighbours and look at what they are doing for such well-being.
The husband went, hid, and started watching. He saw a woman who was wiping the floor in the room. Suddenly something distracted her, and she ran to the kitchen. At that time her husband rushed into the room. He did not notice the bucket of water, occasionally kicked it, so the water overflowed.
Then his wife came back from the kitchen and said to him:
– I'm sorry, honey, it's my fault because I did not remove the bucket from the pass.
– No, I 'm sorry, honey, it's my fault, because I did not notice it.
The man returned home, where the wife asked him:
– Did you understand the reason of their well-being?
– I guess that I did. You see, we always seek to be right, while each of them takes the blame on themselves.
How is love strengthening your marriage?



How is love strengthening your marriage?

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B
October 6, 2024

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

October 6, 2024



Mass during Priest Study Days

Priest Study Days will be held from Oct 7-10 next week. During this time, Mass will still be available at the following parishes:

- **St. Mary's Cathedral** – Mon to Fri: 7:30 am & 5 pm
- **St. Joseph's, Calgary** – Tue 7 pm, Wed 9 am, Thu 9 am, Fri noon
- **St. Luke's, Calgary** - Mon 8 am
- **St. Anthony's, Calgary** – Thu 7 pm
- **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Calgary** - Mon - Fri 7 pm (Polish Mass)
- **St. Mary's, Cochrane** - Wed to Fri 9 am

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.

Pastoral Care Ministry Training

For those called to healing ministry, this training supports new and experienced ministers caring for the sick, elderly, dying, and bereaved. When: **Saturdays, Oct 26 & Nov 16 (8:30 am to 3:30 pm), St. Francis de Sales, High River.** Contact your parish for screening. Information and registration: catholiccyyc.ca/pastoralcare, 403-218-5521 or email maria.capili@calgarydiocese.ca

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:

- [All Saints, Lethbridge](#) - Fri, Oct 4 after the 9 am Mass to Sun, Oct 6 at 8:45 am, followed by 9 am Mass
- [St. Albert the Great, Calgary](#) - Fri, Oct 11 from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm; 7 pm to Sat, Oct 12 at 9 am; Sat, Oct 12 from 12 pm to 4 pm; 6 pm to Sun, Oct 13 at 9 am

- [St. Anthony's, Calgary](#) - Fri, Nov 1 at 3 pm to Sun, Nov 3 at 7 am (Chapel)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Annual Gathering in Calgary

Learn about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a faith formation approach that helps children know God personally. Hear from CGS catechists and other speakers. Ideal for catechists, parents, and teachers. When: **Fri-Sat, Oct 18-19, FCJ Centre, Calgary**. To register, visit www.cgsac.ca or contact Dorothy at 403-829-7187.

Journeying Together: Hope and Healing through Surrender

A workshop for those grieving miscarriage or infant loss, with speakers Eunice Peterson and Fr. Adrian Martens. Includes prayers, talks, food, and refreshment. Childcare is available! When: **Oct 25-26, 2024 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre**. Contact 403-218-5521 or email mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca

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

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.

Pilgrims of Prayer - Day Retreat

Hosted by Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre, this peaceful day includes prayer, reflection, quiet time, Eucharist, and a home-cooked lunch. When: **Wed, Oct 9, from 9 am – 3 pm**. Cost: \$35, or \$45 with a private room. For info & registration: 403-932-2012 or mtfrancis@shaw.ca

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](#)

Back to School: Empower moms; transform 2 generations

Thanks to an anonymous donor, donations to the **Elizabeth House Education Fund** will be matched up to \$15,000 - deadline is now extended to October 15! 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: catholicyyc.ca/eh_backtoschool or call 403-218-5500 to make a donation.

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 or 403-836-6873.

Quilting a Stained Glass Window of My Life - afternoon retreats

Create a small wall hanging using a personal image in this hands-on quilting workshop. Each session provides time for reflection, sharing, and journaling on life's dark and light moments. When: **Mondays, Oct 21 to Nov 11, 1 pm – 3:30 pm at FCJ Centre, Calgary**. No quilting experience required, and all materials are provided. Info & registration: (403) 228-4215 or fcjcentre.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

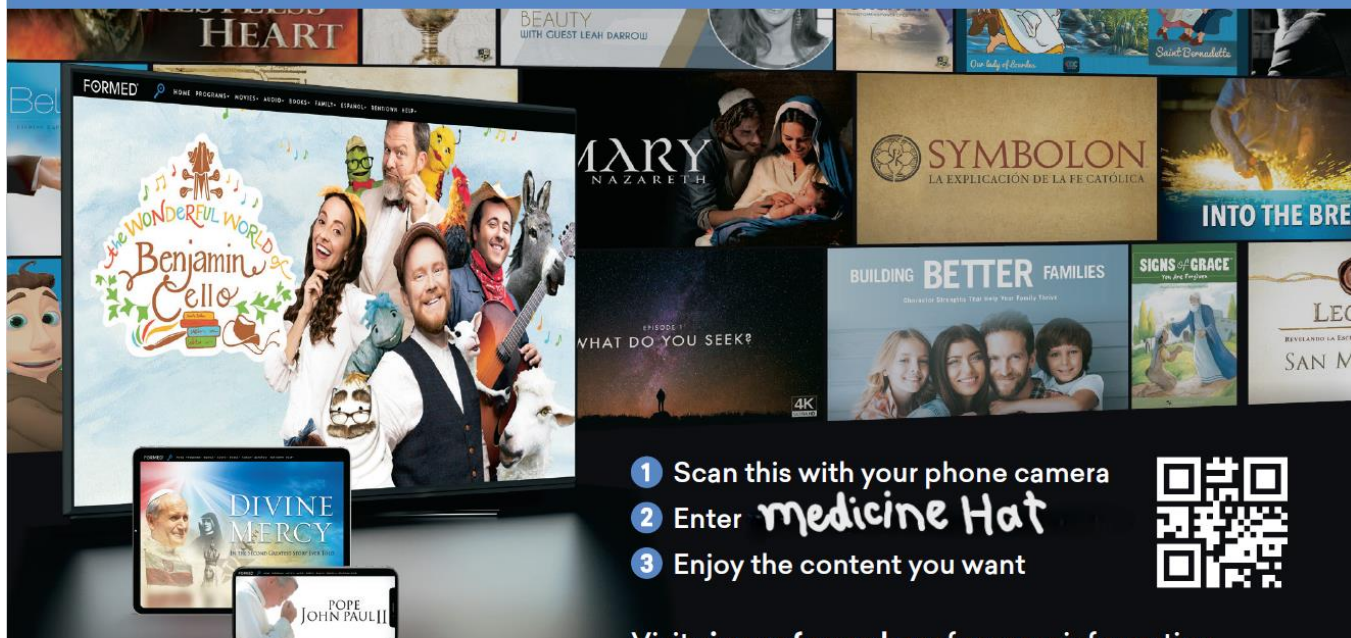
Career Opportunities in the Diocese of Calgary

- [Sacrament Preparation Coordinator - St. James, Calgary](#)
- [Admin. Assistant \(FT\) - Sacred Heart](#)

For more info, visit catholicyyc.ca/careers


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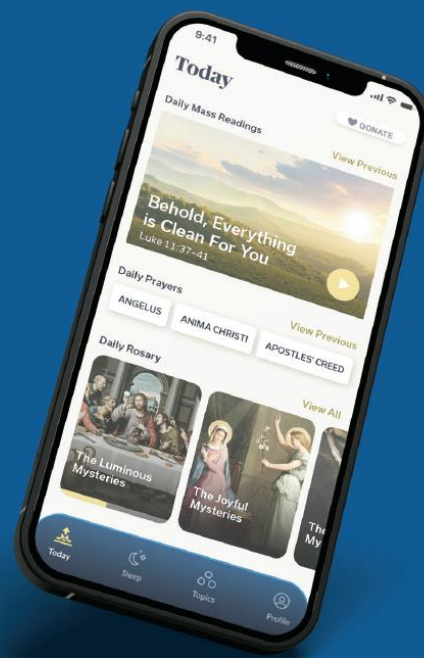
An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press

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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	Herb Durda
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
Faith in Action Faith Director	Darrell Bonagofsky
Faith in Action Community Director	Ron Pisoni
Pastoral Parish Council Representative	Garry Mastel

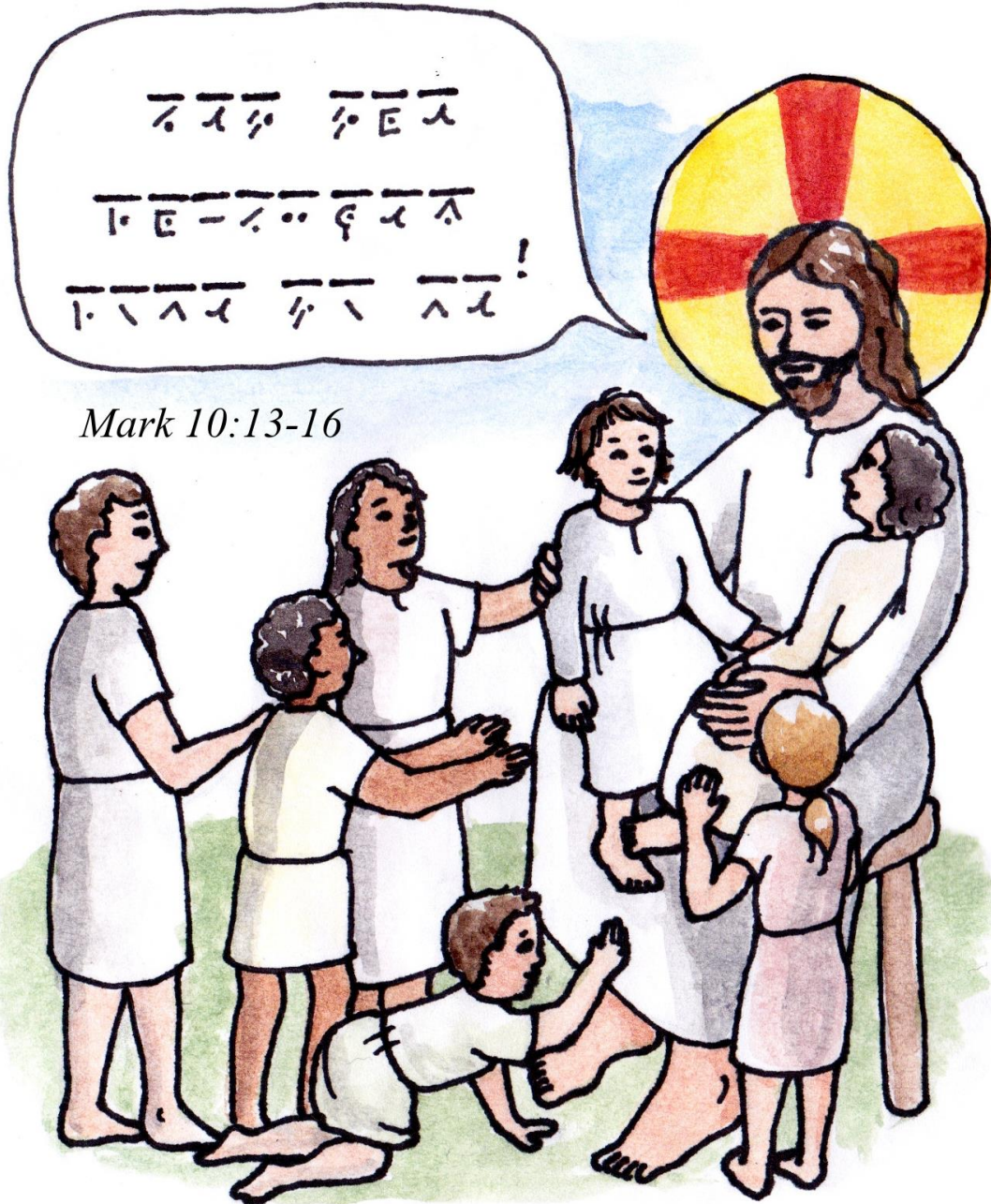
2024 2025 Knights Events

Date	Activity
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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday October 6th, 2024



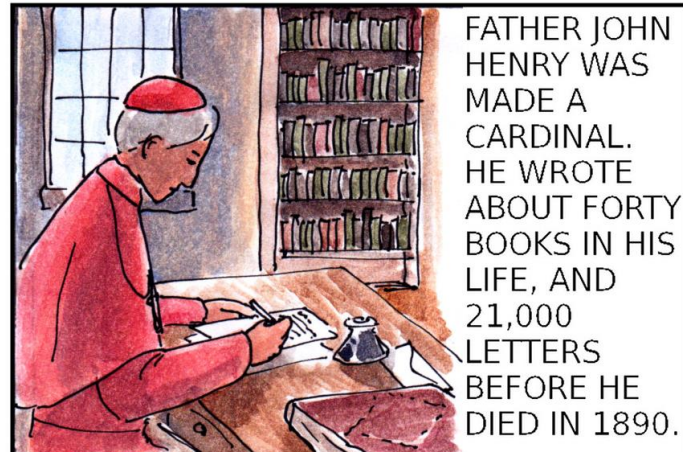
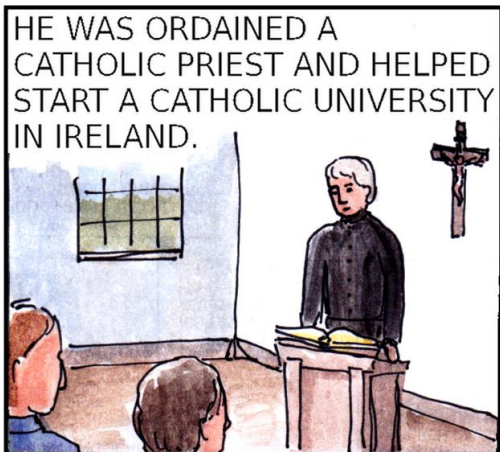
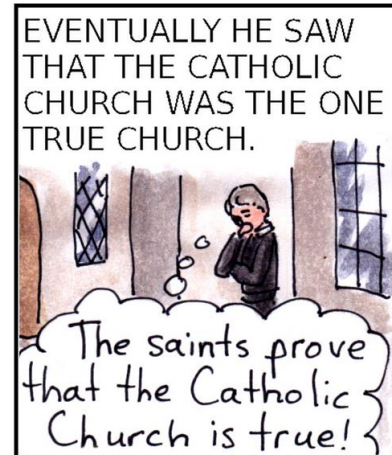
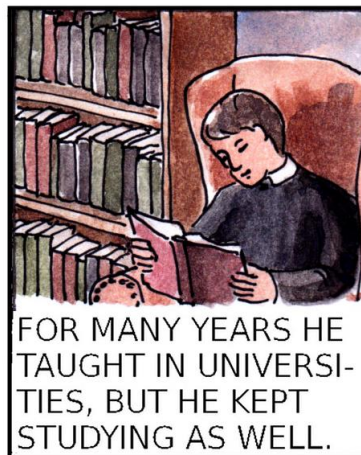
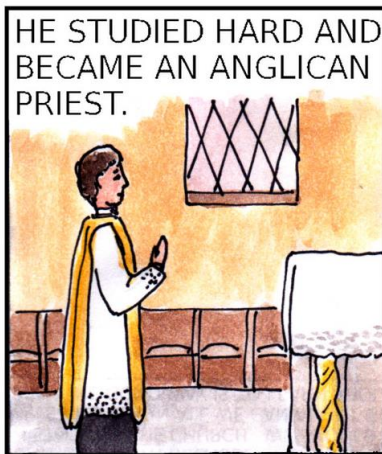
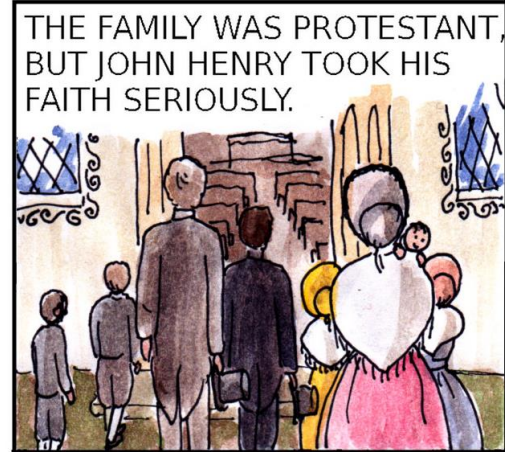
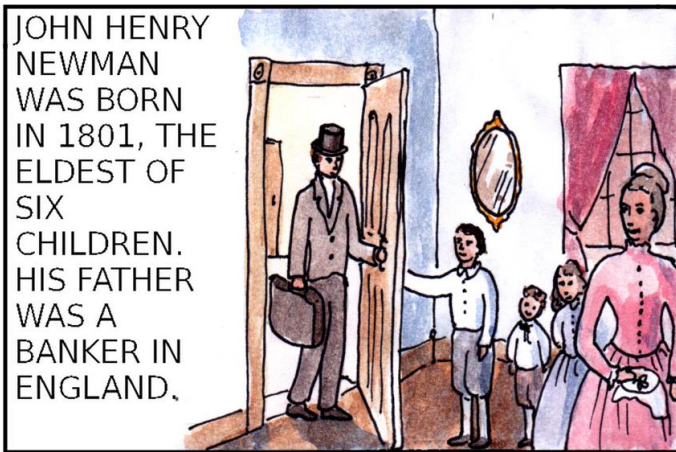
Mark 10:13-16

*What did Jesus say to the apostles when they
tried to keep the children away?
Use the code to find out!*

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Saint John Henry Newman

October 9



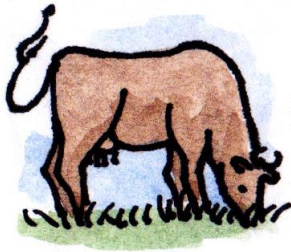
SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH BECAUSE HE HONESTLY STUDIED ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH. WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND LEARN ALL WE CAN ABOUT GOD AND THE CHURCH. ONE GOOD WAY IS TO LEARN ABOUT THE SAINTS!

Fill In The Missing Words!



Use the words at the bottom
to fill in the blanks

The man gave _____ to all the cattle, all
the _____ of the air, and all wild _____;
but none of them proved to be the suitable
_____ for the man.



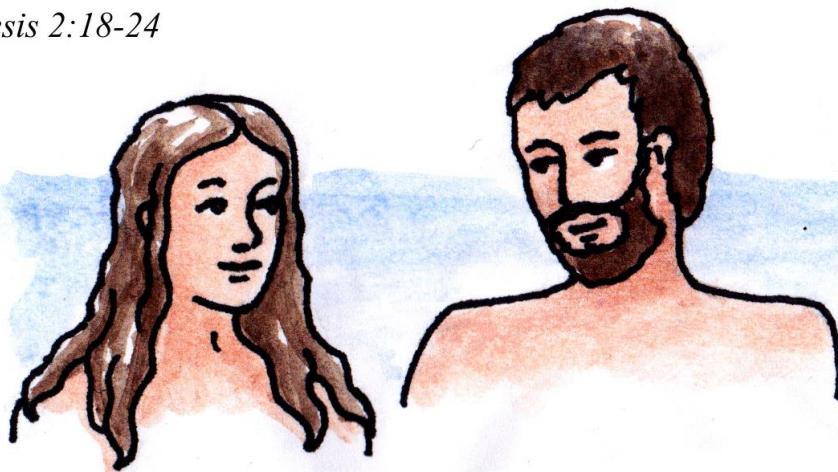
So the Lord God cast a deep _____
on the man, and while he was asleep,
he took out one of his ribs and closed
up its place with flesh. The Lord _____ then built
up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the
man. When he brought her to the man, the man said:
"This one, at last, is _____ of my bones and flesh
of my flesh; this one shall be called '_____',
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."



PARTNER	NAMES
BONE	GOD
WOMAN	BIRDS
ANIMALS	SLEEP



Genesis 2:18-24



What is Marriage all About?

Mark 10:2-12



In today's Gospel reading Jesus was telling the people about God's idea of marriage.

You know that marriage is what happens when a man and woman get married. But did you know that it is a sacrament? God gives special graces to people who get married so they can love each other well and raise good children.

Do you know what marriage is for? God made husbands and wives so that they could help each other to get to Heaven. But that's not all. When people get married, they are also starting a new family. Together with the father and mother, God brings new children into the world. He gives the parents all the help they need to raise their children.



Answers to front page:
Let the children come to me!
Answers to inside page:
names, birds, animals, partner, sleep,
God, bone, woman



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 so it can be sent to the diocese.